

From: Jacob MacDuff <JSMacDuff@Willamette.edu>  
To: Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee  
Date: February 3, 2025  
Re: Senate Bill 474 and the importance of funding Criminal Defense Clinics.

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**Law's greatest joy is its practice, and clinics are the perfect place to start.**

I came to Willamette School of Law from a career in banking and finance because I didn't want to spend my life selling products. School has been a major adjustment because, as a 1L, I no longer work with clients. Instead, I spend my days reading. Clinics change that dynamic.

Clinics provide the human connection and practical experience that school alone cannot. Through clinics, students can turn an interest into a career. Clinics also increase public access to high quality legal services. The issue is it costs money to get people involved.

Students ought to be able to get involved with their communities and clinics bring the people most affected by the law to the forefront. As I understand it, we need more defenders, criminal defense clinics produce defenders, and Senate Bill 474 provides the long-term funding that is so essential to that mission.

Please support continued funding for Criminal Defense clinics in Oregon Law Schools.

Thank you,

Jacob MacDuff