• The Civil Justice Clinic now focuses on juvenile justice and child welfare matters, and the Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic now includes mortgage loan foreclosure mediation.
• The new facilities for the four in-house clinics, which were dedicated in fall 2009, are now providing highly functioning professional space that is configured like a law firm.

RESEARCH EXCERPT

Peter Joy, Vice Dean; Henry Hitchcock Professor of Law; and Director, Criminal Justice Clinic, and Robert Kuehn, Associate Dean for Clinical Education; Professor of Law; and Co-Director, Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic


“As universities increasingly seek to educate students through service-learning courses, law school clinics may be the bellwether for determining whether the faculty’s academic freedom in teaching will transcend the traditional classroom or be left at the classroom door. Recent legislative and corporate efforts to interfere in the operations of law clinics indicate that academic freedom is at risk when hands-on student learning bumps up against ‘real-world’ disputes.”

Kuehn Named Head of Clinical Education Program

ROBERT KUEHN, professor of law and co-director of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, has succeeded 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 Association of American Law Schools’ 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, who served as associate dean from July 2008 to 2011, has returned to the full-time faculty and continues to direct the Civil Justice Clinic’s Children & Family Defense Project.

LOOKING BACK: Merton Bernstein, now the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law Emeritus, front center, founded the Congressional Clinic in 1978. Its successor, the Congressional & Administrative Law Externship, recently expanded to offerings in both spring and fall in conjunction with a new university-wide academic partnership with the Brookings Institution.

As a research assistant for Professor Mae Quinn, left, Tiffany Ellis, JD ’11, right, worked on an education case in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. A settlement was reached with the Saint Louis City Public Schools in the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of disciplinary practices for two high school students. Ellis continued to work on settlement issues as a clinic student with Quinn.