

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Fall 2017

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Students enrolled in the Criminal Defense Clinic of the Student Law Office (SLO) represent low-income clients charged with misdemeanors and municipal ordinance violations including assault, disturbing the peace, resisting arrest, shoplifting, and many others. Students appear in court at arraignments, pretrial conferences, motions hearings, trials, and sentencing hearings. Students learn and apply lawyering skills such as interviewing and counseling, fact investigation, legal research and writing, oral advocacy, negotiation, as well as courtroom skills. Extensive preparation and close supervision mean these lawyering skills will be learned and applied in a framework of professional ethics and values.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence is a co-requisite for this clinic. Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Trial Practice, and Evidence Practicum are among the classes that are helpful but not required. A demonstrated commitment to public interest law is desirable.

Are classes required?

Yes. Classes will meet weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Class attendance is mandatory.** In addition, students will be required to attend a mandatory orientation beginning Monday, August 7, 2017 and ending Friday, August 25, 2017. The orientation will consist of five full days of classes (August 7-11), followed by simulations and classes that will be arranged around clinic participants' class schedules. You can expect to meet at least once daily as a class from August 14 through August 25, and to engage in significant out-of-class work as well during this orientation period. The purpose of the orientation is to introduce students to the substantive, procedural, and ethical aspects of the criminal clinic curriculum, and to familiarize students with SLO and Criminal Defense Clinic procedures. **Attendance throughout the orientation is mandatory.**

How many credits will I receive?

Students will enroll for 9 credits. Three are in-class credits; six are out-of-class credits.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The Criminal Defense Clinic requires a substantial time commitment. The clinic is very intensive and you should expect to spend approximately 30-40 hours per week working on client-related matters. This time commitment will vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of litigation, and you may be required to devote considerable additional time. In addition to the time spent serving your clients, you will spend at least four hours each week in class and at least five hours each week performing class-related work, preparation, supervision meetings with faculty, and other clinic assignments. For this reason and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, CDC students may not take on an internship, externship, any other experiential advantage courses, or work while they are enrolled in the CDC, unless given explicit authorization to do so.

What are the benefits of taking this clinic?

The Criminal Defense Clinic offers you the opportunity to integrate professional ethics and values, legal theory, and practice by representing indigent clients charged with crimes. You will learn the lawyering skills necessary to defend a criminal case, including client interviewing, client counseling, negotiation

development of a case theory and discovery plan, researching and drafting various motions, fact investigation, and trial skills. The laboratory for learning will be the classroom, supervision sessions with faculty, and Colorado's jails and courtrooms. You will learn how to work with clients who face a variety of legal, social and economic problems and you will learn the resources that are (or are not) available. Because rules of criminal procedure are closely linked to constitutional rights, many students will be presented with the opportunity to litigate constitutional issues and questions of the remedies available for constitutional violations.

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 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will also be an information session in Room 499 on Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

How and when do I apply or register?

Applications for the Fall 2017 semester will be available at <http://law.du.edu/forms/student-law-office-clinical-programs/apply/>. **Applications will open at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 and must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, 2017. Late applications will not be considered.**

How do I respond if offered a position in the Criminal Defense Clinic?

If offered a position you must accept or decline the offer, in writing, by the deadline given in the offer letter. **There are no exceptions to this requirement.** If you intend to accept the offer of a position, you must respond by the deadline or your position may be offered to another student. Additionally, you must respond in writing by the deadline even if you are declining the offer – this allows us to offer the position to another student at the earliest opportunity. Please be considerate of other students who may hope to take the clinic if offered a position. Laurie Saraceno, the SLO Administrator, will register students who accept positions in the clinic before the beginning of the spring semester.