Clinical Public Interest Externship
6005X
Spring 2014

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Course Description (and required field placement hours)
The Public Interest Externship is a pass/fail course intended to explore major lawyering themes that confront public interest lawyers and that cut across substantive practice areas and settings. The course is designed to assist students to define their roles as "Public Interest Attorneys" through the integration of academic theory and analysis with common practice themes arising in public interest law advocacy. For three credits, students will perform legal work in the Clinical Externship Placement for a minimum of 140 hours during the 15-week academic term (supervised by a licensed attorney) discuss assigned questions, interact with supervisors, record in reflection papers legal practice observations, and write 3 short Case Journals analyzing their field experiences on approved public interest lawyering topics. Students may take the course for four credits, but will have to perform additional service and assignments. There will be no final examination.

Course Objectives:
This advanced-level skills course is prepared to provide students the opportunities to acquire specific skills and skill sets throughout several semesters. **Paramount goals for all externs to reach are: exemplary professional and ethical behaviour, cultural competence- especially as it pertains to interviewing, counseling and negotiation, proficiency in interviewing, counseling, negotiation, and operating within bureaucratic organizations.**

For each semester there are specific objectives for externs to meet:

Semester 1
Keen observation of legal systems, practices and processes
Identify of best practices
Model best practices

Become a good protégé
Get the most out of your supervising attorney (direction, critique, instruction)
Learn to add value to your organization
Time management and efficiency
Begin to address real world professionalism and ethical dilemmas

Semester 2
Professional and Ethical dilemmas in everyday practice
Identify specific areas of strength and weakness
Prepare a valid assessment of skills
Set specific objectives for Learning Agenda (running list of skills to work on)
Revise resume
Start Professional Network

Semester 3
Expand Professional Network
Address practical problems: billable hours, operational systems, self-promotion
Refine Professionalism with expanded awareness of emotional intelligence: default behaviours, communication styles and skills, organization/governance obstacles,

Expectations and Requirements

1. **Attendance and Preparation**

Students are expected to attend the group meeting discussions, complete all class assignments, exhibit exemplary professionalism, follow the work schedule and work plan as laid out by their placement supervisors, and to be prepared for an on-site visit by Dr. Howe-Barksdale. For this course, "class" and "class meetings" are comprised of and are defined by all of these components; students are expected to attend to all parts. ABA requirements and Law School regulations specify that you must attend 80% of class meetings; thus, you may not miss more than one (1) class. Failure to comply with the attendance requirement will result in a failure of the course.

2. **General requirements for all assignments**

a. All written assignments must be typed in Times New Roman 12 (used here), double-spaced, with margins of at least 1" on all four sides of text. A page limit will be specified for each assignment.

b. Unless explicitly discussed in class, all work must be done independently. Impermissible collaboration, including but not limited to sharing research, discussing substantive matters, or seeking assistance with proofreading or editing, constitutes a violation of the Honor Code.

Class Structure and Grading

Although the Public Interest Externship is graded on a pass/fail basis, for a student to receive a passing grade, it is not sufficient for the student simply to appear at her/his field placement and to perform at minimal competency. Students must also satisfactorily complete all class work, including the on-line (class) live discussions, learning agendas and assessments, case journals, keep a log of the hours they have served, and exhibit exemplary professionalism at their externship placement.

Group Meetings

Students will meet four to five (4-5) times throughout the fall term to discuss their field experiences. **Attendance at the class discussions is mandatory**. The group meetings are not only an efficient way for me to monitor the quality of your field experience, but also an opportunity for you to learn from your classmates' experiences. Ideally, the group meetings will be conversations among you and your classmates about issues that have arisen or lessons learned during your respective field experiences. When it is your turn you will be expected to present your Case Journals and when it is your turn to critique, you will be expected to respond to your partners Case Journal.

Learning Agenda and Supervisor's Evaluation

At the beginning of each term, students are expected to work with their supervising attorneys to create the student's **Learning Agenda** for the semester. This Learning Agenda states the student's tentative goals for the externship and establishes a sense of the kind of experiences that might help you meet those goals. I ask your supervising attorneys to review your Learning Agenda and to take a half-hour or so to discuss the Agenda with you.

The Learning Agenda exercise has three primary purposes. The first is to help you to focus on what you wants out of the externship. The second is to communicate those goals to your supervising attorney. The third is to stimulate the supervising attorney's thinking about how those goals could best be furthered in the externship and to start a discussion with you as to what may and what may not be accomplished in the placement.

I ask that supervising attorneys discuss the Learning Agenda with the student placed with them, and point out any problems they see with the goals and means asserted. I also encourage supervising attorneys to bring their insights as to each student's strengths and weaknesses to the discussion, and to raise other possible goals and experiences that might help with those goals as the supervising attorneys see fit. After your discussion with your supervisor, you should revise the Learning Agenda as needed and prepare a final copy for your files,your supervising attorney, for your Externship File.

Finally, each supervising attorney is asked to complete a concise **Final Evaluation** of each extern at the end of each semester of the program. These forms are sent by email at the beginning and at the end of each semester directly to the supervising attorneys.

Schedule for the Externs Spring Semester 2014

Date	Practicum Sections	Commentary
Class 1 1/13/14	All Sections	Intro to Externships
1/20/14	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. HOLIDAY - NO CLASS	
Class 2 1/27/14	Prosecutors 1 Section A specific schedule will be drafted once registration is complete.	Only students serving with ADA APA DOJ offices are expected to attend; please check the lists on the TWEN site
Class 3 1/30/14	Mixed Law Group	
Class 4 2/3/14	Prosecutors 2 Section A specific schedule will be drafted once registration is complete.	
Class 5 2/10/14	Civil Section	
Class 6 2/17/14	Prosecutors 1 Section	
Class 7 2/20/14	Mixed Law Group	
Class 8 2/24/14	Prosecutors 2 Section	
3/3/14	WUSL SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	
Class 9 3/10/14	Civil Section	
Class 10 3/17/14	Prosecutors 1 Section	
Class 12 3/20/14	Mixed Law Group	
Class 13 4/7/14	Prosecutors 2 Section	
Class 14 4/14/14	Civil Section	
Class 15 4/21/14	All sections	Self Evaluation
Class 16 4/28/14	Open to all sections	Final Class

Case Journals and Reflection Papers

Using the template Case Journal worksheets and the suggested topics for Reflection please complete three (3) Case Journals and (3) Reflection Papers on the cases you have participated in and/or your experiences in your Externship Placement. These assignments are constructed so you may reflect on the skills you are developing even if you do not directly serve clients. If you are taking the class for four (4) credits you are expected to write 4 of each assignment (i.e., 4 Case Journals and 4 Reflection Papers).

Log of Service Hours

Using the Service Log, please keep track of the amount of time you serve at your Externship Placement. You will need this log to be signed by your Placement Supervisor to verify that you have met the minimum required number of service hours.

If you are taking the course for three (3) credits you are required to serve at your Externship Placement for 140 hours. This equates to approximately 10-12 hours each week (including Spring Break).

If you are taking the course for four (4) credits you are required to serve at your Externship Placement for 210 hours. This equates to approximately 15-18 hours each week (including Spring Break).