Legal Clinics

Pre-Registration Packet

Spring

2021

Symplicity ID # 20663
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If I enroll in a Clinic now will I be able to take all the externships I want to take?</td>
<td>Yes. You are limited to 6 externship credits. Clinic credits DO NOT count toward the externship cap.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If I enroll in a clinic, will it take all of my time?</td>
<td>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!</td>
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<tr>
<td>How are Clinics graded if there’s no exam?</td>
<td>Clinic grading is NOT on a mandatory curve; your grade is based on the quality of the representation you provide throughout the semester.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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
1. **Eligibility:** a) **COMPLETION OF One-third** of the hours required for graduation (minimum 29 hours) and all first year course work by the end of the Fall 2020 semester and b) **GPA 2.0 or above.** If you are currently on academic probation, you may not pre-register for any of the clinics.

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<td>Asylum Law Practicum</td>
<td>Spanish proficiency preferred but not required</td>
<td>Non-Applicable</td>
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<td>W.W. Caruth, Jr., Child Advocacy Clinic</td>
<td>Evidence*</td>
<td>Mon. &amp; Tues., Jan. 11-12, 2021</td>
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<td>Civil/Consumer Clinic</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility*</td>
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<td>Criminal Clinic</td>
<td>Evidence*</td>
<td>Mon. &amp; Tues., Jan. 11-12, 2021</td>
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<td>First Amendment Clinic</td>
<td>Evidence and Constitutional Law II (recommended only)</td>
<td>Tues., Jan. 12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility* Evidence and Family Law (recommended only)</td>
<td>Mon. &amp; Tues., Jan. 11-12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innocence Clinic</td>
<td>Evidence*</td>
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<td>Patent Law Clinic</td>
<td>See Patent Clinic Flyer for Requirements</td>
<td>Tues., Jan. 12, 2021</td>
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<td>Small Business &amp; Trademark Clinics</td>
<td>1) Business Enterprise 2) Forming and Operating Closely-Held Businesses (recommended only)</td>
<td>Tues., Jan. 12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Clinic</td>
<td>Federal Income Tax</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VanSickle Family Law Clinic</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility*</td>
<td>Tues., Jan. 12, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, then submit online via Symplicity ID # 20663. **Deadline to submit your Lottery Application online is 8 am on Monday, November 9, 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 day, Thursday, November 12, 2020.**

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, November 16, 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, December 14, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.**
NEW COURSE!

Asylum Law Practicum

Help Asylum Seekers in Mexico
STUDENTS WILL COMPLETE ASYLUM APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS IN MATAMOROS (WAITING THERE PURSUANT TO THE “MIGRANT PROTECTION PROTOCOLS,” A.K.A. THE “REMAIN IN MEXICO POLICY”)

Remote Lawyering Opportunity
ALL CLIENT WORK WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA WHATSAPP, PHONE, AND EMAIL

Non-Profit Partners
STUDENTS WILL WORK ON CASES SELECTED BY LAWYERS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY PROFESSOR NANASI AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF NORTH TEXAS

Weekly Seminar
STUDENTS WILL LEARN ASYLUM LAW, INTERVIEWING/COUNSELING, CROSS-CULTURAL AND TRAUMA-INFORMED LAWYERING, AND OTHER CRITICAL LEGAL SKILLS

Details
3 CREDITS. LIMITED TO 6 STUDENTS. NO ORIENTATION REQUIRED.
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

W.W. CARUTH, JR.
CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC: SPRING 2021
https://www.smu.edu/Law/Clinics/Caruth

OUR CLIENTS:
We represent abused and neglected children 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.

CO-REQUISITE:
Complete Evidence before enrollment OR be enrolled in Evidence while in the Clinic.

CONSIDERATIONS:

► You should expect to spend 12-17 hours each week on casework 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 about once a month (virtually or in person) and will otherwise need to conduct "fieldwork" investigation activities around the Dallas area (and occasionally beyond).

► You will receive 5 credits for this Clinic.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:
Clinic students represent their clients first chair at all hearings, mediations, and trial, with the close supervision of the Director. Clinic students 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 child and young adult clients. 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 often consist of "rounds" where Clinic cases are discussed among the class as a law firm with a Clinic student 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:
January 11, 2021 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (via zoom) and January 12, 2021 all day (in person — barring "face to face" availability changes)
PRACTICE LAW
ON BEHALF OF REAL CLIENTS

Student in the Civil Clinic handle real problems involving real cases as Associate Members of the State Bar of Texas under the supervision of clinic faculty. Currently, students are representing clients in landlord-tenant disputes, consumer fraud, real estate transactions, and matters involving credit and debt. In past semesters, clinic students 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, students 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. In Spring 2021, we anticipate that students will staff the SMU COVID Helpline providing legal assistance to callers impacted by the pandemic.

While all student work is supervised by a clinic faculty member, the student 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. They are responsible for advising and counseling their clients regarding available options, conducting negotiations and mediations, and if needed, engaging in litigation. Clinic students handle all aspects of litigation including case planning, drafting pleadings and discovery, and conducting depositions, and serve as 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 students 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 SPRING 2021 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 Spring 2021 classroom component will meet virtually twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Students 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 29 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, by 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2020.

MANDATORY ORIENTATION-Virtual

- ALL DAY, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.
- No waivers
The Criminal Clinic provides law students who will practice as Associate Members of the State Bar of Texas 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.

Students on the criminal clinic will 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 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. You 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 44th year. The supervising attorneys have been practicing criminal defense law for over a combined 86 years. Criminal Clinic Associate Director Mike McCollum has been with the Clinic for more than 43 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 24 years. The bulk of her practice involves representing individuals charged with felony offenses.

Your responsibility to the Clinic and your clients 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 Spring semester and 4 students for the Summer for 6 credits each. 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.

Students applying for the summer should be aware that they must apply at the same time that the spring clinic students apply. Summer clinic students are required to take the class component of the clinic during the spring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45 PM and are required to observe 3 court settings at The Frank Crowley courthouse and write 3 short reflective/observation papers. Further, summer students will be enrolled in the clinic for the entire summer. This is not a 6-week or 12-week course; participating in the clinic during the summer should be considered in lieu of other internships and work. Summer clinic students will not receive all 6 credit hours in one semester, but students will be able to tell the registrar how they would like to split their hours (as long as at least one credit hour is taken in the spring and at least one is taken in the summer).

To be eligible for the Criminal Clinic, you must be a student in good academic standing, you must have completed at least one-third (29 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: January 11 and 12 all day.

If you MUST DROP Criminal Clinic, you MUST RECEIVE PERMISSION by notifying Administrative Assistant Gloria Zapata at gzapata@smu.edu, by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020, who will then contact Director Chris Jenks and Associate Director Mike McCollum.
The First Amendment Clinic, funded by the Stanton Foundation, focuses 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 worked on cases with First Amendment clinics at Yale Law School and at Cornell Law School.

Clinic Fellow, **Michael Shapiro**, is a newspaper reporter turned media lawyer. He began his legal career at Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a nonprofit that litigates on behalf of journalists and press groups. Before coming to SMU worked as an in-house lawyer at NBCUniversal.

The Clinic expects to represent individuals and media organizations, both non-profit and for-profit, in a range of matters that could include:

- Defamation defense
- Texas Citizens Participation Act proceedings (anti-SLAPP)
- Motions to obtain access to court records and courtroom proceedings
- Challenges to gag orders in criminal and civil cases
- Motions to quash subpoenas of journalists
- Claims defending/advancing the rights of petition or assembly
- Pre-publication review of news articles
- Amicus briefs on First Amendment issues
- Requests for government records under state and federal records laws

**Mandatory Orientation**: Tuesday, January 12, Noon to 3 p.m.

**Class**: Thursdays, 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

**Recommended Courses** Evidence, Constitutional Law II

**Drop date** December 14, 2020, 5 p.m.
Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women

Providing legal representation to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and engaging in projects to seek long-term solutions to gender-based violence

**Fieldwork**

- In teams of two, students 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. Extensive client contact allows students to gain experience interviewing, counseling, and negotiating; drafting motions, pleadings, and legal memoranda; and litigating before a variety of tribunals.

- In teams of four, students will work on advocacy projects such as creating educational or *pro se* materials; writing policy papers or reports; or conducting legislative advocacy.

**Clinic Seminar**

The clinic seminar provides the legal and analytical foundation for students’ lawyering experiences. The discussion-based course includes small group work, role-plays, and other activities to help students gain understanding of and perspective on issues they may experience in their cases.

**Eligibility**

Professional Responsibility is a required co-requisite; Family Law and Evidence are recommended.

A **mandatory orientation** will be held on **January 11 and 12, 2021**.

**Time Commitment**

Students should expect to spend approximately 20 hours per week on clinic work.
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 sixth 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-third (29 hours) of the credits required for graduation by the end of the Fall 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, January 12, 2021, 4:30pm-5:30pm**

Deadline to drop Clinic is Monday, December 14, 2020 by 5:00. You MUST RECEIVE PERMISSION from Administrative Assistant Gloria Zapata (gzapata@smu.edu) who will then contact the Innocence Clinic Professor.
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 communications received from the USPTO.

**Class Time and Credit Hours:** All students will meet with the clinic director on Wednesdays from 4:20pm to 5:50pm for advanced instruction on selected patent prosecution topics. Students successfully completing the Patent Clinic will earn 3 credit hours.

**Eligibility:** To participate in the Patent Clinic: (1) you cannot be a USPTO employee, (2) you must have successfully completed 1/2 of the credits required for graduation, (3) you must not be on academic probation, and (4) you must meet one or more following qualifications: (a) Successful completion of Patent Law; (b) Significant patent-related experience; and/or (c) Registered to practice before the USPTO. Preference will be given to those who have completed or are concurrently enrolled in Patent Prosecution.

Though you need not already be registered to practice before the USPTO, you must have the necessary technical background to qualify to take the Patent Bar examination 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, December 14th 2020 at 5:00 p.m. You must contact Gloria Zapata at gzapata@smu.edu who will then contact the Director.
- Orientation: Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 9:00-3:00 via Zoom.
- Class: Wednesdays 4:20
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. In addition, this Clinic is a member of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s prestigious Law School Clinic program. Law students will act as Associate Members of the State Bar of Texas. Clinic students will learn how to advise clients about the start-up of their businesses and non-profit corporations, prepare necessary formation documents, counsel clients regarding various legal issues, and draft contracts, licenses and assignments. Students will also advise clients about basic trademark matters, research availability of trademarks as well as draft, file and handle federal trademark applications with the USPTO and state trademark applications with the Secretary of State.

If you are accepted for the Small Business and Trademark Clinic, you will work directly with clients in the transactional practice of law and represent clients with trademark and/or copyright matters.

Number of Students 6 for Spring 2021
Prerequisites Business Enterprises and a student in good standing.
Recommended course Counseling the Small Business Owner (not required).
Time Commitment Minimum 135 working hours during the semester. You need to be available during the day.
Class Tuesday 8:30-9:50 am
Credit 3 credits, no exam.
Orientation Tuesday, January 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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 by 5:00 p.m. on December 14th, 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 1/3 OF YOUR HOURS FOR GRADUATION (MINIMUM 29 HOURS) BY THE END OF THE FALL SEMESTER 2020.

ORIENTATION IS MANDATORY. NO EXCUSED ABSENCES PERMITTED.
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.

Prerequisites: Federal Income Taxation and a student in good standing.

Time Commitment: Minimum of 12 hours per week. You need to be available during the day.

Class: Monday & Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:45

Credit: 4 hours for the spring semester

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 by noon on Monday, December 14th, 2020 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 1/3 OF YOUR HOURS FOR GRADUATION (MINIMUM 29 HOURS) BY THE END OF THE FALL SEMESTER 2020.

Orientation – Tuesday, January 12th 9:00-12:00

ORIENTATION IS MANDATORY NO EXCUSED ABSENCES
VanSickle Family Law Clinic

Mission
We exist to increase access to justice and mentor student associates to think and act like competent ethical lawyers.

Skills
Student associates 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, modifications, enforcements, child support & adoption. We also partner with IRC to work on unaccompanied children cases (SUS).

Real Clients
Student associates 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.

Casework & Supervision
Students will be the primary practitioners on cases (as lead counsel or member of a team) & meet one-on-one weekly with supervising attorney for guidance, case consultation & updates.

Class limited to 8 students Mandatory Orientation Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 9AM Professional Responsibility is a required co-requisite (may take concurrently)