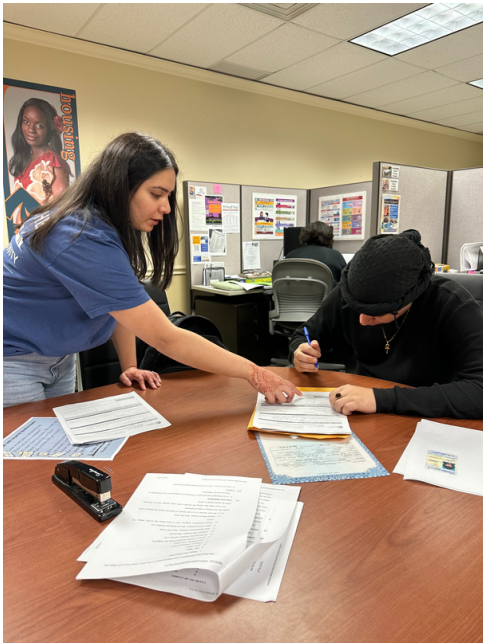


W.W. CARUTH, JR. CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC

January Newsletter



The Clinic Rings in the New Year!



The Clinic and its Work at TRAC

In the Fall semester, our clinic associates continued to assist aged out youth at TRAC with any legal needs they may have had. In the photo pictured to the left, Clinic Associate Sara Saeed is seen assisting a youth complete the necessary forms to get his state records changed to his new name. The clinic also helped this aged out youth secure his name change in court. The clinic loves to help people of all ages who were impacted by the foster care system.

IN THIS ISSUE

**THE CLINIC AND ITS
WORK AT TRAC**

**MEET THE CHIEFS OF THE
SPRING '24 SEMESTER**

**THE FALL 2023 CHIEFS
REFLECT ON THEIR
CLINIC EXPERIENCES**

**DON'T FORGET TO
FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM**

@AGEDOUTPROJECT

**CHECK OUR PODCAST
FOR NEW EPISODES @
AGED OUT: THE STORIES
THAT BUILT US**

MEET THE CHIEFS OF THE SPRING '24 SEMESTER



ELEANOR PELHAM

Year in law school: 3L

Undergraduate degree: Bachelor of Arts in History at The University of Oklahoma

What did you enjoy about the clinic?

“As a clinic associate, I really enjoyed working with people both inside and outside of the clinic. I think it was really representative of the type of collaboration that will be required throughout our careers. It was a very useful and great skill to learn.”

VALERIA VILLAGOMEZ

Year in law school: 2L

Undergraduate degree: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

What are you looking forward to as chief of the clinic?

“As a Chief for the Child Advocacy Clinic, I am excited to help the incoming associates learn the in’s and out’s of the clinic and the small but important details in our cases. I am excited to continue on my cases and continue to work hard for our clients!”



BROOKE SUTTER

Year in law school: 2L

Undergraduate degree: Bachelor of Science in Nursing at University of Texas

What did you enjoy about the clinic?

“I really enjoyed getting to be a leader for our clients and their cases. Diane gave the clinic associates the freedom to share ideas and then plan and execute those ideas--all for the benefit of our incredible clients. I never felt like I was given a to-do list and a due date...instead my partner and I got to make our own to-do's. It was very self-driven and I enjoyed challenging myself to do more for our clients.”



THE FALL 2023 CHIEFS REFLECT ON THEIR CLINIC EXPERIENCES

KAREN NOBREGA

"Walking into the clinic, I honestly didn't know what I was getting into. The cases seemed heavy, and I worried it might be too much for me. But pretty quickly, I realized it's not about me—it's about these kids. If we don't step up for them, who will? The clinic has become a place where we share the load, where it's not just about legal battles, but about creating a haven where empathy and resilience shine, and together, we have lit the way for a better future for these children. My overall experience has been a journey of growth, compassion, and a deep sense of purpose, knowing that every effort contributes to a brighter tomorrow for those who need it most."



LEXY YOUNG

"The clinic experience is one that I likely will never forget. In many years, I may forget about the Rule Against Perpetuities from Property Class, but I know I will never forget the impact I helped make on our clients' lives. The clinic is not only about learning law, it is truly about learning what you are capable of as a human being. I will forever be thankful for my two semesters spent in the clinic and I could not recommend enough for other law students to be a part of this amazing experience. I am so grateful for my last two semesters in the clinic. I think the children we represented taught me more than any law school class ever could."



ISABELA POSSINO

"Participating in the Child Advocacy Clinic has been an incredibly valuable experience for me. Over the course of two semesters, I had the opportunity to advocate for our clients in court, draft motions, and feel like the work I was doing had a real impact. I am truly grateful for this experience and would highly recommend the clinic to any SMU student."

