Queen’s Law Clinics

November 2019
Queen's Business Law Clinic
This summer, the QBLC’s three summer students worked tirelessly advising various clients, including Queen’s students participating in the summer entrepreneurship program organized by the new Queen’s Innovation Centre. There was a change in leadership with the departure of Morgan Jarvis, Law’10, and the appointment of Tomilola Adebiyi as the Clinic Director. In September, the QBLC welcomed 24 students who will be providing excellent services to clients seeking incorporation, charitable status, intellectual property protection and employment law advice over the fall and winter terms.

Queen’s Elder Law Clinic
For the second year running, the Queen’s Elder Law Clinic is offering an experiential learning opportunity to 16 students, double the number in 2017-18. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Class of ’81 Clinical Programs Fund, the QELC’s new cadre of student caseworkers settled into their roles under the mentorship of veteran caseworkers Brianna Pioli, Madison Stemmler, and Sarah Tella, all Law’20. In addition to their busy caseload work, the new student caseworkers have scheduled outreach and public legal education initiatives in every corner of the city, and as far as Tyendinaga.

Queen’s Family Law Clinic
The QFLC is in its fifth year and QFLC alumni are now working across Ontario and beyond. At the recent AFCC-O Annual Conference, Director Karla Newman, Law ’16, who is at Hughes + Bale Family Law in Hamilton. Of her time at the QFLC Michaela said: “The hands-on experience proved invaluable upon my entrance into the legal profession. The QFLC offers exposure to real-life cases and taught me court procedure and legal drafting skills. I highly recommend the QFLC to students considering a career in family law!”

Queen’s Prison Law Clinic
The QPLC recently had its 20th successful application for judicial review in the Federal Courts (with costs), since starting to pursue such applications in the fall of 2016. One recent important decision (allowed on consent) concerned the failure of the CSC Commissioner to consider the manner in which a total ban on Internet access engages the right to freedom of expression of prisoners under s. 2(b) of the Charter in the context of access to post-secondary distance education (as paper-correspondence courses once taken by prisoners are no longer available).

Queen’s Legal Aid
With generous support from the Law’81 Class Gift Committee, Queen’s Legal Aid has begun to offer enhanced services to clients seeking suspension of past criminal records. In 2010, the Government of Canada introduced significant changes to the rules relating to pardons, including renaming pardons “record suspensions,” doubling the waiting period for eligibility, and increasing the fee from $50 to $631. Effective October 1, QLA offers clients legal advice and limited financial assistance to help alleviate the significant consequences of having a criminal record, often many years after an individual has paid his or her debt to society.

Kingston’s largest firm pays clinical education forward by investing in experienced young lawyers.

This story is one of many about what Queen’s Law has accomplished over the past year thanks to the support of alumni and friends.

Watch your mailbox in November for Supporting Excellence 2019, bundled with the upcoming issue of Queen’s Alumni Review.

January 2020 marks the 5th anniversary of all 5 clinics co-locating in downtown Kingston.

Check your inbox for a special anniversary feature in the February issue of Queen’s Law Reports Online.

The Queen’s Law Clinics gratefully acknowledge the support of Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pro Bono Students Canada, the Class of Law ’81, the United Way of KFL&A, and alumni and industry sponsors.
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