

**Clinical Public Interest Externship**  
**6005X-03**  
Spring 2013

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***Course Description (and required field placement hours)***

*The Clinical Public Interest Externship* is a course designed to assist students define their roles as “Public Interest Attorneys” through the integration of academic theory/analysis with common practice themes arising in public interest law advocacy. Students will perform legal work at their Clinical Externship Field Placements for a minimum of 140 hours during the 15-week academic term (supervised by a licensed attorney), record in reflection papers legal practice observations, and write 3 short Case Journals analyzing their field experiences on approved public interest law topics. 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 behavior, 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 behaviors, 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 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.

### **Schedule for the Externs Spring Semester 2013**

<b>Date</b>		<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Class 1</b> <b>1/14/13</b>		Intro to Externships Expectations, Training, and Placement Plans
<b>1/28/13</b>		<b>Delaware Swearing In</b> 3pm (Please arrive no later than 2:30 p.m.)
<b>Class 2</b> <b>1/28/13</b>	Prosecutors Section A 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	Only first group of assigned students serving with ADA APA DOJ offices are expected to attend; please check the lists on the TWEN site
<b>Class 3</b> <b>2/4/13</b>	Prosecutors Section B 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	Only second group of assigned students serving with ADA APA DOJ offices are expected to attend; please check the lists on the TWEN site
<b>Class 4</b> <b>2/11/13</b>	Civil Section 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	Only students serving with civil law offices are expected to attend; please check the lists on the TWEN site
<b>Class 5</b> <b>2/13/13</b>	Defenders Section 4:30 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	Only students serving with Public Defenders' ( or the like) offices are expected to attend; please check the lists on the TWEN site
<b>Class 6</b> <b>2/25/13</b>	Prosecutors A 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	

<b>3/4/13</b>	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	
<b>Class 7 3/11/13</b>	Prosecutors B 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	
<b>Class 8 3/18/13</b>	Civil Section 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	
<b>Class 9 3/20/13</b>	Defenders Section 4:30 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	
<b>Class 10 4/1/13</b>	Prosecutors Section A 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	
<b>Class 11 4/8/13</b>	Prosecutors Section B 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	
<b>Class 12 4/15/13</b>	Civil Section 4:00 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	
<b>Class 13 4/17/12</b>	Defenders Section 4:30 p.m. PIRC Conference Room	

### ***Case Journals***

Using the Case Journal worksheets please complete three (3) Case Journals reflecting on the cases you have participated in and/or your experiences in your Externship Placement. The Case Journals are constructed so you may reflect on the skills you are developing even if you do not directly serve clients.

### ***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.

### ***Reflection Papers***

Each paper should be *approximately* three (3) typed, double-spaced pages in length.

Your papers will be most useful to you when you write about events that interest you, but nearly everyone, at one time or another, experiences a writer's block, the seeming inability to get started on a writing project. On TWEN there is a list of concepts and questions you should think about during your externship. They should help you if you get stuck for a topic about which to write. Pay particularly close attention to the concepts and questions in the third paragraph regarding "Learning from your experience."