FORGE INNOVATION CLINIC

Spring 2017
Professors Patience Crowder and Karen Powell

The Forge Innovation Clinic is the law school’s new experiential component of Project X-ITE, the University of Denver’s cross-disciplinary initiative across graduate schools in law, business and engineering. Project X-ITE is designed to ignite new ideas across the University and beyond, to build impactful partnerships across campus, in industry and government. For more information about Project X-ITE, see http://projectxite.org/

The Forge Innovation Clinic, housed in the Community Economic Development Clinic and supervised by Professors Patience Crowder and Karen Powell, will ultimately enroll an interdisciplinary team of graduate students to provide comprehensive services to Denver’s small business community, including DU students and faculty, social enterprises, and other ventures.

Law students will be responsible for providing transactional (non-litigation) legal advice and assistance to entrepreneurial clients (both within and outside DU) and handle all aspects of client representation under faculty supervision. Law students will provide business and legal assistance to clients via the SLO. In addition, students may research issues related to emerging markets and related legal issues to provide community education via workshops and training on substantive law issues, and may provide general advice and assistance through Forge Innovation Clinic office hours. Law students may also be involved in Project X-ITE directly.

What are the benefits of taking this clinic? Students will learn transactional practice skills that are transferable to all types of transactional and business practice, including client counseling, drafting, research and planning, project management, advocacy, and understanding group dynamics. Client work may include drafting general marketing materials, entity formation documents; drafting contracts; acting as counsel to entrepreneurs and small businesses; working with federal, state, and local government agencies; counseling on start-up venture intellectual property and employment issues, and assisting innovation and economic development projects. At the end of the semester, students will be able to communicate necessary business and legal knowledge to clients verbally and in writing, recognize and respond appropriately to ethical and regulatory concerns related to the representation of organizations, generally, and entrepreneurs, specifically.

Are there any prerequisites? Legal Profession is a pre- or co-requisite.

Are classes required? A mandatory clinic orientation will occur on January 5, 2017. Classes will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 2:45-5:15pm. In addition, students will be required to attend monthly Project X-ITE pitch events, clinic office hours, and other entrepreneurial events outside of class hours. Please note that this clinic is an interdisciplinary clinic and will require some coordination with graduate students in business, engineering and computer science.

How many credits will I receive? Students will receive 3 credits. One credit is counted as “in-class” credits; two credits are “out-of-class” credits.

What kind of time commitment is involved? The Forge Innovation Clinic requires a substantial time commitment, though the time commitment may vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of client needs. Students should plan to spend an average of 10 hours per week participating in the class seminar and working on client matters with the expectation that some client work will require attendance at meetings that occur in the evening or during the weekend. For these reasons and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, students are generally not permitted to enroll in an externship, any other experiential advantage courses, or work while enrolled in the CED Clinic.
Where can I get more information?
There will be a fall 2016 Forge Innovation Clinic information session on Thursday October 20th at 4:00 p.m. in room 313. Snacks will be provided!

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 9 am on Friday, October 21 and will close at 11:59pm on Sunday, October 30.

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