Janet Bolin Expands Her Work with Students

Prospective and currently enrolled students in the School of Law all rely on Janet Bolin for advice and assistance in preparing for their legal careers. As the School’s new associate dean for student services, Bolin expands her work with students by helping them map out their courses, as well as navigate the complexities of examinations and certifications. She also continues to serve as associate dean of admissions, addressing inquiries from interested and incoming students.

In her student services role, Bolin succeeds Mark Smith, who is now assistant vice chancellor and director of Washington University’s Career Center. Under the student services umbrella, Bolin oversees the registrar’s office, which handles student records, course scheduling, exam scheduling and administration, and communications with bar authorities and employers. In addition, she directs the transfer student, the public service, and the academic assistance programs.

“We are thrilled that Janet has agreed to serve as our associate dean for admissions and student services,” says Joel Seligman, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “Respected by both prospective and current students, Janet has proven herself a highly effective senior administrator in admissions and financial aid. She now brings her enthusiasm, leadership, flexibility, and in-depth knowledge of the School to this new position.”

Bolin currently chairs the School of Law’s Communications Committee. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee on the Appointment of the Dean for the School of Law.

During her 11-year tenure as a senior administrator, the School of Law has experienced dramatic growth in admissions applications, as well as in student quality and selectivity. “Her caring approach to each application and her genuine desire to attract students who will be highly successful here are remarkable,” Seligman says. “Janet brings this same commitment.

School of Law Staff Appointments

Farewell to Mark Smith

Mark Smith, JD ’86, who most recently served as the School of Law’s associate dean for students, has a new position as assistant vice chancellor and director of Washington University’s Career Center.

In his 14 years with the School of Law, Smith worked closely with students, addressing their concerns and challenges. During his varied career, he oversaw operations in the admissions, career services, financial aid, and registrar’s offices. He also taught Legal Research & Writing and Pretrial Practice & Procedure.

“We greatly miss Mark and wish him well in his new position,” says Joel Seligman, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “He was an outstanding member of the law school community and always went the extra mile, whether it was helping students secure the right job, counseling students on course selections, or visiting a seriously ill student in the hospital.”

Smith continues to teach in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and in the Olin School of Business.

In his new capacity at the Career Center, Smith shares his expertise with undergraduate students seeking career services. He also continues to serve as chair of the Committee for University Policy and Practice Affecting Students with Disabilities.

He received his bachelor’s degree in government from Harvard University and began his legal career as an associate with Bryan Cave LLP. Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan appointed him to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department’s Board of Commissioners; Smith also was elected president of the board.

Mark Smith (right) conversed with students during his farewell reception.
to student welfare and professional ethics to her new position."

As a member of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), Bolin has served on the Misconduct and Irregularities Committee and on the Services and Programs Committee. She chaired the Association of American Law Schools Section on Student Services and served on several National Association for Law Placement (NALP) committees. Additionally, she has been a featured speaker at LSAC and NALP meetings and at Prelaw Advisor National Conferences.

Bolin authored “Alumni and the Legal Employment Crunch” for the National Association for Law Placement Bulletin; served as editor and contributing author for Lawyers’ Guide to the Chicago Job Market, Chicago Bar Association; and contributed to Lawful and Effective Interviewing Practices, National Association for Law Placement.

While working as DePaul University’s assistant dean of career services, Bolin earned her JD from the university’s College of Law in 1989. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Florida State University.

Clinical Program Gains New Staff

David Deal has been named administrative director of the Intellectual Property and Business Formation (IP/BF) Legal Clinic and acting associate director of the Center for Research on Innovation & Entrepreneurship. In these positions, he works with Charles McManis, the Thomas and Karole Green Professor of Law and director of these new programs.

The IP/BF Legal Clinic provides students opportunities to work in early-stage legal strategies on behalf of innovators who would not otherwise have access to legal counsel. The Center for Research on Innovation & Entrepreneurship supports the study of research and development with an emphasis on the commercialization of technology developed in academia.

Interdisciplinary cooperation is an important component of the IP/BF Legal Clinic experience. Law students share projects and combine resources with students from other disciplines, including medicine, business, bioengineering, social work, and other sciences.

Deal has a history of work in the area of intellectual property. As an associate at Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, he focused on the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, as well as on trademark, copyright, trade secret, licensing, and litigation matters. Most recently, as a patent examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C., he examined patent applications for compliance with applicable statutes prior to approving the award of a United States patent.

Deal received both his JD and bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Sarah W. Rubenstein has joined the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic (IEC) as a clinic attorney. She assists Maxine Lipeles, IEC director, and Beth Martin, engineering and science director, in handling cases and overseeing student work. (For related article on Beth Martin, see page 17.)

An innovative course, the IEC is designed to bring law students together with students from other disciplines—primarily engineering and environmental studies—in actual case work. Clinic students provide legal and technical assistance on environmental and community health issues for individuals and organizations that cannot obtain private representation.

Rubenstein has focused her career on environmental issues and concerns, and brings extensive expertise and personal experience to the job. Previously she worked as an associate with Schultz & Little LLP in St. Louis, where she practiced all aspects of civil litigation with a subspecialty in environmental litigation matters. In prior years, as an associate with Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal in St. Louis, she managed several commercial litigation cases, among them, national class action matters and disputes involving the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Rubenstein received her JD from the University of Chicago. While earning her bachelor’s degree in environmental health science from Amherst College, she worked interim stints with the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. She later worked with Environmental Operations, Inc. in St. Louis, where she researched, drafted, and edited environmental assessments.