

CIVIL LITIGATION CLINIC

Spring 2022
Professor Tamara Kuennen

Civil Litigation Clinic students represent low-income clients in a variety of civil cases. During Spring 2022 these cases will fall within the areas of landlord-tenant, wage/employment, and intimate partner violence law. These cases, most often litigated in county court, involve little pre-trial discovery. As a result, the CLC focuses on trial skills. The speed with which the cases proceed to trial (generally two to four weeks) affords students the opportunity to handle several cases in their entirety, including conducting the initial client interview and all factual investigation, developing a case theory and an opening statement, closing argument, direct and cross examination of all witnesses, and conducting the trials themselves. In addition, students with a particular interest in theft of labor will have the opportunity to work with a grassroots community group composed of volunteers and laborers working toward larger social change. *If theft of labor, or community organizing generally, is of interest* please so indicate when you apply.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence and Legal Profession are highly recommended as pre-requisites and are co-requisites if not already taken. Speak with Professor Kuennen if this is an issue for you.

Are classes required?

Yes. Class will meet twice per week on T/R afternoons from 1:15 pm to 2:55 pm, and students will schedule one weekly supervision session with faculty at a mutually agreed upon time. In addition, students are required to attend a three-day orientation just prior to the start of the semester, on Wednesday, January 5, through Friday, January 7, 2022.

How many credits will I receive?

Students will receive a total of nine credits: four credits for the in-class component and five for the out of class (case/project) component.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The Civil Litigation Clinic requires a substantial time commitment, though the time commitment varies with the ebb and flow of litigation. Students should plan to spend (on average) 15 hours per week working on client-related matters in weeks in which there are no court appearances, and 25 hours per week in weeks in which there are court appearances. When possible, students should avoid scheduling morning classes on more than two days per week (*i.e.*, M/W or T/R, but not both) because court appearances are set for mornings.

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, application of the rules of evidence, development of public speaking, oral advocacy and relationship-building skills, and exposure to a type of learning other than that offered in many traditional law school classes.

Where Can I get more information?

Current Clinical Student Panel, Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Zoom: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/88473154945>

Clinical Faculty Information Session, Thursday, October 7, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Zoom: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/82446631938>

How and when do I apply or register?

Online applications open starting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 4, 2021 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, October 10, 2021. Applications will be available at: <https://www.law.du.edu/content/slo-application>. **Late**

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applications will not be considered.

Laurie Saraceno, the Administrative Director, will register accepted students before the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester.