



W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic



CREATING CONNECTIONS

Our clinic has the privilege of working with practicing attorneys both as counsel for other parties and as a part of our team. On a recent amicus case, attorneys from Haynes and Boone and Toyota worked with us as co-counsel. In this case, we were required to meet with the father. While this would normally be a non-issue, this father was in prison in Beaumont, TX.

Haynes and Boone reached out to its Houston office and an associate Attorney, Julian Sharp, volunteered to visit the father in prison.

A 2021 graduate from the University of Arkansas Law, Julian never expected to have this experience when he signed up for Big Law. While going to a prison is definitely daunting, he valued the experience. Julian said, “being able to help the law students and contribute to a good cause was probably my favorite aspect to it.” He would recommend working with the clinic to anyone and would do it again.

We appreciate the support we have received from Haynes and Boone and Toyota!

Want to help
our clinic?
Check out page
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SPRING '24 ASSOCIATES

In the Classroom

After orientation in January, the associates hit the ground running. They began their skills training by doing mock client interviews. They have learned information from numerous guest speakers. SMU Alumnus Michael Kotwal, Chief Assistant District Attorney for the 305th District Court, discussed the role of the ADA in representing CPS as an agency. Derek Mergle-Rust, a partner in the firm of DebnamRust PC, provided important insights into parents' rights and representation of parents in CPS Cases.

Each new experience in the classroom helps our student attorneys learn skills to apply to their cases, and the guest lecturers enhance their learning experience. We are grateful to the attorneys and other professionals who volunteer their time to share their expertise with us.



In The Courtroom

On February 1, we had a trial! Clinic associates, Zach Belew and Madeleine Nelson, took the trial head on. As lead counsel (supervised by Law Fellow, Melissa Cason) they performed an opening, a closing, and cross examinations just a month after starting in the clinic. The court took our recommendation resulting in a successful trial for us and the children involved. All of our associates have now had at least one hearing and continue to grow their skills.



HOW CAN I HELP?

Amazon Wishlist

We now have an amazon wish list! If you are interested in donating to help our clients and their caregivers, you can purchase items off our wishlist by using the link below. Thank you for your generosity in helping our clinic!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2OIS6KTDH4MJW?ref_=w1_share

Work With Our Associates

If you would like to assist our associates on discrete issues or provide support to our clinic, please contact our clinic director, Diane Sumoski!

dsumoski@smu.edu

Gift Card Drive

We will be having a gift card drive later this semester to send to our clients and their families! Look out for emails and links in the next newsletter!

Aged Out Podcast

Listen to our podcast, Aged Out: The Stories That Built Us, on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook for the latest updates! @AgedOutProject

