

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Fall 2024 - Professors Julie Cramer and Colleen Cullen

Students enrolled in the semester-long Criminal Defense Clinic represent low-income people charged with a wide variety of misdemeanor crimes and municipal ordinance violations, including assault, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, theft, and many others. Students learn and apply lawyering skills such as interviewing, client counseling, fact investigation, legal research and writing, oral advocacy, negotiation, and trial preparation. Students also appear regularly in court for hearings such as arraignments, pretrial conferences, motions hearings, and trials. Through both classes and cases, students have numerous opportunities to explore systemic problems such as racial and economic bias and disparate impact, law enforcement accountability, and access to justice.

Are there any prerequisites?

Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Class attendance is mandatory. In addition, students will be required to attend a mandatory orientation beginning Friday, August 16th, 2024 and ending Friday, September 6th, 2024. The orientation will consist of simulations and classes that will be arranged around clinic participants' schedules. You can expect to meet at least once daily as a class from August 16th, 2024 through September 6th, 2024, 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. Four are in-class credits; Five 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 at least 25 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 advance 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 to the people we represent. 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?

- **Student Law Office Mixer** - Wednesday, March 13th, 2024, in the Law Forum, 4:00pm-6:00pm
- **Clinic Fair** - Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, in the Law Forum, 11am -1:00pm
- **SLOpen House** - Wednesday, March 20th, 2024, at the Student Law Office suite 335, 3:00pm-5:30pm

How and when do I apply or register?

- Online applications open Mon Mar. 18th, 2024, at 9:00am
- Online applications close Sun Mar. 24th, 2024, at 11:59pm
 - Late Applications will not be considered.

More information and clinic applications can be found at

<https://www.law.du.edu/student-law-office>