

CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
Professors Laura Rovner & Miriam Kerler

The Civil Rights Clinic (CRC) is an intensive, year-long litigation program in which students represent clients in civil rights cases in federal court under the supervision of clinic faculty. Currently, the focus of the CRC's work is on challenging illegal conditions of confinement in federal and state prisons, such as the failure to provide incarcerated people with adequate medical or mental health care, disability discrimination, and infringements on the free exercise of religion, although other kinds of civil rights matters may also be on our docket, including challenges to racially discriminatory policing practices and police brutality against people of color. Some of the claims currently being litigated in the CRC will impact civil rights jurisprudence nationwide. For a more detailed description of some of the current and past cases on the CRC's docket, see <https://www.law.du.edu/academics/practical-experience/clinical-programs/civil-rights>.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence and Legal Profession are pre- or co-requisites. To appear in federal district court, students must have completed a course in Evidence.

Are classes required?

Classes meet twice weekly. In addition, students will be required to attend Fall 2024 orientation the week before the Fall semester begins. **Attendance at orientation is mandatory.** Students must enroll for a full academic year and will earn a total of 18 credits. Six of the credits count as in-class credits and twelve as out-of-class credits.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The CRC requires a substantial time commitment. Though students are not required to spend a set amount of time in the clinic each week, students should anticipate devoting *at least* 30 hours per week on client-related matters. *For this reason and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, it is expected that CRC students will not take on an externship, any other experiential advantage courses, or work more than 5 hours a week while they are enrolled in the CRC.*

What are the benefits of taking this clinic?

Working with clients on complex civil rights matters is an experience that students have found intellectually challenging and personally compelling on multiple levels. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to gain substantive experience related to a variety of aspects of complex litigation, including complaint drafting, development of case theory, discovery planning, researching and drafting various motions, conducting written discovery, taking and/or defending depositions, and even appearing and arguing in federal court. In addition, students will develop interpersonal lawyering skills through interviewing and counseling their clients, interacting with opposing counsel, and making decisions as part of a "case team" of students. The cases in the CRC are complex, offering the opportunity to assist an underserved population of clients while working in an area of constitutional law that is deeply textured, ever-changing, and profoundly rewarding.

Where can I get more information?

Current Clinical Student Panel: Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:00PM in Room 370

Zoom Link: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/88112670836>

Clinic Fair: Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Forum

Clinical Faculty Information Session: Thursday, October 12th, 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM in Room 370

Zoom Link: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/89606205721>

How and when do I apply or register?

Online applications for AY25 will open TBD spring 2024.

Late applications will not be accepted.

The Administrative Director will register accepted students before the beginning of the fall semester.