CFCC STUDENT FELLOWS PROGRAM I

**University of Baltimore School of Law**

**SAYRA AND NEIL MEYERHOFF**

**CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THE COURTS**

**Fall 2018**

**Course**: Center for Families, Children, and the Courts Student Fellows Program I

LAW 888

Section 511

**Instructor**: Professor Barbara A. Babb – (bbabb@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5661)

Office: AL534, John and Frances Angelos Law Center

Gloria Danziger, Senior Fellow – (gdanziger@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5613)

Office: AL532, John and Frances Angelos Law Center

Office Hours: By Appointment

CFCC Administrative Specialist: Katrice Williams – (kwilliams2@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5615); Suite F, John and Frances Angelos Law Center

**Days/Time:** Wednesday, 10:00 AM – Noon

**Location:**  Room 533

**Course Description**:

This limited enrollment course will provide students with an in-depth examination of the policies and theories surrounding court reform in family law, including unified family courts, therapeutic jurisprudence, and the ecology of human development. In addition to a weekly two-hour classroom component, students will take an active role in research and writing associated with the Center for Families, Children and the Courts' (CFCC's) projects. The research and writing will involve weekly one-hour meetings with either CFCC's Director or Senior Fellow and might include areas such as the creation and evaluation of unified family courts in specific jurisdictions, juvenile justice, truancy and truancy courts, high conflict custody programs, and addiction and substance abuse as they affect families in courts. Particular subject-matter areas will depend upon the nature of CFCC's activities at any given time.

**Course Materials:**

Required readings will be distributed in class or posted on TWEN.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

**1.** Students will explain the holistic, interdisciplinary, and therapeutic approach to family law, including the development of new and promising practices.

**2.** Students will distinguish the non-legal as well as legal issues that affect families in family court.

**3.** Students will evaluate programs which characterize CFCC’s approach to family justice system reform.

**4.** Students will assess the process and operation of the problem-solving approach to family law

**5.** Students will build skills that are central to the practice of family law.

**6.** Students will explain the roles of lawyers in the family justice and educational systems.

**Grades:**

Based on projects and class participation. See Memorandum regarding calculation of final class grades distributed during first class.

**Course Expectations:**

American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work for each credit earned in a class.

You are expected to attend all classes, to complete the assigned readings for each class, to attend class

on time, and to participate consistently and meaningfully in class discussions and projects. In addition to the two hour class, students will meet for one hour each week with their supervisor (either Professor Babb and/or CFCC Senior Fellow Danziger) to discuss their projects.

Consistent with the nature of the legal profession, please be in your seat when class begins and remain in your seat throughout the class session, absent extraordinary circumstances. Please turn off cell phones.

**Attendance**:

Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. A student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences (generally 20% of class sessions) as illustrated below may be compelled to withdraw from the course, or may be barred from sitting for the final exam. Students who are forced to withdraw for exceeding the allowed absences may receive a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence). This policy is consistent with American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools.

|  |
| --- |
| Regular Semester Hours |
| Credit Hours | Meetings Per Week |
|  | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 absences | 5 absences |
| 3 | 2 absences | 5 absences |
| 4 | -- | 5 absences |

**Course Website:**

You are required to register for the course TWEN site.

**Computers:**

Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes.

**Class Cancellation:**

If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore web site or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or the School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; misuse of library materials; use of another’s book or study materials without consent; unapproved multiple submissions; material misrepresentation of one’s academic history or standing; misrepresentation of any academic matter; intentionally giving another student false or inaccurate information about class requirements; inappropriate discussion of exams; and misrepresenting or falsifying class attendance reports. [Reference to School of Law Honor Code, https://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor\_code/index.cfm]

**Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:**

The University of Baltimore’s Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB’s nondiscrimination policies can be found at: http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix.

**Disability Policy:**

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Karyn Schulz, Director, Center of Educational Access, Office of Disability and Access Services, at 410-837-4141 or kschulz@ubalt.edu.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Date Topic**

August 22 Overview of CFCC

Orientation to the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts Office Suite

Introduction to Therapeutic Jurisprudence (TJ)

August 29 Introduction to TJ (cont’d)

Introduction to Preventive Law

Practicing TJ

September 5 Court Reform in Family Law

Unified Family Courts

The Ecology of Human Development

September 12 Tour of Baltimore City’s Family Division

(Guest Speaker: T. Sue German, Family

Division Coordinator, Circuit Court for

Baltimore City)

September 19 Unified Family Courts (cont’d)

September 26 New Approaches to Family Lawyering (Panel of Guest Speakers)

October 3 Problem-Solving Courts

October 10 Visit to Drug Treatment Court

October 17 Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland

(Guest Speaker: Gray Barton, Executive Director, Office of Problem-Solving Courts)

 October 24 Juvenile Justice Issues (Guest Speaker: Melanie Shapiro)

October 31 Visit to Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center

November 7 Child- and Family-Focused Practice (Guest Speaker: Risa Garon)

November 14 Caring for Families in Court (Guest Speaker: Judith Moran)

November 21 Wrap up