Fall in the Upper Valley, Vermont – absolute perfection! VLS has welcomed a new class, the clinics are working on interesting and important cases, and the externship program is in full swing – that is, with the exception of federal placements in the wake of the shutdown. Last week, in the coffee shop/book store that occupies a corner of our new clinics building, students and faculty members gathered for the first Open Mike sponsored by the student run store. Espresso coffees, brownies and other goodies played a distant second to poetry, singing and instrumental music, and comedy. It was magic – a reminder of the extraordinary students who find their way to VLS and the community that welcomes them.

In this newsletter are updates from our Externship Program, from several of the Clinics, introduction of a new course in Law Practice Management, and Faculty News.

Wishing you all a successful and enjoyable fall semester!

The Externship Program

by Professor Christine Cimini, Director of Semester in Practice and Externship Programs

Like many schools across the country, VLS is struggling to adjust to the impact of the government shutdown on student externs placed in federal agencies. At this point, 8 VLS students are impacted by the shutdown. Two students are placed at the Environmental Protection Agency, one student is at the Department of Education, and 5 students are at the Department of Justice in several different divisions. After consulting with faculty involved with the program, we decided to provide a series of measures for the students, some of which came from the excellent exchanges on the Lextern listserv. Students were initially asked to seek take home work from their supervisors.

Externship—continued on page 2
Externship—continued from page 1

However, this was not an option for most. Students who could not take
home work were instructed to read the Congressional Research Office’s
report on the effects of the shutdown, Shutdown of the Federal Government: 
Causes, Processes and Effects, and to provide a 2-3 page journal entry
reflecting on the impact the shutdown will have on the services provided
at their placements. Then, at the end of last week when the shutdown
continued, students were asked to do a court observation assignment, or,
in the alternative, choose to extend the time at the end of their externship.
Recognizing that the shutdown may continue for a while, we reached out
to VLS DC area alumni for projects and supervision and got a full range of
enthusiastic offers. So, the students have options, but, of course, their hope
is that they can return to their planned placements as soon as possible.

Overall, 40 students are on full-time externships this fall, so many are
not affected by the shutdown. Most of the placements are with a range of
environmental organizations, including government, non-profits and
law firms; the second largest area of placement for this group is criminal
prosecution or defense. Five full-time students are placed with federal court
judges, and one is with a state court judge. Six students enrolled in part-
time externships this semester, and are working in a range of placements
including trial court clerkships, estate planning, land use, and real estate
practice. §

Law Practice Management
by Margaret Martin Barry, Associate Dean for Clinical and Experiential Programs

While neither a clinic nor an externship, the Law Practice Management
course that will be offered for the first time at VLS this coming spring is
designed to be highly interactive and to introduce students to the business
dead of running a firm. Upon successful completion of the course, students
will be aware of the significant elements to consider when opening or
joining a firm or being a productive member of a small firm. The course
will emphasize the ethical and practical issues in planning the process of
joining a firm or being a productive member of a small firm. The course
designed to be highly interactive and to introduce students to the business
end of running a firm. Upon successful completion of the course, students
will be aware of the significant elements to consider when opening or
joining a firm or being a productive member of a small firm. The course
will emphasize the ethical and practical issues in planning the process of
opening a firm, managing law firm finances, basic accounting structures,
marketing a practice, attracting clients and managing client projects to an
appropriate outcome, working with people that the students will encounter
in the practice of law, and the technologies used in the practice of law.
The course will be taught by James Knapp, a practitioner and the coordinator
of the Vermont Bar Association’s Law Practice Management Program. §

Environmental and Natural Resources Law
Clinic (ENRLC)
by Professor Laura Murphy, Associate Director, ENRLC

One of the ENRLC’s projects is representing the Vermont Public Interest
Research Group on the passage and defense of labeling legislation
for genetically engineered foods in Vermont. The clinic conducted
extensive legal research and drafted a comprehensive memo about the
constitutionality of state labeling legislation, which was shared with
state officials as well as labeling advocates in other states. Associate
Director Laura Murphy and student clinicians testified before Vermont’s
House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products, and Laura has
continued to testify and speak on this issue in other committees and
states. In addition to VPIRG, the clinic is working closely with a coalition
of partners including Rural Vermont, the Northeast Organic Farming
Association, and Cedar Circle Farm. Vermont’s labeling bill passed the
House in May, and will be taken up by the Senate when the legislature
reconvenes in January. The clinic looks forward to continuing its work
on this issue. §

Criminal Law—continued from page 1 and not surprisingly, the HGN test was the most accurate predictor
of impairment of the three SFST’s.

In addition to being fun, the class balanced the law with very
practical “hands on” learning critical to prosecuting or defending
DUI cases – cases that form a substantial part of any state criminal
justice system. By prior arrangement, a non-drinking driver safely
brought the volunteer home after class!

The co-teaching of the clinic by the faculty composed of prosecutors
and defense attorneys continues to be a success. Students try
misdemeanors, work on felony trials and work on appeals. Anna
Saxman (Defender General’s Office) and Brian Marsicovetere
(private defense firm that also handles assignments from the state)
continue in the clinic; David Cahill (Deputy State’s Attorney for
Windsor County), is a new addition to the teaching team, taking
over for Robert Sand. Robert Sand continues with the clinic, but,
in a new addition to the clinic offering, has moved from being
Vermont State’s Attorney for Windsor County to being Senior
Policy and Legal Advisor for the Vermont Department of Public
Safety. In that capacity, he runs a program out of the law school
to develop innovative criminal justice practices in Vermont with a
special emphasis on the creation of DUI Treatment Courts. Arwen
Gaddis, the student who works with Professor Sand on this project,
is helping him to develop and promote the treatment courts
throughout the state. §

Grants Support Victims and Survivors of
Domestic Abuse
by Professor James May, Director of South Royalton Legal Clinic

South Royalton Legal Clinic recently was notified of the award
of two grants that will support its representation of victims and
survivors of domestic violence in the coming years. The Canaday
Family Foundation made a two year award specifically for such
representation, and the clinic was also notified last month by U.S.
Senator Patrick Leahy’s office that DOJ has made a major three-
year award under the Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) program
to four Vermont programs – Vermont Legal Aid, the applicant;
cooperating entities South Royalton Legal Clinic; Women Helping
Battered Women (WHBW); and Voices Against Violence (VAV)
– for representation of DV clients in three northwestern Vermont
counties; SRLC’s role will be to provide such representation to
immigrants in those counties. SRLC is a major resource in the state
for representation of victims and survivors of domestic violence,
both in the citizen and immigrant communities. §
Faculty News

**Christine Cimini** was recently appointed Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development. She will also continue in her role as Director of the Externship Program.

**Art Edersheim** will be leaving as a member of the clinical teaching faculty at South Royalton Legal Clinic. His semi-retirement will have him teaching Immigration Law indefinitely, and in spring of next year he will continue his clinic work on the New England Survivors of Torture and Trauma project, a collaboration between VLS and the University of Vermont’s Psychology Department to address the needs of victims of torture. Art has been with the clinic for many years, and his retirement will be felt well beyond the confines of the law school.

**Maryann Zavez** will also be leaving the South Royalton Legal Clinic after many years of dedicated service to her clients and students. Maryann looks forward to pursuing more fully a career in nursing – something that she has back-burnered for several years due to the consuming demands of the clinic.

**Margaret Martin Barry** has joined the South Royalton Legal Clinic. She is working on some of the cases that Art and Maryann will be leaving as well as take on new cases. Margaret recently was admitted to practice in Vermont, and has served this past year on the Supreme Court’s Self-Represented Litigants Committee and the Vermont Bar’s Access to Justice Committee. She looks forward to contributing to the service the clinic is known for throughout the state.

**David Cahill** has joined the Criminal Law Clinic as part of the team of adjunct faculty who teach and supervise students in the clinic. David is a Deputy State’s Attorney for Windsor County and will supervise students prosecuting a range of criminal matters in the county.

**Michele Childs** joined the Legislative Clinic last spring, co-teaching the clinic with David Hall. This coming spring, Michele will run the clinic, coordinating assignments in the Office of the Legislative Council and supervising students in their work as the Vermont Legislature returns for its next session. David Hall will continue to teach the Legislation course at VLS, a pre-requisite for the Legislative Clinic. Both Michele and David are attorneys at the Office of the Legislative Council and adjunct professors at VLS. The clinic is offered in the spring semesters only, consistent with the period in which the Legislature is in session.