

SPRING 2016 | VOLUME 34 | NO. 1

CAPITAL

MAGAZINE

A VERY DESIRABLE PLACE, INDEED.

As President Bowman prepares to step down from the presidency, university leaders reflect on the positive impact he's made in nearly every corner of campus.

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**CAPITAL'S
16TH PRESIDENT**

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**LEADING
WITH CARE**

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Depositions Class Provides Real World Experience for Future Lawyers

COLLABORATION WITH GRANT MEDICAL CENTER BENEFITS ITS RESIDENTS, TOO

The physician anxiously listened to the question in the deposition, a probing inquiry to a case that resulted in a malpractice suit. It was a difficult question but the doctor felt confident in his answer – until the next hard-hitting question came.

“Capital has been on the forefront of offering a lot of practical courses where you get hands-on experience.”

This was no ordinary deposition. It was the final exam for law students in Capital’s newest course. The innovative class – first launched this past fall – paired residents from Grant Medical Center with Capital law students to teach the basics of preparing and conducting depositions, critical to discovery in civil litigation. The course was developed by Capital adjunct professors Kevin Foley and Zachary Pyers, with input from Dr. Sarah Sams of Grant, who had been teaching their residents about the deposition process.

Students learned necessary deposition skills such as developing strategies and outlines, preparing witnesses and conducting and defending lay and expert witnesses. For the medical residents, working with the future lawyers gave them real experience on



the witness side of the deposition table they can use if they are ever sued or called upon as an expert in other situations.

“We looked at it as a very practical course that would prepare the law students for practicing once they get their license,” says Foley, a trial advocacy professor and a partner at Reminger Co. L.P.A.’s Columbus office. “The reality is these students could be called on their first week of practice to take a deposition. We wanted to give them as much exposure to the deposition process as possible, and make them feel comfortable and familiar with it.”

Foley, along with Pyers (L’08, LL.M.’09), co-taught the intensive 20-hour class over two weekends, with the mock depositions serving as the final exam. Each deposition was recorded so students, residents and instructors could review them and assess the strengths and weaknesses of both the doctor-witnesses and law students.

“It went extremely well for our first time offering this course,” says Pyers, a coach for Capital’s Mock Trial Competition Team and also a partner at Reminger. “At the final, it seemed to be a real-life experience for those residents. They were nervous as if they were literally being sued. The law students also acted as if it was real, and came into it unbelievably prepared, asking great questions.”

The course is slated to repeat again in summer 2016, and both Foley and Pyers are committed to teaching as many sections of the course as needed.

“Law school is historically based on the Socratic method, which is mostly theory, and you never get a chance to put it into practical application,” says Foley. “Capital has been on the forefront of offering practical courses where you get hands-on experience.” ■