

McGeorge School of Law has a long and proud history of alumni who have entered into the public law and policy arena in Sacramento, but this year, for the first time, McGeorge entered California's State Capitol building in a new way. Current McGeorge students who participated in the new Legislative and Public Policy Clinic were responsible for helping to successfully introduce and ensure the passage of four new laws, each signed by Governor Brown at the end of September. The new Legislative and Public Policy Clinic is the first of its kind in California; the success of the bills incubated in the clinic represents a banner inaugural year for the clinic and an outstanding achievement for the McGeorge law students who participated.

The bills include:

AB-2632 (Maienschein). This bill started as a regulatory proposal students developed with the Children's Advocacy Institute and received news coverage from KCRA. It will require the state Department of Social Services to consider an arrest record as part of a review to work in a facility serving children or vulnerable adults. The institute and students developed a policy proposal to get DSS to review arrest records as part of an application process, and DSS then announced a policy change. The bill would ensure that DSS follows through. ***Signed by the Governor on Sept. 29, 2014.***

AB-2643 (Wieckowski). This bill allows victims to file a civil action under a pseudonym against someone who has posted sexually explicit photos or videos of them on the Internet. The judge would review the case in chambers and issue a court order to remove the material. The bill prevents the victim's name and the images from being part of the public record. ***Signed by the Governor on Sept. 29, 2014.***

AB-2623 (Pan). This bill would add training on elder and dependent adult abuse for rank and file peace officers. The bill was developed after students participated in McGeorge's elder law clinic. ***Signed by the Governor on Sept. 30, 2014.***

SB-1058 (Leno). This bill would create the ability for inmates to get a new hearing if the expert testimony used to convict them becomes discredited. With the California Innocence Project and Northern California Innocence Project, organizations which advocate on behalf of the wrongly convicted, students helped introduce and pass a bill that reverses a California Supreme Court ruling from 2012. The bill received coverage in the *Washington Post*. ***Signed by the Governor on Sept. 27, 2014.***

AB-2452 (Pan). This bill would have required the Secretary of State to replace the paper system of advance health care directives with an electronic one. The idea originated out of McGeorge's elder law clinic. A paper registry in which directives are faxed within one business day is not effective during a medical crisis. In addition, the bill could generate substantial savings if people opt out of expensive, life-sustaining medical procedures. But the system will be expensive to set up and the state has had problems implementing major technological changes. This bill did not advance but current students are now considering pursuing the idea in 2015.

Please follow UNDER THE DOME to receive updates on bills introduced by clinic participants in 2015!