The Civil Litigation Clinic students represent low-income clients in a variety of civil cases. During the fall of 2016, these cases will fall largely within the areas of housing law, employment discrimination, and intimate partner violence law, including defending tenants (in court trials) who are being evicted from federally subsidized housing; defending tenants (at administrative hearings) against the termination of their federal housing benefits; drafting pleadings and initiating discovery in a Title VII case; representing victims of intimate partner violence to obtain protection orders; and acting as guardians ad litem (for children) in protection order litigation. The housing and intimate partner cases – which largely proceed to hearing about 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). Additionally, students may work on a larger Title VII case or on a public impact project in the community.

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 two-day orientation just prior to the start of classes. (Orientation is mandatory.)

How many credits will I receive?
Students will receive 6 credits. Half of the credits are counted as “in-class” credits; half are “out-of-class” credits.

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) 20 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 spring 2016 Clinic Fair in the forum on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 11 AM to 1:00 PM. There will also be an information session in room 170 on Wednesday, March 23 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

How and when do I apply or register?

Late applications will not be considered. Laurie Saraceno, the Administrative Director, will register accepted students before the beginning of the spring semester.