

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Fall 2023

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 trial. 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 Thursday, August 10, 2023 and ending Friday, September 1, 2023. 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 10, 2023 through September 1, 2023, 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?

Current Clinical Student Panel: Tuesday, March 14th; 12:00 PM – 1:00PM in Room 255

Hybrid Event; Zoom <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/89818626830>

Clinic Fair: Wednesday, March 15th; 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Student Street

Clinical Faculty Information Session: Thursday, March 16th; 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM in Room 255

Hybrid Event; Zoom <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/86954534836>

How and when do I apply or register?

Online applications open at 9:00AM on Monday, March 13th and close at 11:59PM on Sunday, March 19th, 2023.

Online applications for AY 2023 – 2024 year will be available at: <https://www.law.du.edu/content/slo-application>

Late applications will not be accepted.

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 Fall semester.

