

FAMILY LAW CLINIC SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Angelos Law Center - 1401 N. Charles Street

Course Number 800F-511

SPRING 2020

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What is the Bronfein Family Law Clinic?

The Bronfein Family Law Clinic is a six-credit course during which you will be licensed to practice law, represent actual clients and engage in community-based law projects. As a student attorney, you will represent low-income clients in family law cases, such as child custody, child support, divorce and protection from domestic violence. You and your colleagues will attend 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 that you and your colleagues perform, as well as supervision on project work. Each of you will also participate in mandatory weekly case supervision meetings where you meet your teammates and supervising faculty member to discuss your cases, brainstorm ideas and work through any struggles.

What Will You Learn?

This semester, you will:

1. Be the lead attorney on your case.
2. Build a client-centered relationship with two or more clients.
3. Be able to create an interview plan which you will use to conduct detailed interviews of your clients.
4. Counsel your client about their legal options.
5. Conduct a fact-investigation in order to determine what evidence might be helpful (and hurtful!) for your client's case.
6. Develop a case theory, combining your client's goals with facts, the law and narrative elements.
7. Analyze the relevant facts and law and assess the strengths and weaknesses of different legal theories to determine your case strategy.
8. Persuasively advocate for your client orally and in writing by using case theory and incorporating narrative elements.
9. Manage your time and cases to meet your deadlines and create professional work product.

10. Learn tools for effective collaboration with your supervisor, colleagues and community partners.
11. Challenge your own judgments and biases.
12. Refresh your recollection of the Rules of Evidence and Professional Responsibility.
13. Evaluate yourself and your colleagues and provide feedback to each other in a safe, constructive environment.
14. Take time to think about your lawyering experiences to learn from each event.

How Will You Learn?

Assignments for each class may be found in the individual seminar plans posted on TWEN each week. This syllabus is subject to modification.

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Tuesday, January 14	Clinic Orientation – Day 1 Interviewing and Active Listening (with Narrative and Storytelling); Client-Centered Lawyering and Clinical Education; Decision-making and Judgment; Clinic Tour.
Thursday, January 16	Clinic Orientation – Day 2 Introduction to CLIO: ** Court Observation: * Introductions to Domestic Violence and the Legal System; Critical Legal Theory and Systemic Change Lawyering; and Baltimore as our lawyering context.
Tuesday, January 21	Client and Case Introductions and Discussion of Projects; Interviewing, Active Listening and Client-Centered Lawyering; Introduction to Storytelling and Case Theory.
Tuesday, January 28	Storytelling and Case Theory; Legal Analysis; Introduction to Exploration, Case Planning, and Fact Investigation; Critical Reflection, Problem-Solving, and Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, February 4	Exploration, Case Planning, and Fact Investigation; Cross Cultural Lawyering; Introduction to Judgments, Assumptions and Counseling;

** Please meet in AL 313 at 12:00 for CLIO and Panopto Training.

*We will then all meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside District Court, 1400 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD and continue in AL 304 of the Angelos Law Center until 5:00 p.m.

	Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, February 11	Judgments, Assumptions, and Counseling; Belief and Doubt; Information Gathering, Problem-Solving, and Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, February 18	Introduction to Evidence; Collaboration; Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, February 25	No class - Mid-semester evaluation memo and meeting instead (see memo on TWEN)
Tuesday, March 3	Evidence; Introduction to Closing Arguments/Persuasive Argument.
Tuesday, March 10	Closing Arguments; Introduction to Opening Statements; Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, March 17	No class - Spring Break
Tuesday, March 24	Opening Statements; Introduction to Direct Examinations; Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, March 31	Direct Examination; Introduction to Cross Examination; Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, April 7	Cross-Examination; Case and Project Rounds.
Tuesday, April 14	Final Trial.
Tuesday, April 21	Wrap-Up and Final Reflection.

How Will You Be Evaluated?

Your clinic final grade is based on your performance and growth in the following areas:

Attorney-Client Relationship 20%; Legal Analysis 15%; Case Development and Planning 15%; Time and Case Management 10%; Oral and Written Advocacy in Cases 15%; Collaboration and Professionalism 10%; Self-Evaluation 7.5%; Self-Reflection 7.5%. **Please consult the FLC Clinic Manual (Evaluation of Student Performance, Pg. 6) for a detailed explanation of what each criterion includes.**

Each student will have a mid-semester evaluation with his/her supervisor which will provide detailed and specific feedback about progress in each of these categories, strengths and areas that could use improvement.

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. You 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.

We expect that you will devote approximately 20 hours per week to clinic activity. That is an average. Some weeks will be lighter, others will be more intense. You will provide timesheets to your supervisor so that she can keep track of how many hours you are devoting to clinic. We expect you 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 your clients zealously. Representing clients is a privilege and a huge responsibility, but you are ready for it!

During seminar, all students will participate in simulations of trial skills and lawyering values during seminar. Generally, you will receive one week's notice if you will be performing the following week so you will have enough time to prepare. Who performs is determined by many factors but in manner that tries to ensure that all students perform roughly the same number of times over the course of the semester.

Attendance:

Orientation classes are mandatory as are all client, court, and other case or project-related meetings or appearances. Your attendance at weekly supervision meetings is also mandatory as it is part of your client representation. You 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. This work is intended to build your

competence for representing your live clients. 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. In the rare circumstance you must miss class, you must consult with Professors Johnson and Trivedi to determine how to make up missed work.

What Else Should You Know?

Course Materials:

Required:

Maryland Family Law Annotated (LexisNexis 2019 edition);

Two Volume Set of Maryland Rules of Court (2018);

Johnson and Trivedi, Family Law Clinic Manual (Spring 2020) (provided by FLC and available on TWEN);

Carolyn Grose & Margaret E. Johnson, Lawyers, Clients & Narrative: A Framework for Law Students and Practitioners (2017); and

Paul Bergman, Trial Advocacy in a Nutshell (6th ed. 2017).

Recommended:

Edward M. Imwinkelreid, Evidentiary Foundations (10th ed. 2018).¹

Course website:

This course has a TWEN page that includes this syllabus, the clinic 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. You are expected to check TWEN regularly for course information.

Computers:

In general, laptops will not be permitted in seminar class or supervision meetings. If you use your laptop for client-related information, you must be careful to protect client-confidential materials during clinic and at the end of the seminar. The clinic manual provides instructions for handling client information on your computer. All emails for clinic must be sent and received through your University of Baltimore email account.

Class Cancellation:

¹ Professors Johnson and Trivedi both have copies of this book that may be borrowed with permission. It can also be borrowed from the library.

If the instructors must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via TWEN email. If there is inclement weather, please visit the University of Baltimore website or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, you should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule. If the University is closed but the court is open, and you have a court appearance scheduled that day, you must attend the court appearance.

Academic Integrity:

Like in any other class, you are obligated to refrain from acts that you 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/.

We expect you to create their own original work product for clinic seminar work and on behalf of clients and projects. If you rely on other materials, you must acknowledge that in their work. You may not copy from another student's materials. If the work product is assigned as a collaborative project, all students in that collaboration may be original and revisionary authors to the extent appropriate. If you have questions about what is appropriate, you should raise those questions with Professors Johnson and Trivedi prior to turning in or performing an assignment.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:

The University of Baltimore states that its 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 accommodation for academic programs, exams, or access to the University's facilities, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs, at ublawaacadaff@ubalt.edu or (410) 837-4468.

Course Evaluations:

It is a requirement of this course that students complete a course evaluation. The evaluation will be available later in the semester and is entirely anonymous. Faculty members will not have access to the feedback provided on course evaluations until after all grades are submitted.