



PRE-LAW ADVISING ADVISORY COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2015

Pre-Law Advising

2015- 2016

Pre-Law at K-State 2015-16 Highlights:

- **K-State/KU Law LEAD Program**—accelerated “3+3” pathway to law school.
- **K-State/Washburn Law Rural Legal Practice Initiative**—encouraging legal education and service to meet growing and diverse rural community needs.
- **Inaugural Meeting of Pre-Law Advisory Council**—photographed above: Scott Smalley, Esq.; Julie Hostetler; Hon. Maritza Segarra; Amy J. Bipes, Esq.; Dean Thomas J. Romig; Kelsey Moran, Esq.; Dean Stephen Mazza; Audrey Mross, Esq.; Hon. Meryl D. Wilson; Hon. Henry W. Green [not pictured]; Steven P. Dandaneau, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies; Daralyn Gordon Arata, Esq.; April C. Mason, Provost & Senior Vice President; and K-State Pre-Law Ambassadors Drew Kohlmeier; Jessica Wheeler; Darja Meskin; and Joe Oaks.

To support the Office of Pre-Law Advising at K-State, please give [here](#).

Pre-Law Programs

LEAD | K-STATE to KU LAW

The Legal Education Accelerated Degree (LEAD) is Kansas State University's program with the University of Kansas School of Law. This accelerated degree program permits students to earn a bachelor's degree from K-State and a law degree from KU in only six years. Students who are accepted into the LEAD program spend three years at K-State before transferring to the KU School of Law; the first year of law school transfers back to K-State as 29 hours of general elective credit. K-State students also prepare for their legal career through law-related internships, educational activities, and experiential trips to courts and law offices around the nation. Requirements include a minimum GPA and KU-appropriate minimum LSAT.

The Rural LEGAL PRACTICE *Initiative*

A Collaboration of Washburn University School of Law and Kansas State University

This program is a collaboration between Kansas State University and Washburn University School of Law, wherein K-State pre-law students who are interested in addressing the growing need for expanded quality legal services in the nation's rural communities are invited to work with Washburn Law faculty and staff to acquire knowledge and insight which would best serve the varied needs of would-be rural practitioners. This goal will be pursued via mentoring experiences provided by Washburn Law alumni and other practitioners statewide, individual and group trips, and interaction with expert guest speakers. Declared Pre-Law students interested in the program will apply for admittance generally during the second semester of their sophomore year.



In an effort to expand opportunities for pre-law students from diverse majors as well as to raise the profile of the Office of Pre-Law Advising at Kansas State University, Pre-Law migrated from its previous home within the College of Arts & Sciences to its new home within the Office of the Provost. This relocation was further enhanced by spatial co-location in an office suite alongside the University Honors Program and the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships. These changes communicate that a pre-law course of study may include major fields in any and all of K-State's undergraduate-serving colleges and campuses—Agriculture; Architecture, Planning & Design; Arts & Sciences; Business; Education; Engineering; Global Campus; Human Ecology; Olathe or K-State Polytechnic—and that pre-law students are among the most hardworking and high-achieving at the University. If you come to K-State, please visit us in 215 Fairchild Hall.



Pre-Law Ambassadors

Pre-Law Ambassadors come from a variety of majors and work to unite Pre-Law students from across campus. Launched in the fall of 2015, this group represents the Office of Pre-Law Advising at campus events, helps recruit prospective pre-law students, and serves to enrich the academic atmosphere of the pre-law student community. New ambassadors are selected each spring semester via an application and interview process.



Trial Advocacy

In the fall of 2015, Daralyn Gordon Arata, our Pre-Law advisor extraordinaire, applied for and was awarded a grant for the purchase of iPads and the trial software **TrialPad** for the popular K-State course, **Introduction to Trial Advocacy**. **TrialPad** is a trial presentation application that has been a key player in new trial technology. Kansas State's Pre-Law Program is the first undergraduate program to utilize this software, which is favored by the ABA and is being introduced into law schools nationwide.

Pre-Law Events



The 2016 Spring semester was a busy one on campus for members of the KSU Office of Pre-Law Advising. February brought the **Bard at the Bar**, an event put on by Pre-Law in celebration of **Folger's First Folio** coming to campus. Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was presented as an appellate trial to define and protect the institution of Athenian marriage. In our world of 16th century Athens, the two sides argued the constitutionality of the Defense of Athenian Marriage Act (DoAMA) before three judges and a gallery of all ages. The Pre-Law Advisory Council's Honorable Maritza Segarra was a formidable judge as she heard arguments from fairies and Athenians, while Advisory Council member Amy Bipes defended DoAMA with passion and enthusiasm. They were joined in the spirited arguments by Jeffrey Jackson of Washburn Law School, local attorneys Britain Stites and Jeremiah Platt, the Honorable Judge Sheila Hochhauser and the Honorable Judge Ryan Rosauer. Which side won? You had to be there!



The **Charlie and Julie Hostetler Pre-Law Dinner with the Dean** was hosted by Pre-Law Advisory Council member Julie Hostetler. The event brought together fellow Advisory Council member Dean Stephen Mazza, KU Law alumni, as well as KU Law faculty and admissions representatives--all to mix with a group of our best and brightest K-State students. This annual event is always well-attended, and this year was no exception.



The latest program about which we are very proud is the **Rural Legal Practice Initiative**, a collaborative effort conceived by Kansas State's Daralyn Gordon Arata and realized in conjunction with Advisory Council member Dean Tom Romig of Washburn Law and his colleagues and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. It makes sense for K-State, a nationally leading land-grant university to help meet the needs of rural communities. This collaborative effort is meant to introduce prospective attorneys to the value and excitement of much-needed new rural legal practices. To win university support for the program, K-State hosted Dean Romig, several of his Washburn colleagues, and Robert Large, General Counsel for the KDA on April 22, 2016, for an open forum attended by leaders from several K-State colleges as well as interested faculty and students. With its first event in September, 2016, the Rural Legal Practice Initiative will expose students to the wide variety of legal careers available in rural communities primarily via mentoring by Washburn Law alumni and experiential learning. The program will also include seminars on topics relevant to rural practice, such as oil and gas law, water and land use law, legal skills for beginning lawyers, and legal ethics and professionalism. We are delighted to collaborate with Washburn University School of Law to help address the statewide and national need for high-quality rural legal practices.

To support this program and many more in the Office of Pre-Law Advising, please give [here](#).