



WELCOME TO OUR
year in review



...inspiring



Interprofessional collaboration, community engagement, and client-centered lawyering are just a few of the key components of the Wayne Law Experiential Education Program. Our robust offerings provide opportunities for students to engage in experiences as varied as finalizing independent contractor agreements to providing community presentations on the Freedom of Information Act. Faculty at Wayne Law are leaders in their fields who bring their passion and knowledge to our classrooms. This year, our very own Professor Kathryn Smolinski provided the keynote address to the 40th Annual Association of Oncology Social Workers conference.

We also celebrated a milestone year for Professor David Moss, who has brought his commitment to clients and expertise in disability law to our team for twenty-five years.

In the following pages you can learn more about the work we accomplished this year. We hope you will join us in celebrating this past year as we looking forward to a new year of hope and resilience in 2024-2025.

In this newsletter you will find...

Clinic updates, student testimonies, celebrations, gratitude, and more.



Business & Community Law Clinic

INTERDISCIPLINARY STYLE

The BCLC had a wonderful 2023-2024 academic year! BCLC students worked with eighteen small business and nonprofit clients to provide free transactional legal services. The BCLC worked with clients to: (a) successfully obtain 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; (b) formalize operating agreements; (c) train nonprofit board members; (d) obtain federal trademark protection; and (e) finalize independent contractor agreements and customer service contracts. BCLC also conducted four community legal workshops on legal issues pertaining to entrepreneurship in various Detroit communities. At the beginning of the year, BCLC launched an interdisciplinary partnership with the School of Social Work and the Mike Ilitch School of Business to offer holistic support to our clients. We look forward to supporting more Detroit small businesses and nonprofit organizations in the future.

Asylum & Immigration Law Clinic

IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Over the past year, AILC student attorneys helped asylum-seekers develop their claims, sought parole applications for families separated under Trump administration enforcement policies, helped survivors of crime apply for U visas, and drafted a federal appellate brief for a client seeking protection under the Convention Against Torture. Thanks to their efforts, several members of an extended family were granted asylum based on their political opinion, and a client who has lived in the US for more than 50 years obtained lawful permanent residence and was able to access much-needed healthcare.



“WORKING IN THE ASYLUM & IMMIGRATION CLINIC AS A STUDENT ATTORNEY WAS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE MOST FULFILLING EXPERIENCE OF MY LAW SCHOOL JOURNEY...”
ANGELA STOJANOSKA, 3L



Community Advocacy Clinic

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY

Wayne Law’s clinical offerings include a unique opportunity to engage in community work through the Community Advocacy Clinic. This clinic’s focus changes each semester based on community needs. In Fall 2023, the Clinic focused on policing practices in Detroit. The CAC collaborated with the civilian oversight board for Detroit, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners. Students learned about the work of the BOPC, attended BOPC meetings, researched key policing issues, and provided draft reports on their research and analysis on topics ranging from procedural justice to shot detection technology.

In Winter 2024, the CAC was co-taught by part time faculty member Ruth Johnson and Experiential Education Director Rebecca Robichaud. The CAC partnered with the Urban Development Corporation to present on local government transparency. Students researched the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act and provided practical guidance to community members on how to utilize these laws to both obtain information and provide community voices to local government.

Appeal & Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

Wayne Law and the State Appellate Defender’s Office (SADO) continued their partnership with the Appeal and Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic (APAC) offered in Fall 2023 and Winter 2024. SADO attorneys teach the course and supervise students on cases from the SADO office. Matt Monahan and Maya Menlo led APAC in the Fall, and Jackie Ouvry and Jackie McCann directed the Clinic in the Winter Semester. Students worked on building client communication skills, spotting and researching legal issues, digesting extensive records and discovery, storytelling with compassion and creativity, and drafting persuasive legal arguments. Students also presented mock Court of Appeals arguments to hone their oral advocacy skills.



Birwood Wall

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Detroit_Wall

SCAN HERE TO MAKE A DONATION TO OUR CLINICS:



“I WISH I HAD KNOWN TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CLINICS SOONER, ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY CLINIC, BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH I ENJOYED REALIZING THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF MY LEGAL EDUCATION ... I LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MYSELF, WHAT I MAY WANT TO PURSUE IN MY LEGAL CAREER, AND THE IMPACT THAT I CAN HAVE ON THE COMMUNITY.”
MOLLY MOENING, 3L

Professor David Moss Celebrates 25 Years with Wayne Law!

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

One thing that professional sports teams do well is celebrate a good draft pick. In Detroit we witnessed this during the 2024 NFL Draft event. Wayne State University Law School is also celebrating an outstanding draft pick - Associate Professor David Moss. Professor Moss completed 25 years at the law school during the 2023-2024 academic year. Professor Moss is the longstanding Director of Wayne Law's Disability Law Clinic representing individuals with disability in social security, special education, and disability civil rights matters.



Professor Moss began his time at Wayne Law in 1998 as Assistant Director of Clinics. Professor Moss joined then Director Erica Eisinger, who taught the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic working with prisoners. Professor Moss was tasked with developing Wayne Law's Clinical Program to meet the growing interest in professional training opportunities for students. The Clinical Program teaches practical legal practice skills under the supervision of licensed attorneys through both classroom work and work on live client cases. Moving away from ad hoc clinics attached to a doctrinal faculty person's special interest, Professor Moss's clinical expertise ensured the Clinical Program was grounded in developing clinical pedagogy. The growth of the Clinical Program is one of Professor Moss's lasting legacies at Wayne Law.

When Professor Moss began at Wayne Law, student experiences were through a partnership with the Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. This presented special challenges for teaching and overseeing students. By 2002, Professor Moss brought the Disability Law Clinic in house to Wayne Law, setting up in a small office suite on the third floor of the law school building. His interest in providing equal educational opportunities for differently abled children was now the clinic's focus.

In 2007, Professor Moss became Director of Clinics and Externships. Under his guidance, Wayne Law's experiential education program flourished. Professor Moss supported the development of a number of new clinics during his time as Director, including the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic and the Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic.

Professor Moss is first and foremost a dedicated educator. The law school has called on him many times to teach outside the realm of experiential education. Currently, he is working with Wayne Law's non-JD programs to teach civil procedure online. He enjoys the doctrinal teaching opportunities and is often called on for important historical context in pedagogical debates. While he stepped back from directing the Clinic Program to focus on teaching, his experience is often called upon for ABA site visits at other campuses.

Thank you, Professor Moss, for your years of service, your stewardship of our program, and allowing new opportunities to abound for our students.

If you want to reach out to Professor Moss, his contact and clinic information is found here:

<https://law.wayne.edu/academics/clinics/disability>

Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

The LAPC Clinic has had remarkable success since it opened its doors to students in January of 2014. Prior to that, the LAPC program was being built as the amazing medical-legal partnership between Wayne Law and Karmanos Cancer Center that it is today. Students in LAPC have served over 1000 clients since its inception, creating a multitude of critical planning documents – powers of attorneys, deeds, and appointment of guardian for minor children – helping those living with cancer to feel relief and gratitude knowing they have taken care of their loved ones.



Additionally, students have advocated on behalf of clients with the Social Security Administration securing over \$622,000 in retroactive benefits and over \$91,000 in monthly benefits helping clients feel more financially secure as they make their way through treatment.

Social work staff at Karmanos partner with the law students to provide holistic care. In fact, when asked what some of the benefits are in collaborating as a medical-legal partnership, Karmanos social work staff have commented, “It helps put patients at ease having access to legal support in the community, that they otherwise would not have had. The partnership gives people the ability to address legal issues that they have in a way that is complimentary to their cancer treatment. This allows us to truly treat the whole person and not just their cancer, which is something we strive to do.” LAPC looks forward to continuing to collaborate on our mutual learning and service to those affected by cancer.

"FROM LEGAL THEORY TO CASE LAW, IT'S EASY TO FEEL DISCONNECTED FROM THE PURPOSE MANY OF US ENROLLED IN LAW SCHOOL IN THE FIRST PLACE: THE PEOPLE. WORKING WITH THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER CLINIC AT WAYNE LAW ALLOWED ME TO RECONNECT MYSELF TO THAT PURPOSE. THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE GOES UNMATCHED."
NIC ROSSIO, 3L

2023 - 2024

at a glance...



16, 000 CLIENT HOURS

- 81** Clinic Students
- 11** Clinics Offered
- 3** Interdisciplinary Students
- 80** New Clients
- 9** Animal Visitors
- 25** Pounds of Candy
- 566** Keurig Pods



Externships

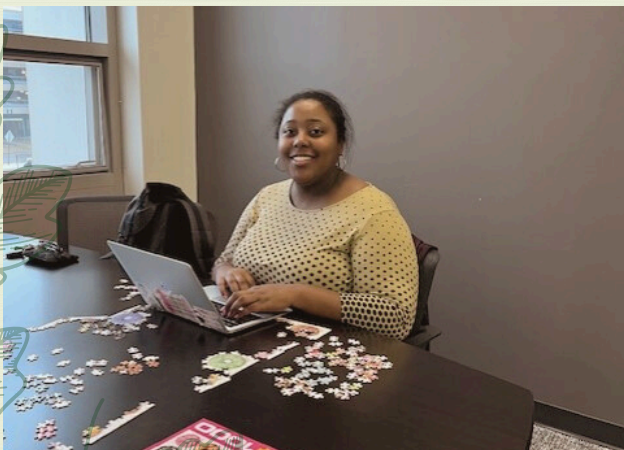
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AT WORK

Wayne Law's Externship Program experienced a vibrant year. Students completed externships at a wide variety of placement sites, including nonprofit organizations, governmental bodies, corporate counsel offices, and judicial chambers. The students provided legal services in a diverse array of legal arenas, such as immigration law, housing law, criminal law, civil rights, tax, employment, contracts, and mergers and acquisitions. Supervisors consistently raved about student performance, complimenting their intelligence, hard work, and passion for whatever causes they represented. Student reflections highlighted the growth of their practical skillsets, career interests, and professional identities. In total, during the 2023-24 academic year, students provided approximately 14,500 hours of legal services both within Michigan and nationally.

Mental Health Breaks!

TEACHING SELF-CARE

Clinical education recognizes and emphasizes the importance of taking care of yourself before you can effectively take care of others.



EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WAYNE LAW

Holistic Defense Externship
Corporate Counsel Externship
Public Service Externship
Judicial Externship



“I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO APPEAR ON THE RECORD AT THE 36TH DISTRICT COURT AS A STUDENT ATTORNEY REPRESENTING REAL CLIENTS, WORK DIRECTLY WITH CLIENT INTAKE, WRITE ESCROW MOTIONS THAT ARE FILED WITH THE COURT, AND NEGOTIATE WITH OPPOSING COUNSEL.”

KYLE GINEMAN, 2L

Summer Reading...

101 ESSAYS THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK

BY BRIANNA WIEST

STANDING HEAVY

BY GAUZ'

JACKSON RISING REDUX: LESSONS ON BUILDING THE FUTURE IN THE PRESENT

EDITED BY KALI AKUNO & MATT MEYER

THE COLOR OF LAW

BY RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

WHEN WE WALK BY

BY KEVIN F. ADLER AND DONALD W. BURNS



April 11th was giving day.

FROM ALL OF US AT WAYNE LAW CLINICS...

Did you participate in giving day? If you did, you exceeded our expectations!

... Thank You!

When you donate to Wayne Law Clinics, you become a partner in our success! This year, we used donations to pay for expert witnesses, medical exams, and court records to help assist our clients.

Your commitment has made a significant impact on our mission, and there are simply not enough words to convey our appreciation for your kindness and generosity. We hope this review of our work this past year inspires you to continue to be a contributing member of the Wayne Law Clinical family.



Please consider investing in the future of our clinics by making a gift using this QR code...



When were you last here?

CAMPUS AND DETROIT ARE BEAUTIFUL ...

Photo by Helmut Ziewers (www.ziewersphotography.com) of HistoricDetroit.org