



SMU | DEDMAN  
SCHOOL OF LAW

# Legal Clinics

## Pre-Registration Packet

FALL

2020

Symplicity ID # 19809

# So you want to be in a Clinic?

## Common Questions and Answers

### Questions

- **If I enroll in a Clinic now will I be able to take all the externships I want to take?**
- **If I enroll in a clinic, will it take all of my time?**
- **How are Clinics graded if there's no exam?**

### Answers

- **Yes. You are limited to 6 externship credits. Clinic credits DO NOT count toward the externship cap.**
- **You should expect to spend roughly 3 hours a week for each academic credit awarded, just as you would in any non-clinic class. The good news is that in Clinic, there's no exam at the end!**
- **Clinic grading is NOT on a mandatory curve; your grade is based on the quality of the representation you provide throughout the semester.**

## In addition, you will also. . . .

- **Represent real clients and make a difference in their lives**
- **Build relationships with Faculty, Attorneys and other Professionals**
- **Learn transferable skills applicable in a transactional practice as well as a litigation practice**

## Pre-Registration Procedures

1. **Eligibility: a) COMPLETION OF 50%** of the hours required for graduation (minimum 44 hours) by the end of the Spring 2020 semester and **b) GPA above 2.0**. If you are currently on academic probation, you may not pre-register for any of the clinics.

Clinic	Prerequisites/*Co-Requisites (can take in same semester enrolled in clinic)	Mandatory Orientation
<b>W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic</b>	Evidence*	Fri., August 14
<b>Civil/Consumer Clinic</b>	Professional Responsibility*	Fri., August 14
<b>Criminal Clinic</b>	Professional Responsibility* Evidence & Tex. Crim. Proc. (recommended only)	Thurs. & Fri., August 13 & 14
<b>First Amendment Clinic</b>		Fri., August 14: 12 - 4 p.m.
<b>Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women</b>	Professional Responsibility* Evidence and Family Law (recommended only)	Thurs. & Fri, August. 13 & 14
<b>Innocence Clinic</b>	Evidence*	Tues. Aug. 11: 4:30-5:30 pm Fri., Aug. 14: 12:30- 1:30 pm
<b>Patent Law Clinic</b>	See Patent Clinic Flyer for Requirements	Fri., August 14
<b>Small Business &amp; Trademark Clinic</b>	Business Enterprises Forming & Operating Closely-held Businesses (recommended only)	Fri., August 14
<b>Tax Clinic</b>	Federal Income Tax	Fri., August 14
<b>VanSickle Family Law Clinic</b>	Professional Responsibility*	Fri., August 14

2. **Mandatory Orientations and Prerequisites/Co-Requisites: MAY NOT BE WAIVED.**

3. **Rank clinic choices:** Please rank your choice of clinic on the Clinic Application Form. Number 1 is first choice, 2 is second choice, etc. We will fill the Clinics according to your stated preference.

4. **Submit Application:** Download Application, complete, sign and initial application in Word, then submit online via **Symplicity ID #19809**. **Deadline to submit your Application online is Noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.**

5. **Drawing and Waiting List:** If your name is drawn for a Clinic slot, your name will be entered on the roll for that Clinic and your name will not be placed on any waiting list. After all Clinics slots have been filled, we will continue drawing names for the waiting lists and names will be placed on the waiting list of each clinic the student ranked on his/her application. Students will be notified of any openings in the order in which their names appear on the list.. **Clinic lists will be posted by the close of business, Friday, April 3.**

6. **Prior Clinic Experience:** If you have been enrolled in **any** of the Clinics at SMU (or in a clinical program at another school) **you cannot participate in the drawing**. Students without prior Clinic experience have priority. However, you may put your name on the waiting list for one of more of the Clinics **after** the drawing is completed. Your name will be added to the bottom of the waiting list.

7. **Registration:** If you are drawn for a clinic, your name will be on a Clinic list to register and you may only register for the Clinic for which you were selected. **Registration begins on Monday, April 6, 2020.**

8. **Dropping Clinic:** If you must drop Clinic, you must receive permission from the appropriate clinic director so other students on the waiting lists can enroll. **Drop deadline is Monday, June 1, 2020.**



## **W.W. CARUTH, JR. CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC: SPRING 2020**

### **OUR CLIENTS:**

We represent abused and neglected children and aging out youth in child welfare cases in Dallas County in a dual role of attorney/guardian ad litem or as their attorney. We also represent young adults who have aged out of foster care in certain selected legal matters.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- \* Good academic standing.
- \* Completed at least one-half of the credits required for graduation.
- \* Completed Evidence before being enrolled OR be enrolled in Evidence while in the Clinic.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

~You should expect to spend 15-20 hours each week on Clinic-related and class work. The workload fluctuates with case events.

~You will likely handle from 2-3 cases, sometimes with a partner, sometimes on your own (with Director supervision).

~You will handle at least one, probably two, and possibly more court hearings (of varying length/detail/complexity). Most (but not all) hearings take place in the morning.

~You will need to visit your child clients in their placement homes about once a month and will otherwise need to conduct "fieldwork" investigation activities around the Dallas area (and occasionally beyond).

~ You will receive **6 credits** for this Clinic.

### **LEGAL EXPERIENCE:**

Student lawyers represent their clients as the first chair attorney at all hearings, mediations, and trial, with the close supervision of the Director. Student lawyers interview child clients and their

family members; investigate the facts of the case, including conducting discovery; monitoring and obtaining records regarding the client's status with health care professionals, school officials, and others; conducting home studies on potential relative placements for the children; monitoring the children while in foster care; attending meetings and mediations; advocating for the child's needs, informally and through motion practice.

### **CLASS EXPERIENCE:**

**Class** occurs twice a week and covers federal and state law and procedural and ethical issues involved in the legal representation of children. Class also covers litigation skills (oral and written advocacy, drafting pleadings, interviewing and counseling, trial preparation, and trial advocacy).

**Guest speakers** provide an interdisciplinary perspective on the law. **Interaction** is emphasized. Although classes may include lectures by the Director, they also often consist of "rounds" where Clinic cases are discussed among the class as a law firm with a Clinic student attorney leading the discussion. Classes also include simulated or "mock" court and investigative situations – typically based on real Clinic cases.

**Supervision and Mentoring** happens through one-on-one pre-scheduled weekly meetings with the Director.

### **COMMUNITY INTERACTION:**

Students will work on a podcast project recording the stories of aged out foster youth, assist in "know your rights" sessions for older foster youth and in intake for aged out youth, prepare a blog posting for the Clinic blog, and assist in Clinic-sponsored events.

### **MANDATORY ORIENTATION: (ALL DAY) FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020**

***ENROLL IN THE CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC IF YOU WANT TO DEVELOP SKILLS  
APPLICABLE TO LEGAL PRACTICE, GAIN VALUABLE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, AND  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD***

# CIVIL/CONSUMER CLINIC

## 5 CREDITS FALL 2020

### PRACTICE LAW ON BEHALF OF REAL CLIENTS

Student attorneys in the Civil Clinic handle real problems involving real cases as authorized by the Student Practice Rules of the State Bar of Texas. Currently, student attorneys are representing clients in landlord-tenant disputes, consumer fraud, real estate transactions, and matters involving credit and debt. In past semesters, clinic attorneys have also secured U-Visas for immigrant clients, tracked down stolen cars and the “ring” engaged in scam sales, assistance in employment matters, helped a client enforce an elder healthcare employment contract, and stepped in to enforce a roofing contract.

In addition to the **direct representation** student attorneys provide, they also engage in **outreach and education in the community**. In past semesters, students have also engaged in **legislative advocacy** on access-to-justice and consumer-related issues. Clinic students staff a monthly courthouse-based clinic for self-represented litigants in Dallas County and routinely provide assistance to tenants in coordination with the Housing Crisis Center.

While all student work is supervised by a clinic faculty member, the **student attorney is first chair**. Students work and learn in all aspects of the lawyering process. They conduct client and witness interviews, fact investigation, legal research, and problem solving. Clinic attorneys are responsible for advising and counseling their clients regarding available options, conducting negotiations and mediations, and if needed, engaging in litigation. Clinic attorneys handle all aspects of litigation including case planning, drafting pleadings and discovery, and conducting depositions. Clinic attorneys are lead counsel in the courtroom where they handle motion practice and hearings, trials and appeals.

### CLINIC FACULTY

Students work individually with Clinic faculty members. Associate Dean for Clinics, Professor **Mary Spector** is the Director of the Civil/Consumer Clinic and a Supervising Attorney; Clinical Professor **Eliot Shavin** is the Assistant Director and is also a Supervising Attorney.

Clinic faculty select cases that raise interesting legal and factual issues and that expose students to

disputes and contested legal issues. Faculty try to keep caseloads small to allow student attorneys to fully explore the facts and legal issues of each case and to ensure that students provide excellent legal representation to their clients.

### TIME COMMITMENT

In the Fall 2020 semester, Clinic students should expect to spend a minimum of **15 hours each week** on clinic-related work including preparing for and attending the clinic lawyering seminar, interviewing potential new clients, and handling their assigned casework.

**There is a mandatory classroom component. The Fall 2020 classroom component will meet twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.**

Student attorneys also participate in weekly supervisory conferences where they work with faculty to develop their lawyering skills, discuss ethical issues, and review other dimensions of client representation including the dynamics of client decision making. In scheduling other courses, students should take into account the flexibility that is needed to represent clinic clients and should not take a larger than normal course load.

### ELIGIBILITY, REGISTRATION AND ORIENTATION

#### Eligibility:

- Completion of 44 hours by the time they begin their clinic semester.
- Not on academic probation at the time of pre-registration.
- Co-requisite: Professional Responsibility. May be taken before or during semester in which student is enrolled.

#### Registration:

- Do not pre-register for a Clinic unless you intend to enroll.
- If you **MUST** drop Civil/Consumer Clinic, notify: Professor Mary Spector at [mspector@smu.edu](mailto:mspector@smu.edu), by Monday, May 11, 2020.

### MANDATORY ORIENTATION

- ALL DAY, on Friday, August 14, 2020.
- No waivers

**SMU DEDMAN School of Law**  
**Fall 2020**  
**Criminal Clinic (6 Credits)**

The Criminal Clinic provides law students a combination of academic and experiential learning through the practice of criminal defense law in the Dallas County Criminal Courts. In exchange, supervising attorneys certify to the Court that we will properly train and supervise you.

Clinic student attorneys represent low-income clients charged with misdemeanor offenses in the Dallas County Criminal Courts, some of the most common charges include: Assault, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Trespass, DWI, Possession of Marijuana, Prostitution, Theft, and Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon. **YOU** will be the attorney and engage in investigation, interviewing, discovery, plea negotiations, case planning, motion practice and trial. With the assistance of the supervising attorneys, you will be handling real cases and represent real clients. Clinic student attorneys will act as trial counsel- arguing everything from a motion to suppress evidence with live police witnesses to a jury trial!

SMU's Criminal Clinic is in its 43<sup>d</sup> year. Criminal Clinic Associate Director Mike McCollum has been with the Clinic for more than 40 years, and Adjunct Clinical Professor Debbie Sanchez is a former prosecutor with the Dallas District Attorney's Office and has been in private practice for over 23 years. The bulk of her practice involves representing individuals charged with felony offenses.

Your responsibility to the Clinic and your clients goes requires a substantial commitment on your part. Your time commitment to the Clinic is a minimum of 20 hours per week (total of at least 255 hours for the semester). This includes time spent at the courthouse, office hours (you must log 3 hours per week during business hours in the criminal clinic library) and class time. Mandatory classes are on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. In scheduling your other courses, you should take into account the flexibility you need to represent clients. It is highly recommended that you do not register for morning classes because you will be at the courthouse almost every day and court takes up most of the morning – do not schedule 9 or 10 o'clock classes in order to avoid conflicts.

The clinic is a one semester, graded course. We will enroll 12 students for the fall semester for 6 credits. Due to the nature of trial preparation, the time commitment to this Clinic has generally exceeded the minimum 20-hour requirement. Additionally, clinic assignments will include short reflective/observation papers, a trial notebook and meeting to review case file management.

To be eligible for the Criminal Clinic, you must be a student in good academic standing, you must have completed at least one-half (44 hours) of the credits required for graduation.

Professional Responsibility is a required co-requisite class, meaning you must have either already taken Professional Responsibility or be scheduled to take Professional Responsibility at the same time you would be in the Criminal Clinic. Recommended classes are Evidence and Texas Criminal Procedure.

Student selection for the Criminal Clinic is part of the general clinic pre-registration process.

**MANDATORY TWO-DAY ORIENTATION: August 13 & 14, 2020 all day.**  
**If you MUST DROP Criminal Clinic, you MUST RECEIVE PERMISSION by notifying**  
**Administrative Assistant Gloria Zapata at [gzapata@smu.edu](mailto:gzapata@smu.edu), by 5 p.m. on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020,**  
**who will then contact Director Chris Jenks and Associate Director Mike McCollum.**

# New for Fall 2020!

## First Amendment Clinic 4 credits

New for Fall, 2020, the First Amendment Clinic, funded by the Stanton Foundation, will focus on First Amendment issues including free speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly and petition.

Director, **Tom Leatherbury**, co-head of Vinson & Elkins' Appellate Practice, regularly represents traditional and digital publishers, as well as broadcasters, in all aspects of media litigation, including libel, privacy and other torts, reporter's privilege, newsgathering and access, misappropriation, and breach of contract actions. Prior to joining SMU, he also worked on cases with First Amendment clinics at Yale Law School and at Cornell Law School.

The Clinic expects to represent publishers and broadcasters, both non-profit and for-profit in a range of matters that could include, among other things:

- Defamation defense/Representation of witnesses in defamation cases
- Texas Citizens Participation Act proceedings (anti-SLAPP)
- Motions to obtain access to civil and criminal court records
- Challenges to gag orders in criminal and civil cases
- Motions to open courtrooms/motions to televise proceedings
- Motions to quash subpoenas directed to journalists
- Group or individual claims defending/advancing the rights of petition or assembly
- Pre-publication review of news articles
- Amicus briefs on First Amendment issues
- Texas Public Information Act requests/Freedom of Information Act requests

Mandatory Orientation:	Friday, August 14, Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Class:	Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
4 Credit hours	Students should expect to spend approximately 12 hours per week on clinic-related work
Director	Tom Leatherbury tleatherbury@velaw.com 214.220.7792
Drop date	June 1, 2020



## JUDGE ELMO B. HUNTER LEGAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

### About the Clinic

The Hunter Clinic provides legal representation to survivors of gender-based harms such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Eight (8) students may enroll each semester and will receive six (6) credit hours for the course.

#### *Client Representation / Fieldwork*

Student attorneys will undertake a broad range of legal work while enrolled in the Clinic:

- ❖ In teams of two, student attorneys will represent a survivor of gender-based violence in a legal matter such as securing post-conviction relief, a family law claim, a humanitarian immigration petition, or a protective order application. Students will have extensive client contact and gain experience interviewing, counseling, and negotiating; drafting motions, pleadings, and legal memoranda; and litigating before a variety of tribunals.
- ❖ In teams of four, student attorneys will work with an institutional client to seek long-term solutions to the problem of violence against women. Advocacy work could include creating educational or *pro se* materials; writing policy papers or reports; or conducting legislative advocacy.

#### *Classroom Component - Clinic Seminar*

Students will take part in a seminar that provides the legal and analytical foundation for their lawyering experiences. The seminar is a discussion-based class that includes small group work, role-plays, and other activities to help students gain understanding of and perspective on issues they may experience in their casework.

### Eligibility

Professional Responsibility is a required co-requisite; Family Law and Evidence are recommended. A **mandatory orientation** will be held on **August 13 and 14**.

### Time Commitment

Students should expect to spend approximately 20 hours per week on clinic work, however, the precise amount of time each week will vary depending on the demands of casework.

**SMU DEDMAN School of Law**  
**Fall 2020**  
**Innocence Clinic (4 Credits)**

The Innocence Clinic is a combination of academic and practical experience affording the participants the privilege of practicing post-conviction law on several cases out of the Dallas County Felony Courts.

Clinic participants review the cases of individuals who have been convicted of crimes, sentenced to prison and who now claim actual innocence. Some of the most common charges you will handle for your clients include: Murder, Sexual Assault, and Aggravated Robbery. As the student attorney, you will engage in any or all of the following: locating and reviewing original trial records; searching for and identifying remaining evidence, if any; analyzing cases for viability; submission of evidence for additional testing; interviewing potential witnesses; communicating with clients, including face-to-face meetings either in the county jail or the assigned prison unit; interacting with assigned personnel from the District Attorney's Office; identifying and communicating with potential experts; drafting briefs, motions and proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

This is the third year for SMU's Innocence Clinic. Innocence Clinic Supervising Attorney Chris Young has been with Dallas County since 2005 and during that time, he has served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and most recently as Assistant Public Defender where he currently leads the Dallas County Public Defender's Office Exoneration Unit.

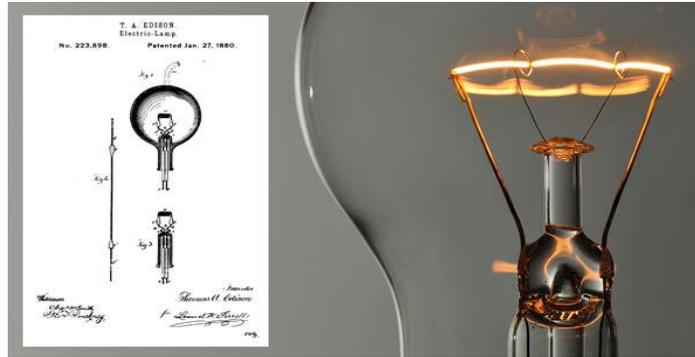
With the assistance of the supervising attorney, you will be handling real cases involving real clients. Your responsibility to the Clinic and your clients goes beyond the classroom and requires a substantial commitment on your part. Your time commitment to the Clinic is a minimum of 12 hours per week. This includes time spent at the courthouse, office hours and class time. The classroom portion of the course will meet weekly for one hour. In scheduling your other courses, you should take into account the flexibility you need to represent clients.

The clinic is a single semester, graded course. Clinic assignments will include weekly clinic meeting participation, written case history/overview, status reports, timesheets, periodic memos to the files, and closing memo submitted by each student at stated intervals during the year.

To be eligible for the Innocence Clinic, you must be a student in good academic standing, you must have completed at least one-half (44 hours) of the credits required for graduation by the end of the Spring 2020 semester, and be eligible for a student bar card. Student selection for the Innocence Clinic is done as part of the general clinic pre-registration process.

**MANDATORY ORIENTATION:**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 4:30pm-5:30pm**  
**Friday, August 14, 2020, 12:30pm-1:30pm**

**Deadline to drop Clinic is Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00. You MUST RECEIVE PERMISSION from Administrative Assistant Gloria Zapata ([gzapata@smu.edu](mailto:gzapata@smu.edu)) who will then contact the Innocence Clinic Professor.**



## PATENT CLINIC FALL 2020

The Patent Clinic provides students with the opportunity to gain experience advising clients on patent-related matters, with the potential to represent these clients in front of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Students, under the supervision of an adjunct clinical professor who is a practicing patent attorney, will provide pro bono legal services to individual and small business clients seeking to protect their inventions using the patent system. The work will typically involve counseling clients regarding patent-related matters, conducting inventor interviews, conducting patentability searches, preparing patentability opinions, drafting and filing patent applications, and drafting and filing responses to actions received from the USPTO.

All students will meet with the clinic director on Mondays from 4:30pm to 6:00pm for advanced instruction on selected patent prosecution topics.

The Patent Clinic will be offered during the fall and spring terms. Students successfully completing the Patent Clinic will earn 3 credit hours.

To be able to participate in the clinic, you cannot be a USPTO employee, must have successfully completed 1/2 of credits required for graduation, must not be on academic probation, and meet one or more following: (a) Successful completion of Patent Law; (b) Significant patent-related experience; (c) Registered with the PTO. Preference will be given to those who have completed or are concurrently enrolled in Patent Prosecution.

Though you need not already be registered with the USPTO, you must have the necessary technical background to qualify for registration to practice before the USPTO. The necessary technical qualifications are explained in the USPTO's General Requirements Bulletin. (See [http://www.uspto.gov/ip/boards/oed/exam/OED\\_GRB.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/ip/boards/oed/exam/OED_GRB.pdf), pages 4-8.)

Important dates:

- Deadline to drop Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. You must contact Gloria Zapata at [gzapata@smu.edu](mailto:gzapata@smu.edu) who will then contact the Director.
- Orientation: Friday, August 14, 2020 .

**SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW  
SMALL BUSINESS AND TRADEMARK CLINIC**

**SMALL BUSINESS AND TRADEMARK CLINIC.** The Small Business and Trademark Clinic provides free legal services to new and existing small businesses and non-profit organizations that cannot afford to pay legal fees. Student lawyers learn how to become transactional attorneys by advising clients about the start-up of their businesses and non-profit corporations, preparing necessary formation documents, counseling clients regarding various legal issues, and drafting transactional contracts. Students in the Small Business and Trademark Clinic work directly with clients as they experience the transactional practice of law.

In addition, this Clinic is a member of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's prestigious Law School Clinic program. Student lawyers advise clients about basic trademark matters and draft, file and handle trademark applications with the USPTO. If you are accepted for the Small Business and Trademark Clinic, you will represent clients with trademark matters.

<b>Number of Students</b>	6 for Fall 2020
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Business Enterprises and a student in good standing.
<b>Recommended course</b>	Counseling the Small Business Owner (not required).
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Minimum 135 working hours during the semester. You need to be available during the day.
<b>Class</b>	Thursday 8:30-9:50 am
<b>Credit</b>	3 credits, no exam.
<b>Orientation</b>	Friday, August 14 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**SELECTION OF STUDENTS** is done by a lottery process. **DO NOT PRE-REGISTER FOR ANY CLINIC UNLESS YOU INTEND TO ENROLL AND ATTEND ORIENTATION.**

Tremendous time and effort goes into preparing for the Clinics. Please do not sign up if you do not intend to follow through on your registration. Students who drop within 10 days of school starting may result in a Clinic slot going unfilled. **If you must drop the Small Business and Trademark Clinic, you must notify Gloria Zapata, Administrative Assistant, at [gzapata@smu.edu](mailto:gzapata@smu.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 so other students on the waiting lists can enroll.** In scheduling your other courses, you should take into account the flexibility of time you will need to represent clients. **YOU MUST HAVE COMPLETED 1/2 OF YOUR HOURS FOR GRADUATION (MINIMUM 44 HOURS) BY THE END OF THE FALL SEMESTER 2020.**

**ORIENTATION IS MANDATORY. NO EXCUSED ABSENCES.**

**SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW**  
**TAX CLINIC**  
**FALL 2020**

**TAX CLINIC** - The Tax Clinic is a combination of academic and practical experience. Students represent low-income clients who have tax problems before the Internal Revenue Service. The scope of representation ranges from negotiating settlements and collection plans with the IRS to taking a client's case to Tax Court. Participation in the Tax Clinic will be a unique educational experience in which you will be participating in the representation of actual clients before the IRS and in certain instances in the Tax Court.

<b>Prerequisites</b>	Federal Income Taxation and a student in good standing.
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Minimum of 12 hours per week. You need to be available during the day.
<b>Class</b>	Monday & Wednesday, 12:00-1:15 in Storey hall Rm. 3.
<b>Credit</b>	4 hours for the fall semester

**SELECTION OF STUDENTS** is done by a lottery process. **DO NOT PRE-REGISTER FOR ANY CLINIC UNLESS YOU INTEND TO ENROLL AND ATTEND ORIENTATION.** Tremendous time and effort goes into preparing for the Clinics. Please do not sign up if you do not intend to follow through on your registration. Students who drop within 10 days of school starting may result in a Clinic slot going unfilled. **If you must drop the Tax Clinic, you must notify Gloria Zapata, Administrative Assistant, at [gzapata@smu.edu](mailto:gzapata@smu.edu) by Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 pm so students on the waiting lists can enroll.**

In scheduling your other courses, you should take into account the flexibility of time you will need to represent clients. **YOU MUST HAVE COMPLETED 1/2 OF YOUR HOURS FOR GRADUATION (MINIMUM 44 HOURS) BY THE END OF THE FALL SEMESTER 2019.**

**Orientation - Friday, August 14, 2020 from 10-4**

**ORIENTATION IS MANDATORY NO EXCUSED ABSENCES**



LAUNCHED  
SPRING  
2016  
WITH 6  
STUDENT  
ATTORNEYS

# VanSickle Family Law Clinic

## Mission

We exist to increase access to justice and train student attorneys to think and act like competent ethical lawyers.

## Skills

Student attorneys develop fundamental lawyering skills - that can be transferred to any practice area - including, interviewing and counseling clients, negotiating, fact development and analysis, strategic case planning, conflict resolution and decision making, motion and trial practice, drafting pleadings and letters, organization and management of legal work.

## THE CLINIC

The VanSickle Family Law clinic provides legal services to low-income clients in matters of family law such as divorce, child custody, visitation, protective orders, paternity, modifications, enforcements, child support and adoption.

## Casework & Supervision

Student attorneys will be the primary practitioners on cases (as lead counsel or member of a team) and meet one-on-one with the clinical faculty member weekly for guidance, case consultation and updates.

## Real Clients

Student attorneys will have an opportunity to use the law learned, such as civil procedure, while representing real clients.

## Class & Time Commitment

The seminar component will integrate substantive law and theory relevant to family law, core lawyering skills and legal ethics to enhance students' real world law practice experience.

The class will meet twice a week and the pedagogy will include, simulations, exercises, role plays and case-rounds.

It will also include guest speakers, field trips and the clinic's pro se project at the courthouse. You will spend approximately 18 hours a week in the Clinic (includes class time & preparation, etc.) and receive 6 credits for the course.

Class limited to 8 students

Mandatory Orientation  
Friday, August 14, 2020  
at 9 AM

Professional Responsibility is a required co-requisite (may take concurrently)