



Educating a U.S. Supreme Court Clerk



This issue of the *Gargoyle* includes a feature about clinical education and its increasing recognition as an important part of legal education. For more than 40 years, the UW Law School's clinical programs have provided students with the opportunity to combine classroom learning with the complexity of actual practice. A recent two-year study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching encourages law schools to match their first-year emphasis on legal analysis with a similarly strong emphasis on practicing law and serving clients. Clinics, like ours, do that.

Yet despite clinical education's increasing popularity and recognized value, it has not always been viewed enthusiastically by all employers, particularly large-firm employers, and has not been seen as the

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approved educational path for those aspiring to the highest levels of the profession.

Imagine, for instance, the likelihood of a U.S. Supreme Court clerk whose résumé includes three clinical experiences, but does not include participation on her law school's law review or its moot court. Imagine the likelihood of a U.S. Supreme Court clerk who never spent a summer working for a law firm or building her résumé with prestigious jobs, but rather chose instead to participate in clinical programs.

Impossible, you say? A few weeks ago, I might have agreed. But no longer.



Meet UW Law alumna Cecelia Klingele '05, who will begin a clerkship with U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens in 2008.

Throughout law school, Cecelia worked extensively in clinical projects at the Frank J. Remington Center. Her résumé lists, among her many accomplishments and experiences, participation in three of the Law School's clinical programs. She was a student attorney in the Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons (LAIP) Program, an intern in the Dane County District Attorney's Office through the Prosecution Project, and a student attorney in the Criminal Appeals Project. Following graduation, Klingele served as a clinical instructor in the Remington Center's LAIP Program before beginning a two-year clerkship with Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb of the

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin.

There's much more to tell about

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Cecelia, but I'll leave that to future issues of the newsletter and *Gargoyle*. Suffice it to say that Cecelia's nontraditional path to the Supreme Court is a wonderful boost for clinical education throughout the country and a point of pride for us. Of course, more than anything, it is a testament to Cecelia, to her intelligence, her academic achievement, her intellectual curiosity, and her character and values. As one of her recommenders stated, "She is not

someone who set out to grab all the high honors, but someone who has pursued what is right." It is also a testament to her judge, the Honorable Barbara Crabb, who believed in her, encouraged her to reach for the top, and was a wonderful mentor and advocate.

We at the Law School take great pride both in our groundbreaking clinical programs and in our newly named U.S. Supreme Court clerk, and we are especially proud that the two are linked in this latest Law School success story.

— Dean Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.