

FAMILY LAW CLINIC SEMINAR SYLLABUS
Angelos Law Center - 1401 N. Charles Street
Course Number 800F-511
SPRING 2017

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Course Description:

The Bronfein Family Law Clinic is a six-credit course during which student attorneys licensed to practice law represent actual clients and engage in community-based law or education projects. In general, students represent low income clients seeking child custody, child support, divorce and protection from domestic violence. In addition, the Clinic holds a mandatory three-hour weekly seminar covering lawyering skills and values through lectures, discussion, simulations, and exercises. Seminar also includes periodic case and project rounds, a group discussion of the lawyering work performed by students. The Clinic also holds mandatory weekly supervision meetings where student attorneys meet with their teammates and supervising faculty member to discuss ongoing lawyering for clients and community groups.

Course Materials:

Required: Family Law Article, Maryland Annotated Code (2012 Replacement)

Two Volume Set of Maryland Rules of Court (2016)

Johnson, Shoenberg, and Trivedi, Family Law Clinic Manual (Spring 2017) (provided by FLC)

David A. Binder *et al.*, Lawyers as Counselors (3rd ed. 2011)

Paul Bergman, Trial Advocacy in a Nutshell (5th ed. 2013)

Recommended: Edward M. Imwinkelreid, Evidentiary Foundations (9th ed. 2015)

Unless otherwise noted, all seminars will be held in AL 304. **Please consult the actual seminar plan for each class for the specific room assignment.** Except where noted, seminar is held from 1:30-4:20 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Learning Objectives:

1. Attorney-Client Relationship

Students will be able to create an attorney-client relationship guided by the principles of client-centered lawyering, which ensures that the client is at the center of the representation and recognized as the ultimate decision-maker.

2. Case Theory Development and Case Planning

Students will be able to create case theories for each case and project on which they work. The students will be able to create a case theory that is a storyline that explains what happened to the client and why she should prevail in her legal matter. The case theory will be constructed around the client's goals and the relevant law and facts. Case planning involves strategic planning and decision-making about how best to understand and achieve the client's goals and gather the relevant law and facts that will be used to develop the case theory. Students will also be able to create project theories for their systemic advocacy projects.

3. Time and Case Management

Students will be able to be effective in their time and case management to ensure that all lawyering and other clinic-related activities are undertaken and completed in a timely and thorough manner.

4. Oral and Written Advocacy in Cases

Students will be able to advocate orally and in writing by expressing their positions clearly and persuasively in client representation and systemic advocacy projects.

5. Collaboration and Professionalism

Students will be able to collaborate effectively and professionally by working with others in a manner that enhances the client representation and project work. Professionalism involves internalizing and employing the skills necessary to perform the lawyer role civilly and effectively. It also involves understanding, considering and complying with the rules of professional responsibility.

6. Self-Evaluation

Students will be able to evaluate their own work by comparing their performance to standards, including those set by the student attorney, the clinical professors, the rules of professional responsibility and/or other student attorneys.

7. Self-Reflection

Students will be able to engage in effective self-reflection, which is intentional thinking about what one does as a lawyer and how society operates. It involves articulating observations about one's experience in order to develop insights that may serve as the bases for future actions. Self-reflection is an essential part of learning from experience.

Grades:

Grades are based on student performance and growth in the following areas: Attorney-Client Relationship 20%; Case Development and Planning 15%; Time and Case Management 10%; Oral and Written Advocacy in Cases 20%; Collaboration and Professionalism 15%; Self-Evaluation 10%; Self-Reflection 10%.

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, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Students are expected to devote approximately 20 hours per week to clinic activity. Students are expected to complete assignments on time, participate in class discussions and simulations with adequate preparation, act as professional and ethical lawyers for clients (with supervision), and represent their clients zealously.

Attendance:

Orientation classes are mandatory as are all client, court, and other case or project-related meetings or appearances. Students are expected to attend all seminar classes, since class meetings include meetings of our law firm and opportunities to practice essential lawyering skills and examine issues important to professional responsibility. Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student, and rights to continued enrollment in the course are conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. 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. Students who miss class must consult with their supervisors to determine how to make up missed work.

Course website:

This course has a TWEN page that includes this syllabus, the manual, class assignments, reading materials and other resources. You are responsible for ensuring that you are enrolled in the TWEN page with your University of Baltimore email address, and expected to check it regularly for course information.

Computers:

Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes, but must be careful to protect case and client-related information. All emails for clinic must be sent through your University of Baltimore account.

Class Cancellation:

If the instructors must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via TWEN email. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore website 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 School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, misuse of materials, inappropriate communication about exams, use of unauthorized materials and technology, misrepresentation of any academic matter, including attendance, and impeding the Honor Code process. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/.

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 Leslie Metzger, Director of Student Services, at 410-837-5623 or lmetzger@ubalt.edu.

Course Plan:

Assignments for each class may be found in the individual seminar plans posted on TWEN each week.

Date	Activity
Tuesday, January 10	Clinic Orientation – Day 1 Introduction to interviewing, active listening, client-centered lawyering and clinical education
Thursday, January 12*	Clinic Orientation – Day 2 Court observation; Introduction to domestic violence and the legal system, critical legal theory and systemic change lawyering; Introduction to interviewing skills and values
Tuesday, January 17**	Panopto and Corpus Lex Introduction; Listening; Client-Centered Lawyering; Interviewing Introduction to Storytelling and Case Theory Client and Case Introductions
Tuesday, January 24	Storytelling; Case Theory Introduction to Exploration, Case Planning and Fact Investigation Urban Baltimore as Context Case and Project Rounds
Tuesday, January 31	Exploration; Case Planning and Fact Investigation Collaboration Introduction to Judgments, Assumptions and Counseling Case and Project Rounds
Tuesday, February 7	Judgments and Assumptions; Counseling Introduction to Negotiation Case and Project Rounds
Tuesday, February 14	Introduction to Evidence Cross-Cultural Lawyering Case and Project Rounds
Week of February 20	MID-SEMESTER EVALUATIONS – NO CLASS
Tuesday, February 28	Evidence Introduction to Closing Arguments
Tuesday, March 7^	Closing Arguments Introduction to Opening Statements

* This second day of orientation will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the North Avenue Courthouse and continue in AL 304 of the Angelos Law Center until 5:00 p.m.

** Please meet in AL 313 at 12:30 for Corpus Lex and Panopto Training. Then meet in AL 304 for seminar at 1:30.

^ If not otherwise identified in the seminar plan, class will begin in AL 313.

Case and Project Rounds

Date

Tuesday, March 14^

Activity

Opening Statements
Introduction to Direct Examinations
Case and Project Rounds

Week of March 20

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Tuesday, March 28^

Direct Examination
Introduction to Cross Examination
Case and Project Rounds

Tuesday, April 4^

Cross-Examination
Case and Project Rounds

Tuesday, April 11^

Trial

Tuesday, April 18

Wrap-Up and Final Reflection