

CLASSROOM

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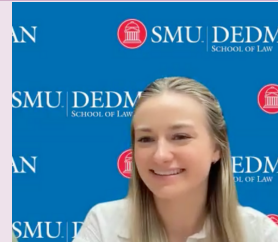


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CLASSROOM

This month, associates in the clinic conducted direct and cross examinations. Professor Sumoski acted as the judge, Law Fellow Melissa Cason as the “court reporter” (photo taker), and fellow associates as opposing counsel—practicing their objections. This classroom activity translates directly to the courtroom: chief counsel act as real witnesses from real cases that the associates are working on.

Next month, the associates will meet in the SMU “courtroom” twice— first to argue motions and second to give an opening or closing statement in a mock trial based on one of their cases.



COURTROOM

Courtroom experience has been abundant this semester for clinic associates.

One team of associates—appointed in an amicus capacity on a case—filed and orally presented a well-researched brief supporting their stance. Another team of associates argued against a motion to quash. Another team argued for CPS to provide additional services to benefit their clients.

Nearly every student has had the opportunity to orally advocate in some manner this semester! They are loving gaining hands-on litigation experience and learning how to zealously advocate for their clients.





CATCHING UP WITH JIMMY VAUGHN
COMING SOON



PODCAST STUDIO

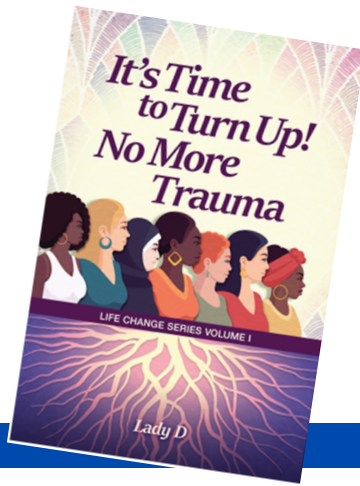
ROB SCHEER: FOSTER CARE TO FOUNDER

RELEASED MARCH 2024



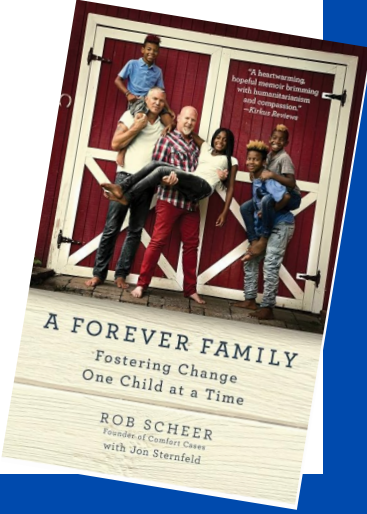
DONETIA: YOU ARE MORE THAN YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

COMING SOON



CANDACE: IT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO YOU, IT HAPPENED FOR YOU

RELEASED JANUARY 2024



BOB: NOT THE "PROPERTY OF TEXAS"

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2024



AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY & APPLE PODCASTS

ASSOCIATES IN THE COMMUNITY

Each semester, clinic associates visit both the Dallas and Fort Worth Transition Resource Action Centers (TRAC). TRAC's mission is to "[c]onnect young people ages 14-24, who are transitioning from substitute/foster care in North Texas toward self-sufficiency, with individualized support, planning and access to community services." Our associates visit TRAC to identify youth in need of legal services and to offer our assistance.



LARA
ALBRIGHT
YOST

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Lara Albright Yost, a former clinic associate, graduated from SMU Law in 2017 and currently works as an associate at Carrington Coleman—focusing her practice on litigation and arbitration of construction law disputes.

A few years ago, Professor Sumoski reached out to an appellate partner at Carrington Coleman seeking help on a matter. When Lara heard about the matter, she "quickly jumped at the opportunity to work with the clinic because [she] truly enjoyed [her] time as a clinic student."

When asked why she chose to take on a pro bono matter with the clinic, Lara said, "I feel passionate about giving a voice to the children in the CPS system. These children need someone who will specifically advocate for an outcome that is in their best interests—whatever that outcome may be."

Lara felt a "full circle" moment—going from being a clinic student to an attorney assisting the clinic. She would encourage other attorneys to get involved with the clinic because "the work is so rewarding. Working with the clinic gives you the opportunity to utilize your degree and experience to help little children who need help, but cannot help themselves."

Thank you for being an advocate for our clients, Lara!

How can you help?

Amazon Wish List

Thank you to those who sent gifts from our wishlist last month! 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.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2OIS6KTDH4MJW?ref=w1_share

Work with the Clinic

If you would like to assist our associates on discrete issues or provide support to our clinic, please contact our clinic director, Professor Diane Sumoski!
dsumoski@smu.edu

Help Us Find Podcast Interviewees

If you or anyone you know has experienced the foster care system, we encourage you to contact us via Instagram (@AgedOutProject) or via email (AgedOutProject@gmail.com) about being interviewed for our podcast. We are looking for interviewees!

*Thank
you!*

SMU[®]

**W.W. Caruth, Jr.
Child Advocacy Clinic**