

FAMILY LAW CLINIC II SEMINAR SYLLABUS
Angelos Law Center - 1401 N. Charles Street
Course Number 800G-511-2052
Spring 2020

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Course Description:

The Bronfein Family Law Clinic II is a one to four credit course during which student attorneys are licensed to practice law and represent actual clients and engage in community-based law projects. In general, students represent low-income clients seeking child custody, child support, divorce and protection from domestic violence and may work on community-based projects. In addition, the Clinic holds a mandatory one-hour weekly supervision meeting to discuss the law, legal analysis, and lawyering skills and values raised by the student attorneys' cases and projects. FLC II students also participate in case and project rounds as well as moots and simulations for FLC I students, where FLC II students provide constructive critique based on assessment criteria.

Course Materials:

Required:

Family Law Article, Maryland Annotated Code (2018);

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).

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:

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%.

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 complete assignments on time, participate in supervision meetings and discussions with adequate preparation, act as professional and ethical lawyers for clients and on projects (with supervision), and represent their clients zealously.

Attendance:

Class and supervision meeting 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.

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:

If the instructors must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via 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/.

We expect students to create their own original work product for clinic seminar work and on behalf of clients and projects. If a student relies on other materials, they must acknowledge that in their work. A student 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 a student has questions about what is appropriate, they 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's position is 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 ublawacadaff@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.

Course Plan:

1. Nathan Adams will prepare for and perform the simulation or FLC I real case mooted roles during the indicated times on the annotated FLC I Syllabus available on the FLC II Spring 2020 TWEN page. They will also be available as necessary for the FLC I students who choose to prepare their clients or witnesses for hearings. FLC II students playing simulated client roles should email the faculty each week to clarify their role-playing assignments for the following week. FLC II students should be prepared to provide feedback and critique of the FLC I's performance based on the skills and learning goals for that performance.
2. Nathan Adams is encouraged to attend all FLC I case and project rounds to contribute to the discussion and share their work as well. All case and project rounds are indicated on the annotated FLC I Syllabus available on the FLC II Spring 2020 TWEN page. Please also sign up for the FLC I Spring 2020 TWEN page and check each week's seminar plan for any changes to the case and project rounds schedule.
3. Nathan Adams will meet weekly with Shanta Trivedi (for supervision of their client, case and project work). The date and time of this supervision meeting will be scheduled after the first week of school. Please ensure that you have provided Terry Berk with your class and work schedule by January 14, 2020, so the supervision meeting can be scheduled on January 16, 2020.
4. Assignments for each supervision meeting are set by the lawyering work being done on behalf of clients or for projects. FLC II students should complete and circulate 24 hours ahead of the supervision meeting an individual meeting agenda and then prepare and circulate within 24 hours after the meeting a to do list for work to be done over the subsequent week. For more information regarding supervision meetings, please refer to the FLC Manual Spring 2020 (on TWEN).