Our Clinical Program:

Building on an Illustrious Past, Advocating for a Better Future

By Kenneth J. Cooper, AB ’77

Washington University School of Law has a long tradition of valuing the importance of clinical education in furthering students’ professional development while providing ethical and much-needed legal services to underrepresented groups. When Professor Samuel H. Liberman opened the school’s first storefront legal office in 1973, law students and faculty literally expanded outside of the classroom and into the community. This first Introductory Clinic, offered in conjunction with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, was soon augmented by the Advanced Clinic and Judicial Clerkship Clinic. Five years later, the program expanded nationally with the launching of the Congressional Clinic. Then under the direction of Professor...
Karen Tokarz, from 1980 to 2008, the program grew dramatically both in stature and clinical offerings, including international placements, and has been consistently ranked among the top clinical programs nationally. Under the subsequent vision of Associate Dean Annette Appell from 2008 to 2011, the program dedicated its new professional space and expanded to the current 15 distinct local, national, and international clinical opportunities. These include the most recent offering, the New York Regulatory & Business Externship, which will send 12 law students to New York next academic year for a semester-long clinical experience. Now with the naming of Professor Robert Kuehn as the new associate dean, the law school is furthering the program’s trajectory of providing superior clinical education; award-winning faculty scholarship and advocacy; increased services to clients; and projects to address systemic change.

**Clinical Offerings**

- Appellate Clinic
- Civil Justice Clinic
- Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
- Congressional & Administrative Law Program
- Corporate Judicial Field Placement
- Criminal Justice Clinic
- Government Lawyering Externship
- Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Clinic
- Patent Law Field Placement
- Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
- International Justice & Conflict Resolution Practicum
- Judicial Clerkship
- Lawyering Practice Externship
- New York Regulatory & Business Externship
- Supervised Practicum

**Looking Back:** The law school launched the Clinical Education Program in 1973 with its first clinic in a storefront law office in conjunction with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.