Nicole has been an attorney since 2011, having established her own solo practice in San Diego before moving back to her home town in Sacramento. Her practice included estate planning, bankruptcy, elder law, and pro bono work with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and the Sacramento. She has served this year along with Jennifer Martin and Jose Orta as clinic team leaders. In the fall, she mentored several new clinic students and was instrumental in organizing the fall Immigration Fair while still continuing to represent clients. This spring, while continuing as a co-team leader she successfully represented one of her clients in removal proceedings in San Francisco. "The Immigration Clinic has given me the opportunity to assist and learn from so many different people. Being able to give my clients good news about their case has been one of the most fulfilling and rewarding things that I have done in my life," Naavpreet said. "You become invested in your cases, not so much for the win, but because of the people. Their highs become your highs and their lows your lows. Their stories stay with you and push you to work harder. Working at the clinic this past year has been an amazing experience and I hope others are able to take advantage of this opportunity to learn and advocate for others." Naavpreet is interested in pursuing immigration as a career choice, and she will graduate from McGeorge in May well prepared.
Administrative Adjudication Clinic

The Administrative Adjudication Clinic, supervised by Professor Megan Shapiro, gives students the impactful experience of deciding administrative cases as hearing officers. The course educates students on how administrative law judges make decisions and the operation of administrative hearing systems. Through simulated hearings, students practice what they have learned from Professor Shapiro, gaining perspective on the parties and practical application of the law. By the end of the semester, clinical students hear and decide administrative disputes on behalf of local cities and public agencies, such as parking ticket appeals for the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, and the UC Davis Medical Center.

On being a hearing officer this semester, Samantha Tanner, ’16, said “Acting as a hearing officer was an immensely interesting experience because it gave me a new perspective on being an advocate. As advocates we have a duty to defend our clients to the best of our abilities. We come up with persuasive case themes and spin facts in our favor. However, this opportunity gave me the chance to view these tactics from a different angle. As I move forward in my legal career I do so with a fresh pair of eyes with which to consider the law, my place as an advocate, and how my strategies will come across to a judge and potentially affect my future clients.”

Bankruptcy Clinic

Phillip Schlein, ’16, is the Bankruptcy Clinic Team Leader. Through his work at the Clinic, Phillip obtained an externship with Chief Judge Ronald H. Singal of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District, where he has worked for six months. Phillip has also become a recipient of the Sacramento Valley Bankruptcy Foundation Scholarship, Professor Warren Jones supervises the Clinic.

Reflecting on his time at the Clinic, Phillip says, “What you really get out of the Bankruptcy Clinic is practical experience and confidence. The law is the easy part. More difficult is looking at all the facts of a case, coming up with the most reasonable plan of action, and then actually telling your client, ‘this is what you should do.’” Interviews are longer than law school hypotheticals, and often times you will be sitting through your client’s life to find what is actually relevant. Sometimes, what a client wants is different from what is best, or even realistic. As your clients have lives of their own, occasionally their ideal schedule does not coordinate with yours, and they might need a few or several-scheduled appointments. In the Clinic, you learn how to deal with these and other real-world issues. The experience is invaluable.

Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic

The Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic provides students with the opportunity to represent indigent defendants in criminal appeals to the Third Appellate District of the California Court of Appeals. This year, student teams are preparing briefs addressing issues such as self-defense, Pitchcess motions, instructional errors related to carjacking, unlawful traffic stops, and sentence instruction reduction under Proposition 47. Professors Caitlin Christian and Elizabeth Campbell supervise the Clinic.

Federal Defender Clinic

Lauryn Tully ’16 and Anthony Crisostomo ’16 are current student attorneys in the Federal Defender Clinic. Both students entered the Federal Defender Clinic with hopes of furthering their skills and experience to pursue future careers as public defenders to help indigent clients. During their time in the clinic they were able to help numerous clients but, one client’s story stood out in particular. Tully and Crisostomo represented a young client charged with a misdemeanor crime taking place on federal property. The student attorneys represented their client in a bench trial heard in front of Federal Magistrate Judge Tanya Crawford. Tully and Crisostomo were not only able to argue and win pre-trial motions but, upon completion of the evidence, in trial the two were able to obtain a verdict of not guilty for their client.

Student attorneys in the Federal Defender Clinic have the opportunity to work on misdemeanor and felony cases under the direct supervision of Linda Allison, Chief Assistant Federal Defender, and Rachelle Barbour, Assistant Federal Defender, who are both wonderful and dedicated teachers.

Elder & Health Law

The Elder & Health Law (EHL) students provide legal advice, representation and counsel to those over age 60 in their time of greatest legal, economic and social need. All students are State Bar of California certified law students, which allows them to represent clients in court. The philosophy in the EHLC is to represent the “whole client” which means that clients engage in an interdisciplinary approach to their legal work. This means collaboration with social workers, doctors and dentists to meet the needs of their clients. This includes joint classes with UCD medical students to explore solutions for elder abuse, client decision-making capacity and the skills of representative clients with diminished capacity.

With the help of Team Leader Thomas Cruz and under the supervision of Professor Melissa Brown, current students are handling trust, probate, estate planning, veteran’s issues, consumer protection and elder abuse matters. Working on an elder financial abuse case filed on behalf of a client in the Sacramento Superior Court, Trevor Tanaguchi, collaborating with Kyle Creasy, Heather Sissons and Brittany Johnson, has taken a deposition and represented the client in other discovery matters. Among Kyle Creasy’s clients, is a man who has been defrauded out of his home by a “church friend.” Heather Sisson is working with an elderly couple who have been defrauded by a non-attorney purporting to provide estate planning, as well as another man who was taken advantage of by an individual who convinced her client to sign a contract allowing him to make engage in financial transactions, including the sale of his home. In addition to drafting wills and estate plans for clients, Brittany Johnson is assisting a homeless client to obtain housing and mistrust distributions to allow her to get back on her feet. Janette Yanchev provided legal advice and representation to a hospitalized client on an emergency basis and Carl Block, in addition to handling two veteran’s legal matters, is handling a probate conservatorship matter in Superior Court.

Legislative and Public Policy Clinic

The Legislative & Public Policy Clinic, supervised by Professor Rex Frazier, has a new slate of bills for 2016. Since the 2015 Fall semester, students have been identifying problems with state law and developing public policy responses. This year’s clinic work has assisted in the introduction of six bills, which will be heard during March and April, 2016. The bills are:

**AB 1854 (Iverson): Prohibits the sale of ‘powdered alcohol’ in California. (Students: Brandon Bjorne, Sean Creadick, and Emily Reynolds)**

**AB 1740 (Alejo): Creates a paid fellowship for law school graduates to work in the State Capitol. (Students: Narek Avetisyan and Tanner Puryear)**

**AB 1825 (Gordon): Eliminates automatic euthanasia for dogs seized as part of a fighting ring and, instead, permits an evaluation for adoption. (Students: Navnit Bhandal and Tessa Nevarez)**

**AB 2505 (Quirk): Prohibits euthanasia of animals using carbon dioxide gas. (Students: Navnit Bhandal and Tessa Nevarez)**

**SB 1064 (Hancock): Permits all counties in California to develop a program to divert alleged child prostitutes from the juvenile delinquency system into the dependency system. (Students: Riha Pathak and Kayla Thyager)**

**SB 1339 (Monning): Requires Medi-Cal eligible patients to receive continuing care services during the transfer from one county to another. (Students: Lauren Ngo, Emily Reynolds, Magistrate Judge Kendall, and Lauren Agy)**

Additionally, one of the bills developed by the 2014-15 clinic students continues to move in the Capitol. AB 1200 (Gordon) would require that individuals paid to advocate for a client to receive a state procurement contract must register as “lobbyists” under the Political Reform Act. The California Senate recently passed the measure, which is expected to receive concuring approval from the Assembly. From there, the measure will face its toughest hurdle when Governor Brown will consider whether to grant a signature or veto. Stay tuned!

Prisoner Civil Rights Clinic

The Prisoner Civil Rights Mediation Clinic supervised by Professor Pauline Nguyen and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Michael Coletarella has settled all eight cases, with which it has been involved this academic year.

Notably, the students and the Magistrate Judge with whom they work closely recently settled a “cruel and unusual punishment” and “excessive force” case in federal court filed by an inmate who alleged that prison staff punched, kicked, and beat him with a baseball bat while he was incarcerated. The two clinic students, Virginia Martucci and Nicole Silverman, reviewed the procedural history of the case, researched California case law relating to the same, and met with the parties. They completed this intercessory mediation prior to a scheduled pre-mediation bench memorandum for Magistrate Judge Newman, the assigned settlement judge on the case. Ultimately, the students worked side-by-side with Magistrate Judge Newman in the mediation to settle the dispute to the satisfaction to both parties.
Administrative Adjudication Clinic

The Administrative Adjudication Clinic, supervised by Professor Megan Shapiro, gives students the impactful experience of deciding administrative cases as hearing officers. The course educates students on how administrative law judges make decisions and the operation of administrative hearing systems. Through simulated hearings, students practice what they have learned from Professor Shapiro, gaining perspective on the parties and practical application of the law. By the end of the semester, clinical students hear and decide administrative disputes on behalf of local cities and public agencies, such as parking ticket appeals for the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, and the UC Davis Medical Center.

On being a hearing officer this semester, Samantha Tanner, ’16, said “Acting as a hearing officer was an immensely interesting experience because it gave me a new perspective on being an advocate. As advocates we have a duty to defend our clients to the best of our abilities. We come up with persuasive case themes and spin facts in our favor. However, this opportunity gave me the chance to view these tactics from a different angle. As I move forward in my legal career I do so with a fresh pair of eyes with which to consider the law, my place as an advocate, and how my strategies will come across to a judge and potentially affect my future clients.”

Bankruptcy Clinic

Phillip Schiein, ’16, is the Bankruptcy Clinic Team Leader. Through his work at the Clinic, Phillip obtained an externship with Chief Judge Ronald H. Singh of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District, where he has worked for six months. Phillip has also become a recipient of the Sacramento Valley Bankruptcy Bar Scholarship. Professor Warren Jones supervises the Clinic.

Reflecting on his time at the Clinic, Phillip says: “What you really get out of the Bankruptcy Clinic is practical experience and confidence. The law is the easy part. More difficult is looking at all the facts of a case, coming up with the most reasonable plan of action, and then actually telling your client, ‘this is what you should do.’ Interviews are longer than law school hypotheticals, and often times you will be sitting through your client’s life to find what is actually relevant. Sometimes, what a client wants is different from what is best, or even realistic. As your clients have lives of their own, occasionally their ideal schedule does not coordinate with yours, and they might be delayed a few or several-scheduled appointments. In the Clinic, you learn how to deal with these and other real-world issues. The experience is invaluable.”

Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic

The Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic provides students with the opportunity to represent indigent defendants in criminal appeals to the Third Appellate District of the California Court of Appeals. This year, student teams are preparing briefs addressing issues such as self-defense, Pitchess motions, instructional errors related to carjacking, unlawful traffic stops, and sentence reduction under Proposition 47. Professors Caitlin Christian and Elizabeth Campbell supervise the Clinic.

Reflecting on his time at the Clinic, Phillip says: “Interviews are longer than law school hypotheticals, and often times you will be sitting through your client’s life to find what is actually relevant. Sometimes, what a client wants is different from what is best, or even realistic. As your clients have lives of their own, occasionally their ideal schedule does not coordinate with yours, and they might be delayed a few or several-scheduled appointments. In the Clinic, you learn how to deal with these and other real-world issues. The experience is invaluable.”

Federal Defender Clinic

Lauryn Tully ’16 and Anthony Crisostomo ’16 are current student attorneys in the Federal Defender Clinic. Both students entered the Federal Defender Clinic with hopes of furthering their skills and experience to pursue future careers as public defenders to help indigent clients. During their time in the Clinic they were able to help numerous clients but, one client’s story stood out in particular. Tully and Crisostomo represented a young client charged with a misdemeanor crime taking place on federal property. The student attorneys represented their client in a bench trial heard in front of Federal Magistrate Judge Virginia Claire. Tully and Crisostomo were not only able to argue and win pre-trial motions but, upon completion of the evidence, in trial the two were able to obtain a verdict of not guilty for their client. Student attorneys in the Federal Defender Clinic have the opportunity to work on misdemeanor and felony cases under the direct supervision of Linda Allison, Chief Assistant Federal Defender, and Rachelle Barbour, Assistant Federal Defender, who are both wonderful and dedicated teachers.

Elder & Health Law

The Elder & Health Law Clinic (EHLK) students provide legal advice, representation and counsel to those over age 60 in their time of greatest legal, economic and social need. All students are State Bar of California certified law students, which allow them to represent clients in court. The philosophy in the EHLK is to represent the “whole client” which means that students engage in an interdisciplinary approach to their legal work. This means collaboration with social workers, doctors and counselors to meet the needs of their clients. This includes joint classes with UCD medical students to explore solutions for elder abuse, client decision-making capacity and the role of the health care providers with diminished capacity.

With the help of Team Leader Thomas Cruz and under the supervision of Professor Melissa Brown, current students are handling trust, probate, estate planning, veteran’s issues, consumer protection and elder abuse matters. Working on an elder financial abuse case filed on behalf of a client in the Sacramento Superior Court, Trevor Tanaguchi, collaborating with Kyle Creasey, Heather Sisson and Brittany Johnson, has taken a deposition and represented her client in other discovery matters. Among Kyle Creasey’s clients, is a man who has been defrauded out of his home by a “church friend.” Heather Sisson is working with an elderly couple who have been defrauded by a non-attorney purporting to provide estate planning, as well as another client who was taken advantage of by an individual who convinced her to sign a contract allowing him to make engage in financial transactions, including the sale of his home. In addition to drafting wills and estate plans for clients, Brittany Johnson is assisting a homeless client to obtain housing and trust distributions to allow her to get back on her feet. Janette Yanchev provided legal advice and representation to a hospitalized client on an emergency basis and Carl Block, in addition to handling two veteran’s legal matters, is handling a probate conservatorship matter in Superior Court.

Legislative and Public Policy Clinic

The Legislative & Public Policy Clinic, supervised by Professor Rex Frazier, has a new slate of bills for 2016. Since the 2015 Fall semester, students have been identifying problems with state law and developing public policy responses. This year’s clinic work has assisted in the introduction of six bills, which will be heard during March and April, 2016. The bills are:

AB 1854 (Irwin): Prohibits the sale of “powdered alcohol” in California. (Students: Brandon Bjorne, Sean Creadick, and Emily Reynolds)

AB 1740 (Alejo): Creates a paid fellowship for law school graduates to work in the State Capitol. (Students: Narek Avetisyan and Tanner Puryear)

AB 1825 (Gordon): Eliminates automatic euthanasia for dogs seized as part of a fighting ring and, instead, permits an evaluation of suitability for adoption. (Students: Navnit Bhandal and Tessa Nevarez)

AB 2505 (Quirk): Prohibits euthanasia of animals using carbon dioxide gas. (Students: Navnit Bhandal and Tessa Nevarez)

SB 1064 (Hancock): Permits all counties in California to develop a program to divert eligible children from the juvenile delinquency system into the dependency system. (Students: Riha Pathak and Kayla Thayer)

SB 1339 (Munger): Ensures that Medi-Cal eligible patients continue to receive health care services during the transfer from one county to another. (Students: Narek Avetisyan, Tanner Puryear, and Lauren Agy)

Additionally, one of the bills developed by 2014-15 clinic students continues to move in the Capitol. AB 1200 (Gordon) would require that individuals paid to advocate for a client to receive a patient consular record must register as “lobbyists” under the Political Reform Act. The California Senate recently passed the measure, which is expected to receive concurrent approval from the Assembly. From there, the measure will face its toughest hurdle when Governor Brown will consider whether to grant a signature or veto. Stay tuned!

Prisoner Civil Rights Clinic

The Prisoner Civil Rights Mediation Clinic supervised by Professor Pauline Nguyen and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Michael Coletarella has settled all eight cases with which it has been involved this academic year.

Notably, the students and the Magistrate Judge with whom they work closely recently settled a “cruel and unusual punishment” and “excessive force” case in federal court filed by an inmate who alleged that prison staff punched, kicked, and beat him with their fists while he was incarcerated. The two clinic students, Virginia Martucci and Nicole Silverman, reviewed the procedural history of the case, researched California case law relating to the standard, and met with the prisoner and his attorney. They completed this interphase into a defendant-mediated pre-mediation bench memorandum for Magistrate Judge Newman, the assigned settlement judge on the case. Ultimately, the students worked side-by-side with Magistrate Judge Newman in the mediation to settle the dispute to the satisfaction to both parties.

CLINIC REPORTS

2 - Spring 2016
Nicole Egan joins the Legal Clinics work to expand its capacity to meet the needs of the community. Her practice included estate planning, bankruptcy, elder law, and social justice to our community. Today’s students are committed to providing high-quality legal representation and social justice to the community. The Legal Clinics at McGeorge are part of a 40-yearplus tradition of providing high-quality legal representation and social justice to the community. Today’s students continue that tradition. In so doing, students are transformed into working professionals. They are the “lawyers for what’s next,” right now.

Nicole Egan joins the Legal Clinics work to expand its capacity to meet the legal needs of our community. Nicole has been an attorney since 2011, having established her own solo practice in San Diego before moving back to her home town in Sacramento. Her practice included estate planning, bankruptcy, elder law, and pro bono work with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and the Professional Alliance for Children, where she assisted families with legal issues arising in the care of a sick or injured child. She will work with our on-campus clinics to strengthen our community outreach footprint, as well as individual case work.

Welcome Nicole!

A few words from... 

“Participating in a live client clinic provides you with a unique learning experience, and you can profoundly change the life of your client. There is no better way to learn how to be a lawyer than by doing what lawyers do.”

- DEAN FRANCIS J. MOOTZ III

Student Experience: Immigration Clinic 

McGeorge 3L Navpreet Thandi has participated in the Clinic continuously since the spring of her second year. Navpreet has worked with several clients on a range of legal issues including U visas (survivors of crimes of violence who are willing to assist in the criminal investigation or prosecution), naturalization applications, DACA, applications for permanent resident status, a response to evidence in a WAVA case, and late re-registration for Temporary Protected Status. She has served this year along with Jennifer Martin and Jose Orta as clinic team leaders. In the fall, she mentored several new clinic students and was instrumental in organizing the Fall Immigration Fair while still continuing to represent clients. This spring, while continuing as a co-leader, she successfully represented one of her clients in removal proceedings in San Francisco. “The Immigration Clinic has given me the opportunity to assist and learn from so many different people. Being able to give my clients good news about their case has been one of the most fulfilling and rewarding things that I have done in my life,” Navpreet said. “You become invested in your cases, not so much for the win, but because of the people. Their highs become your highs and their lows your lows. Their stories stay with you and push you to work harder. Working at the clinic this past year has been an amazing experience and I hope others are able to take advantage of this opportunity to learn and advocate for others.”

Navpreet is interested in pursuing immigration as a career choice, and she will graduate from McGeorge in May well prepared.

Student Experience: Federal Defender Clinic

“Participating in the Federal Defender Clinic has been one of my favorite experiences I have had throughout my time in law school. The whole experience of preparing and participating in a bench trial was very memorable. Our client’s father told us to do our best to get the not guilty verdict was a great Christmas gift for his family. Being able to assist clients and hear their stories has been not only an amazing learning experience but, it has given me the opportunity to perform meaningful work.”

- Lauren Tully, ’16

Clinic students successfully obtained asylum for their Nigerian client in Court

Courtney Gamez (3L) and Jose Orta (3E) helped a client win asylum. They first met their client when they went to the Yuba County Jail later in fall semester with the clinic to provide free legal consultations to detained immigrants. At that initial screening, the students learned that she had been arrested and detained at an International Airport even though her visa had been approved for entry. Courtney and Jose first worked for release from detention through parole. They submitted a Parole Request, which was granted, but unfortunately the client did not have the funds to pay the required bond. Therefore, the students had to continue their work with the client while she was in detention. Under these conditions, the representation required a marathon level of factual and legal research which was made more difficult when the students discovered the client suffered from severe mental health issues. Effective representation required strong cross-cultural skills as many of the client’s fears were expressed through her cultural beliefs that are foreign to most U.S. law students and can challenge the most immigration judges. The students worked with their client to allow her voice and story to be heard by the judge while still providing a compelling argument for asylum.

New Small Business Clinic

The Small Business Law Clinic (SBLC) and Seminar, supervised by Professors Elizabeth Jackson and Kalytn Saberis, was created in spring 2016 out of a desire to provide students with business transactions experience and to support small businesses in the local community with legal services.

Housed in the law firm of Delfino, Madden, O’Mally, Coyle and Kowelew, clinic students focus on issues that lawyers encounter in a business or corporate practice, from checking conflicts, advising on entity formation, the formalities of entity formation and drafting organizational documents, and negotiating various agreements such as leases, intellectual property licenses, vendor and employment contracts. This semester, students have worked with an Oak Park small business in need of legal advice and counsel. Students have utilized basic business and transactional legal skills, having learned what resources to consult, how to review documents, and key issues to be mindful of in various transactions for the client. The word about McGeorge’s SBLC is already out to the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and Oak Park community. The SBLC promises to fill a critical need in the economic development of the law school’s neighborhood.