

CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC

Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (YEAR LONG CLINIC) Professors Laura Rovner & Nicole Godfrey

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 the constitutionality of the conditions in which federal and state prisoners are held. This includes issues such as the failure to provide incarcerated people with adequate medical or mental health care, violations of the federal disability rights statutes, challenges to the use of long-term solitary confinement, and infringements on the free exercise of religion, although other kinds of civil rights matters may be on our docket. Some of the claims currently being litigated in the CRC will impact constitutional jurisprudence nationwide. For a more detailed description of some of the current and past cases on the CRC's docket, see <http://law.du.edu/index.php/law-school-clinical-program/civil-rights-clinic/civil-rights-clinic-cases>.

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 will meet twice weekly. In addition, students will be required to attend Fall 2020 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 (9 per semester). For each semester, three of the credits count as in-class credits and six 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 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 and 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?

Clinical Programs Faculty Panel - Monday, March 2, 2020, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Room 259)
Clinical Programs Recruitment Fair for Fall 2020 - Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 11:00-1:00 p.m. (Law Forum)
Clinical Programs Student Panel - Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Room 125)

How and when do I apply or register?

Online Application Dates - Friday, February 28, 2020, 9:00 a.m. until Sunday, March 8, 2020, 11:59 p.m.

Applications for the 2020-2021 year will be available at <http://law.du.edu/forms/student-law-office-clinical-programs/apply/>.

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