Kuehn to Succeed Appell as Head of Clinical Program

ROBERT KUEHN, professor of law and co-director of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, will succeed ANNETTE APPELL as head of the Clinical Education Program. Immediate past president of the Clinical Legal Education Association, Kuehn joined the law faculty in 2009. A well-known scholar, teacher, and clinician in environmental law and professional responsibility, he also has served on the American Association of Law School’s Standing Committee on Clinical Education and Executive Committee for the Section on Clinical Legal Education. He formerly founded and directed the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic and served as associate dean for skills programs at the University of Alabama School of Law.

“We are very fortunate to have Bob assume this position,” says Kent Syverud, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “He is widely praised as a clinical teacher and program administrator. Standing on the shoulders of the terrific work of his predecessors, Annette Appell and Karen Tokarz, he will provide great leadership to our expanding clinical program.”

Appell will return to the full-time faculty and Civil Justice Clinic: Child & Family Defense Project. She also is a past president of the Clinical Legal Education Association along with Professors Peter Joy and Karen Tokarz. Appell is a nationally recognized expert in child advocacy, adoption, and child welfare. During her tenure as the school’s first associate dean of clinical affairs, she made important advances to enhance professionalism in the structure and operations of the Clinical Education Program. Her leadership helped accomplish the redesign and renovation of the live-client clinic facilities in Anheuser-Busch Hall, further integration of in-house clinics and of the clinical program generally, strategic hiring of new clinical faculty and staff, and the expansion of clinical offerings.

“Annette is a first-rate clinician and scholar who cares deeply about quality education for students,” Syverud says. “I am deeply grateful for her hard work and assistance in moving our clinical programs forward. I am also happy that she will be continuing to play a leadership role in our Civil Justice Clinic.”

THE GROWTH and development across the clinical program, such as with the intellectual property clinic, is significant. The brainchild of Charles McManis, the Thomas and Karole Green Professor of Law, the IP clinic was originally launched in 2005 thanks in part to funding from a Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation grant. At that time, the clinic also had an entrepreneurial component. David Deal, who has extensive experience in private practice and as a patent examiner with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, was recruited as the clinic’s first director.

In 2008, the clinic changed its name and expanded its work to more fully include the nonprofit side with the arrival of alumnus Peter Ruger, JD ’69. Ruger had been working with the clinic for several years as an adjunct. Now a senior lecturer in law, he is a former general counsel of Washington University and has served on numerous boards of nonprofit organizations.

The Congressional & Administrative Law Program has seen dramatic changes as well. Launched in 1978, the program has expanded its offerings throughout the year and has recently forged a partnership with the Brookings Institution. The Washington, D.C.-based clinical program also moved into Washington University’s new space adjacent to the Brookings Institution, where students attend seminars and meet informally, sharing their experiences in the nation’s capital. Previously, seminars for externs in congressional, administrative, or executive offices were held in borrowed space at various law firms.

“Now we actually have space for the class in the university’s building,” Appell says. “The students also hang out there. It’s wonderful to have this kind of physical space for them.”