

Technology Law and Public Policy Clinic

William Covington, Assistant Professor
Director, Technology Law and Public Policy Clinic



Type of Work

In the Technology Law and Public Policy Clinic (Tech-Law Clinic) students work with the Washington State Legislature in formulating policies in areas where high technology and government regulation converge.

Tech-Law Clinic students:

- Learn the basics of the technology that is the subject of study (telecommunications policy in 2010-'11; energy policy in 2011-'12);
- Meet with stakeholders;
- Hold public hearings;
- Engage in extensive research;
- Develop and receive feedback on policy proposals;
- Make formal presentations to the Technology, Energy and Communications Committee of the Washington State Legislature.

Clinic Numbers

Quarters Offered: Autumn, Winter and Spring
Credits: 12 maximum (up to four credits per quarter)
Students: 12 Autumn; 10 Winter; 6 Spring

Major Activities

- Made two formal policy presentations to the Tech-Law Clinic Advisory Board
- Conducted one public hearing
- Held extensive meetings with diverse stakeholders interested in telecommunications policy

- Testified at a two-hour Technology, Energy and Communications Committee Workshop regarding policy proposals

Notable Accomplishments

- Met with, and received input from, telecommunications stakeholders including carriers, consumer representatives and government officials
- Crafted a first interim report, received legislative feedback on nine specific policy proposals contained in that report, produced a second interim report; currently composing a final draft of policy proposals
- Designed and currently working on the implementation of a fee whose proceeds shall be used to bring broadband services to geographically remote areas in Washington State
- Reached agreement on the principles of, and currently drafting, consumer protection legislation
- Continuing to provide background research on two legislative proposals to be introduced in the upcoming legislative session
- Invited by state legislature to examine and comment on state energy policy

Faculty Update

During the 2010 -'11 academic year Prof. Covington appeared twice before the Washington State Legislature as a subject-matter expert on telecommunications policy.

