

CIVIL LITIGATION CLINIC

Fall 2017

Professors Tamara Kuennen and Jennifer Wadhwa

The Civil Litigation Clinic students represent low-income clients in a variety of civil cases. During the fall of 2017, these cases will fall within the areas of intimate partner violence law, housing eviction defense, wage theft, and immigration. The intimate partner cases—which typically proceed to hearing within two weeks after client intake—afford students the opportunity to handle a litigation matter in its entirety (conducting the initial client interview and all factual investigation, developing a case theory and an opening, closing, direct and cross, and conducting the trial itself). The immigration cases may include representing detained asylum seekers in bond hearings before an immigration judge and/or representing children seeking asylum in termination of parental rights hearings in state court and/or in immigration court. Wage theft cases typically include client counseling, conducting legal research regarding a client's claims under the Colorado Wage Claim Act and the FLSA, and drafting litigation documents. Projects may include community education presentations, lobbying state legislators, and conducting legal outreach.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence and Legal Profession are highly recommended as pre-requisites and are co-requisites if not already taken.

Are classes required?

Class will meet twice per week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:45 to 4:45pm. In addition, students will be required to attend a mandatory two-day orientation on August 10 and 11, 2017, just prior to the start of classes.

How many credits will I receive?

Students will receive 9 credits: a four-credit grade for classwork and a five-credit grade for case and project work.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The Civil Litigation Clinic requires a substantial time commitment, though the time commitment may vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of litigation. Students should plan to spend (on average) 30 hours per week working on client-related matters. Students are not permitted to participate in externships, clerkships, or other experiential advantage courses while enrolled in a clinic.

What are the benefits of taking this clinic?

The model of the Civil Litigation Clinic is based on student self-direction and experiential learning. Because of this focus, students have a great deal of input and the ability to shape their clinical experience. Students obtain a variety of learning experiences and may seek out cases in their expressed areas of interest. Other benefits include: court experience, negotiation experience, development of public speaking and oral advocacy skills, and exposure to a type of learning other than offered in many traditional law school classes.

Where can I get more information?

There will be a Fall 2017 Clinic Fair in the forum on Monday, March 6, 2017 from 11 AM to 1:00 PM. There will also be an information session in Room 499 on Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

How and when do I apply or register?

Applications will be available at <http://law.du.edu/forms/student-law-office-clinical-programs/apply/>. **Applications will open at 9AM on Friday, March 10, 2017 and must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 19, 2017.**

Laurie Saraceno, the Administrative Director, will register accepted students before the beginning of the spring semester.