

CIVIL LITIGATION CLINIC

Fall 2026

Professor Tamara Kuennen

Students enrolled in the semester-long Civil Litigation Clinic (CLC) represent low-income clients in a variety of civil cases. During fall 2026, these cases will fall largely within the areas of landlord-tenant (defense of tenants being evicted) and intimate partner violence (obtaining, or defending against, civil protection orders), and occasionally in family law, replevin, and guardian ad litem matters.* These cases, most often litigated in county court, involve little pre-trial discovery. As a result, the CLC focuses on trial and other practical lawyering skills. The speed with which the cases proceed to trial (generally two to four weeks depending on case type) 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. **All court appearances occur M-F in the morning. To the extent you are able to avoid scheduling morning classes, please do so.**

The model of the Civil Litigation Clinic is based on student self-direction and experiential learning. Because of this focus, students have 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 development of confidence in court, 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. Please note: the CLC will not be representing clients in employment matters this semester.

Prerequisites

Evidence and **Legal Profession** are highly recommended as pre-requisites and are co-requisites if not already taken. To participate in a Student Law Office Clinic, students must complete 30 credit hours by the start of the clinic and have a GPA of 2.3 or higher.

Class Requirements

Class attendance is required. Classes are expected to meet **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 - 4:25**, location TBD. For the first two weeks of the semester, classes will meet more frequently to prepare students to begin working with clients in week three.

Credits

Students enroll for the full semester, earning **9 credits in total**. 4 credits are earned through participation in the clinic seminar, and the remaining 5 credits come from clinic partner-related work outside of class. Participation in both classroom instruction and client work is required throughout the semester.

Time Commitment

The Civil Litigation Clinic requires a substantial time commitment. Though the time commitment may vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of litigation, students should plan to spend on average 20 hours per week working on seminar and client-related matters. Given the intensive time commitment of clinic courses as well as the potential for ethical conflicts of interest, **students are not allowed to simultaneously participate in a clinic in the Student Law Office and an externship through the Legal Externship Program or any other experiential course in the law school that involves client work**. Please consult our website [FAQs](#) to review the SLO policy on paid and volunteer work.

Apply

Applications open **Monday, March 3rd, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and close Sunday, March 8th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** on the [Clinical Programs Webpage](#). Applications submissions for the **Civil Litigation Clinic** must include the following:

- Answers to application questions that are specifically tailored to help faculty understand how you are the right fit for the Civil Litigation Clinic (e.g. “I want to give back to the community” is laudable but not useful to faculty decision making about which students to admit into the CLC)
- An updated law school resume (pdf)

Students may apply for a maximum of two clinics. Late applications will not be accepted.

Learn More

- [Clinical Programs Webpage FAQs](#) (QR code)
- Instagram [@denver_law_clinical_programs](#)
- LinkedIn [@student-law-office-at-du](#)

