

January 6, 2018

Dear IRC Spring 2018 Students,

Welcome to the Immigrant Rights Clinic! We are excited to begin working with you all in January. Please read this letter carefully as it contains several pieces of information important to understand before the semester starts as well as tasks that must be completed before our swearing-in ceremony and mandatory orientation.

### *Before the Semester Starts*

Three things need to be done before the semester starts. (We also have some optional readings on the second page of this welcome memo.)

- (1) **PRE-ORIENTATION WEBINARS:** There are two short webinars you must watch prior to orientation. Along with the webinars there is a very short quiz that must be completed and emailed to Nickole **by 10PM on January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Both the webinars and the quiz are posted on IRC's TWEN page. If you have trouble accessing the TWEN page, please let us know.
- (2) **READINGS FOR ORIENTATION:** There are several readings to be done **before orientation** that are posted on the IRC's TWEN page. If you have trouble accessing the TWEN page, please let us know.
- (3) **ORIENTATION LUNCH PREFERENCE:** Please complete the following orientation lunch survey by **noon on January 16<sup>th</sup>**: <https://goo.gl/forms/1HLLcDsxBNOEdgIq1>

### *Important Dates*

#### **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Swearing-In Ceremony**

- **8:30am-9:30 a.m. Swearing-in Ceremony, Moot Court Room.** During this ceremony, you will each be sworn in as duly appointed student attorneys practicing under Rule 19-217 of the Maryland Rules Governing Admission to the Bar. ***You should wear professional attire.*** Feel free to invite any family or friends. This is a wonderful occasion, we promise.

#### **Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Orientation**

- **10am-4p.m. ORIENTATION, Room 209 (lunch provided).** As you know from our initial meeting with you this spring, *attendance at orientation is mandatory*. The purpose of this first day is for us to get to know each other, learn the nuts-and-bolts of clinic operation, and introduce some of the key concepts we will be discussing in class this semester. Your readings for orientation, including the IRC Manual, are available on TWEN and on the UB website. Please complete the above assignment and readings prior to the day of orientation. Also, please bring a laptop to orientation so that you can participate in the training on our case management software.

#### **Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018: Seminar**

- **First regular seminar: 1:30pm-4:30pm, Room 209**

### ***Important Note on Professional Conduct***

In the IRC you will be practicing law under Rule 19-217 of the Maryland Rules Governing Admission to the Bar and under 8 CFR §1292.1(a)(2).

Rule 19-217 states that students must have read and be familiar with the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct and the relevant Maryland Rules of Procedure, so please refresh your memory of these **before** the start of classes. Also please review the **ethical rules pertaining to immigration practice**, found at 8 CFR § 1292.1(a)(2).

### ***Recommended Reading and Viewing***

Some of you may be interested in readings to prepare you for your clinical experience. Since some of you will be working with clients seeking asylum, you may consider reading *Asylum Denied: A Refugee's Struggle for Safety in America*, by David Ngaruri Kenney and Philip G. Schrag. The book is the account of one man's struggle to obtain asylum protection in the United States. It is especially relevant to the work you will be doing, because the client was represented by law students in a clinical program.

A second book right on point for many of our clients is *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario, telling the story of a boy's difficult trip from Honduras to the United States. Many of our clients have similar stories, so this is terrific background material.

Another great book that speaks to the challenges we and our clients face understanding each other is *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman, which tells the story of a Hmong family whose youngest daughter suffers from epilepsy, and who have to navigate the U.S. medical system in much the same way our clients navigate our unfamiliar legal system. It is focused more on the medical profession, but is used in law schools and med schools across the country to teach about cross-cultural communication.

For those of you looking for a more passive entertainment form, there are several good movies and documentaries with insights into the phenomenon of immigration, including: *Well-Founded Fear* (2001), *Chasing Freedom* (2004), *Golden Venture* (2006), *Under the Same Moon* (2007), *The Visitor* (2008), *The Least of These* (2009), *Sentenced Home* (2006), *abUSed* (2012), *Sin Nombre* (2009), and *Inocente* (2015).

If you have any questions about orientation or any of the assignments, please do not hesitate to contact Nickole at [nmiller2@ubalt.edu](mailto:nmiller2@ubalt.edu). We look forward to the start of the new semester!

Sincerely,

*Liz Keyes*

Liz Keyes  
Associate Professor

*Nickole Miller*

Nickole Miller  
Clinical Teaching Fellow