

The Louisiana Senate Bill 549 Story

On May 19, 2010, the Louisiana Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs Committee killed Senate Bill 549. Senator Robert Adley, R-Benton, introduced the bill at the Louisiana Chemical Association's (LCA's) behest to try to force Tulane University to shut down TELC in return for continued state funding. Tulane and Loyola Universities, students, clients, alumni, and clinical faculty from all the state's law schools worked—with help from the Clinical Legal Education Association, the Society of American Law Teachers, the American Association of Law Schools, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the ABA, and many others—to publicize clinics' roles in legal education and expanding access to the legal system. At the May 19 hearing, Tulane University President Scott Cowen testified that if Tulane were to shut down its clinics to preserve state funding under Bill 549, "we [would] throw under the bus every indigent person in this state ... and say we will not represent you because the money is more important. That does not happen in America." On May 24, 2010, *New Orleans CityBusiness* editorialized: "By attempting to snuff [TELC's] existence, Adley and the LCA were, in effect, thumbing their noses at the law, judicial process and regulation Lawmakers deserve commendation for helping the bill meet its demise."

The links below tell the story of Senate Bill 549.

Law clinic saved: A letter to the editor, Times Picayune (5/23/10)

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/05/law_clinic_saved_a_letter_to_t.html

Good riddance to bill: A letter to the editor, Times Picayune (5/23/10)

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/05/good_riddance_to_bill_a_letter.html

Oil-spill litigation becomes issue at state level, Daily Comet (5/23/10)

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20100523/ARTICLES/100529770/1292?Title=Oil-spill-litigation-becomes-issue-at-state-level>

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic finds supporters in Washington as well as Baton Rouge, Times Picayune (5/22/10)

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/05/tulane_environmental_law_clini_1.html

Opinion: Law clinic ban dies a good death, New Orleans CityBusiness Commentary (5/21/10) (also published as a print editorial, "A good kill," p. 22, 5/24/10)

<http://neworleanscitybusiness.com/blog/2010/05/20/opinion-law-clinic-ban-dies-a-good-death>

Big oil trade group defends move to punish Tulane for Environmental Law Clinic, Huffington Post (5/20-21/10)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/05/19/big-oil-trade-group-seeks_n_581842.html

Panel derails law clinic bill, Baton Rouge Advocate (5/20/10)

<http://www.theadvocate.com/news/94371459.html>

Bill aimed at limiting La. law clinics dies, Businessweek (5/20/10)

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9FQIDHG0.htm>

Bill shot down that would have axed Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, WWLTV.com (5/19/10)

<http://www.wwltv.com/news/Bill-targeting-law-clinics-dies-in-committee-94291759.html>

Video: Hearing, Louisiana Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs Committee (5/19/10)

<http://senate.legis.state.la.us/video/2010/May/051910comp2.asx>

Our Views: Law clinic bill is a bad idea, Baton Rouge Advocate (5/19/10)

<http://www.theadvocate.com/opinion/94220164.html>

Senator, Louisiana Chemical Association get no support for bill to limit student law clinics, Times Picayune (5/19/10)

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/05/senator_louisiana_chemical_ass.html

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's critics prepare to present case to Senate panel, Times Picayune (5/18/10)

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/05/tulane_environmental_law_clini.html

Law clinics are public service, student practice: a letter to the editor, Times Picayune (5/16/10)

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/05/law_clinics_are_public_service.html

Tulane law clinic faces chemical warfare: James Gill, Times Picayune (5/16/10)

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/05/tulane_law_clinic_faces_chemic.html

Industry targets law clinics, Baton Rouge Advocate (5/14/10)

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/93747274.html>

Louisiana Chemical Association expands attack on Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Times Picayune (5/14/10)

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2010/05/louisiana_chemical_association.html

Letter: Protecting La. Individuals' rights, Baton Rouge Advocate (5/13/10)

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/opinion/93641724.html>

Statement of ABA President Lamm Re: Louisiana Senate Bill 549 to Restrict Law School Clinic Activities (5/12/10)

<http://www.abanow.org/2010/05/statement-of-aba-president-lamm-re-louisiana-senate-bill-549-to-restrict-law-school-clinic-activities/>

Louisiana law clinics stripped of cash? Marketplace Morning Report (5/12/10)

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/05/12/pm-louisiana-law-clinics-stripped-cash/>

Bill Could Limit Services For University Law Clinics, WSDU.com (5/12/10)

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/23536070/detail.html>

Chemical association escalates attack on Tulane over law clinic, National Law Journal (5/12/10)

http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202458112680&Chemical_association_escalates_attack_on_Tulane_over_law_clinic&hbxlogin=1

Polluters have had enough of law clinics: James Gill, Times Picayune (5/12/10)

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/05/polluters_have_had_enough_of_1.html

Louisiana Bill Would 'Cripple' Law-School Clinics, Deans Say, Chronicle of Higher Education (5/11/10)

<http://chronicle.com/article/Louisiana-Bill-Would-Cripple/65480/>

American Association of Law Schools letter (5/10/10)

<http://aals.org/documents/PragerLetterMay10.pdf>

Clinical Legal Education Association Letter (5/10/10)

http://www.saltlaw.org/userfiles/5-10-10CLEA%20ltr%20La_%20SB%20549.pdf

Bill could hobble Louisiana's law clinics, Businessweek (5/10/10)

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9FK6TI00.htm>

Law Clinics Under Attack, Gambit (5/10/10)

<http://bestofneworleans.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A74092>

Bill targeting law clinics does citizens disservice: a letter to the editor, Times Picayune (5/4/10)

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/letterstoeditor/index.ssf?%2Fbase%2Fnews-15%2F127299180975780.xml&coll=1>

Battleground over law school clinics moves to Louisiana, National Law Journal (5/3/10)

http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202457607971&Battleground_over_law_school_clinics_moves_to_Louisiana&hbxlogin=1

Legislation would handcuff law clinics: A guest column by Stephen Griffin and Brian Bromberger, Times Picayune (4/30/10)

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/04/legislation_would_handcuff_law.html

Society of American Law Teachers Letter (4/29/10)

http://www.saltlaw.org/userfiles/file/SALT%20PDF%20Documents%20/LAClinic_4-29-10_Senator%20Ann%20Duplessis.pdf

**Beware curtailing law school clinics, Shreveport Times
(4/27/10)**

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20100427/OPINION03/4270319/Beware-curtailing-law-school-clinics>

**Editorial, First, They Get Rid of the Law Clinics, New York
Times (4/11/10)**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/12/opinion/12mon3.html>

**Attacks on Law School Clinics and the Creed of Atticus
Finch, American Constitution Society Blog (4/8/10)**

<http://www.acslaw.org/node/15814>

Law clinics focus of bill, Baton Rouge Advocate (4/7/10)

<http://www.theadvocate.com/news/90065107.html>

**School Law Clinics Face a Backlash, New York Times
(4/3/10)**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/04/us/04lawschool.html>

**Louisiana Legislature should leave university law clinics
alone: an editorial, Times Picayune (4/1/10)**

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2010/04/post_65.html

Louisiana Senate Bill No. 549 (3/29/10)

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=690665>