

CIVIL LITIGATION CLINIC

Fall 2021
Professor Tamara Kuennen

The Civil Litigation Clinic students represent low-income clients in a variety of civil cases. During the Fall of 2021 these cases will likely 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.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence and Legal Profession are highly recommended as pre-requisites and are co-requisites if not already taken.

Are classes required?

Yes. Class will meet twice per week on T/R afternoons from 1:15 to 2:30 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, August 11 through Friday, August 13, 2021.

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 work) component.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

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) 25 hours per week working on client-related matters. Students are not permitted to participate in externships or clerkships while enrolled in a clinic.

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?

Clinical Faculty Information Session, Tuesday, March 2nd, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Zoom: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/84998064343>

Current Clinical Student Panel, Wednesday, March 3rd, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Zoom: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/86725248970>

How and when do I apply or register?

Online applications open starting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 1st – 11:59 p.m., Sunday, March 7th, 2021. Applications for the 2021-2022 year will be available at: <https://www.law.du.edu/content/slo-application>.
Late applications will not be considered.

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