

## Clinic Launches Travis Hill's Litigation Career

WHEN TRAVIS HILL, JD '05, decided to work in the Criminal Justice Clinic as a second-year law student, it wasn't criminal law that had intrigued him. What he craved was courtroom experience. "The clinic was an opportunity where I knew I would be in the courtroom and have real courtroom experience," Hill recalls.

The Criminal Justice Clinic offers students such as Hill the opportunity to engage in extensive criminal defense practice while representing indigent defendants through its long-standing collaborative relationship with the St. Louis County division of the Missouri State Public Defender System. Based in Clayton, Missouri, clinic students benefit from the expertise of director Peter Joy, vice dean and the Henry Hitchcock Professor of Law, a clinic faculty fellow, and various public defenders.

Working a minimum of 20 hours a week, Hill recalls that he met with clients, accompanied case investigators on the job, and went to arraignments. But he also called witnesses and cross-examined prosecution witnesses at pre-trial hearings.

"The clinic definitely had an impact on my career," says Hill, who is currently an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C. "I already had a strong interest in trial work. Working with Professor Joy and the public defenders made me want to pursue that goal even more."

Hill ingested the clinic experience like a wonderful meal, and as dessert found his calling as a prosecutor. After law school, he began his career with the District Attorney's Office in Queens, New York. He handled domestic violence cases for 18 months

### FELLOW LOLLAR JOINS CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC

Cortney E. Lollar, who joined the law school as a clinical faculty fellow in fall 2011, is teaching in the Criminal Justice Clinic. She is an experienced public defender who has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and submitted petitions to the Supreme Court of the United States. She previously worked at the Federal Defender Program Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. She has regularly supervised law students, most recently through Emory Law School's Trial Techniques program. Lollar also has served as a research assistant to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and as a legal consultant in Bangalore/Delhi, India, for the Initiative for Medicines, Access, and Knowledge. Her primary research interests involve the intersections among criminal law, evidence law, sexuality, and mental health.



and then narcotics cases and felony assaults, robberies, and burglaries for three years.

Last winter he left Queens, and in January 2011, Hill joined the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. He explains that he changed jobs because he was both interested in the office's high-profile cases and because he wanted to be closer to his family in Glade Spring, Virginia.

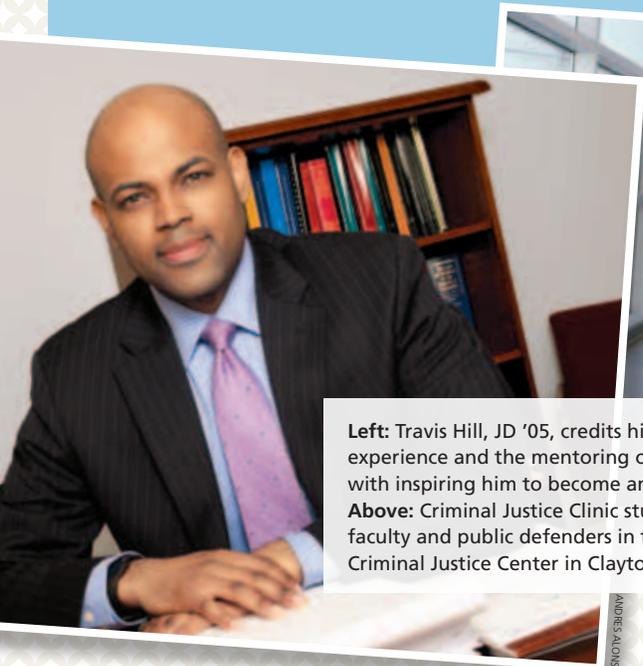
"I love trying cases," Hill says. "Being in the courtroom was my whole point in becoming a lawyer. I can't see myself in an office working on contracts or mergers."

"I love the opportunity to interact with different members of the community," he continues. "As a prosecutor you're dealing everyday with the victims, their families, and the police officers working the case."

No matter what kind of cases he prosecutes, however, his job does carry a burden. "The hardest thing," he says, "is that every day you're faced with a very serious matter. You're dealing with someone's life."

"You want to investigate fully to determine that the right person has been charged," he continues. "That's something you take home with you every day. You're always thinking, 'Is this the right person I'm charging? Is this the right person that I'm going to trial against?' Because you don't want people sitting in jail for something they didn't do. And you don't want to let a guilty person go free either and not get justice for the victim."

Despite the accompanying job stress, Hill wouldn't change anything. "It's been a marvelous career," he says. ■■■



Left: Travis Hill, JD '05, credits his Criminal Justice Clinic experience and the mentoring of Professor Peter Joy with inspiring him to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Above: Criminal Justice Clinic students work with faculty and public defenders in the Buzz Westfall Criminal Justice Center in Clayton, Missouri.



Over the years, Criminal Justice Clinic director Peter Joy, an expert in criminal law and professional practice, has enhanced the law school's clinical partnership with the Missouri State Public Defender System.