

CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC

Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 (YEAR LONG CLINIC)
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The Civil Rights Clinic (CRC) is an intensive, year-long litigation program in which students represent clients in civil rights cases in federal court under the supervision of clinic faculty. Currently, the focus of the CRC is primarily on the constitutionality of the conditions of confinement in federal and state prisons, including issues relating to the failure to provide prisoners with adequate medical or mental health care, the treatment of transgender prisoners, and burdens on the free exercise of religion, although any kind of civil rights or civil liberties matter may be on our docket. Some of the claims currently being litigated in the CRC will impact constitutional jurisprudence nationwide. For a more detailed description of some of the current and past cases on the CRC docket, see <http://law.du.edu/index.php/law-school-clinical-program/civil-rights-clinic/civil-rights-clinic-cases>.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence and Legal Profession are pre- or co-requisites. To appear in federal district court (most CRC cases are litigated in federal court), students must have completed a course in Evidence.

Are classes required?

Classes will meet twice weekly. In addition, students will be required to attend Fall 2017 orientation from Wednesday, August 9 to Friday, August 11. **Attendance at orientation is mandatory.** Students must enroll for a full academic year and will earn a total of 12 credits. Half of the credits count as in-class credits and half as out-of-class credits.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The CRC requires a substantial time commitment. Though students are not required to spend a set amount of time in the clinic each week, students should anticipate devoting at least 20 hours per week on client-related matters. *For this reason and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, it is expected that CRC students will not take on an externship, any other experiential advantage courses, or work while they are enrolled in the CRC.*

What are the benefits of taking this clinic?

Working with clients on complex civil rights matters is an experience that students have found intellectually challenging and personally compelling on multiple levels. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to gain substantive experience related to a variety of aspects of complex federal litigation, including complaint drafting, development of case theory and discovery plans, researching and drafting various motions, conducting written discovery and depositions, and even potentially appearing and arguing in federal court. In addition, students will develop interpersonal lawyering skills through interviewing and counseling their clients, interacting with opposing counsel, and making decisions as part of a "case team" of students. The cases in the CRC are complex, offering the opportunity to assist an underserved population of clients, while working in an area of constitutional law that is deeply textured, ever-changing and profoundly rewarding.

Where can I get more information?

There will be a Fall 2017 Clinic Fair in the Forum on Monday, March 6, 2017 from 11:00 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 for the 2017-2018 year will be available at <http://law.du.edu/forms/student-law-office-clinical-programs/apply/> from 9AM March 10, 2017 to 11:59pm March 19, 2017. Late applications will not be considered. Laurie Saraceno, the SLO Administrator, will register accepted students before the beginning of the fall semester.