

**CIVIL LEGAL CLINIC
FALL SEMESTER 2013
REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

The Civil Legal Clinic is your chance to represent real clients with serious legal issues. As a member of the Clinic, you will be assigned a leadership role in several client matters that you will attempt to resolve or move forward under the close supervision of experienced attorneys and professors.

CLINIC SECTIONS

The Civil Legal Clinic offers five separate clinical sections in Fall 2013. Clinic students work in groups on cases or projects within their separate section, under the direct supervision of their clinical supervisor. The Clinic sections include:

Child Advocacy Clinic (5 hours). Students are appointed by the Court to investigate allegations of neglect and abuse and to make written recommendations to the Court regarding the best interests of the child. Students in the Child Advocacy Clinic conduct in-depth investigations by performing home visits, reviewing medical and school records, and interviewing fact witnesses. This section is offered for 5 hours of graded credit and is supervised by attorney David Calder. The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Low-Income Housing Clinic (5 hours). Students bring and defend cases, negotiate, and give advice in order to assist individuals and families facing conflicts with their landlord, eviction, foreclosure, or housing discrimination. Students take responsibility for the management of their own cases, meet with clients, interview witnesses, draft motions and pleadings, and appear in court. This section is offered for 5 hours of graded credit and is supervised by Clinic Director Desiree Hensley. The class is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 12:00.

Transactional Clinic (3 hours): Students offer services to low-income entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations to foster economic development, increase access to capital, promote job growth, and enable sustainable home ownership, particularly in the Mississippi Delta. The types of work involved in the clinic may include: entity formation and choice of entity counseling, contract negotiation and preparation, corporate and commercial financing, shareholder agreements, business acquisitions and sales, commercial leasing, licensing, permitting, and zoning advice, trademark and copyright advice, registration and intellectual property licensing, corporate governance and compliance, tax exempt applications and various other kinds of business-related transactional legal work. The clinic is supervised by attorneys Cameron Abel and Marie Cope. The class is offered for 3 hours of graded credit and will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Elder Law Clinic (4 hours). Students write wills, prepare health care directives and Powers of Attorney, advise clients on nursing home and Medicaid regulations, and provide advice at meal centers and nursing homes. This section is supervised by

Catherine V. Kilgore, Director of the Elder Law Project at North Mississippi Rural Legal Services. The class is offered for 4 hours of graded credit and will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Street Law Clinic (3 hours). Students conduct client interviews at the Oxford Food Pantry storeroom, where they gain invaluable experience in interviewing and counseling clients of the Food Pantry regarding public benefits, housing, family law, consumer law, property, wills and other civil issues. This section is offered for 3 hours of graded credit and is supervised by Minnie Howard, Managing Attorney at North Mississippi Rural Legal Services. **Note: Students enrolled in this Clinic section must work at the Food Pantry each Wednesday from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.** In addition to the Pantry meetings, the class meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

REQUIRED COURSE COMPONENTS

Required Orientation for those enrolled in the Fall 2013 Semester

At the beginning of each semester, students enrolled in the Civil Legal Clinic are required to participate in an intensive orientation session where they become familiar with Clinic policies and procedures, as well as receive training on practical skills necessary to best represent clients. ***Please note that students must attend orientation in its entirety or they will not be permitted to continue in the course. No exceptions will be made.*** For the Fall 2013 Semester, orientation will take place during the week before classes begin, on Thursday, August 22nd and Friday, August 23rd. Please mark your calendars accordingly, and details will be provided once you are notified that you may enroll in the Civil Legal Clinic.

Class work

Clinic sections attend class with their direct supervisor according to the course schedule. As with any other law school class, Clinic class includes completing readings and assignments according to the syllabus provided to you by the section supervisor.

Casework and Supervision

In addition to class time, students also meet with their supervisors individually or in small teams on a regular and “as needed” basis as required by the progress of their client matters. It is necessary to leave time in your daily and weekly schedule to work on your cases if you accept a position in the Clinic. **NOTE: Additional supervision meetings are scheduled at a time that is mutually convenient for you and your supervisor and will be in addition to the hours that appear on the course schedule.**

Clinic students are expected to represent their clients zealously and with a high degree of professionalism. This means that students are required to make time in their schedules as needed to attend court, meet deadlines, travel to interview witnesses and clients, prepare for trial, etc. The clinic requires students to spend a minimum of 90 to 150 hours (30 hours of client work per credit) doing casework each semester. The number of hours a student actually works, however, could be significantly more than the requirement, depending upon the course or the student’s cases. In addition, almost all sections of the Civil Clinic require travel out of the area and court attendance. All students are expected to travel as needed to complete their casework or attend court, even if this means missing

another class now and then.

Office Work

Students are in charge of staffing the Clinic's phone in-take line. Individuals call the in-take line to request legal assistance, and students interview them in order to determine whether the Clinic can take their case. At the beginning of the semester, the students meet to determine how they will run the in-take line. Typically, the students sign up to staff the intake line for a couple of hours per week so that the line is staffed during business hours every weekday.

OTHER DETAILS

Credit

Clinic students receive three to five hours of graded credit, depending on the section enrolled in. Class requirements include the successful participation in and completion of all items in the "COURSE COMPONENTS" section above.

Registration

The Clinic is open to all second and third year students. There are not enough spaces in the Clinic to meet demand and registration is competitive. First priority will be given to those students who demonstrate the most interest in participating in the Clinic. We recommend that you enroll in an alternate class, that you can later drop, just in case you are not offered enrollment in the Clinic.

To apply, fill out the Civil Legal Clinic registration form and submit a brief statement of interest. If you are interested in only one section, do not list other sections. If you are interested in only three sections, list the three in order of priority, but don't list others. We attempt to accommodate student preference when we assign students to a section, but this is not always possible and you may be offered enrollment in a section that is not your first priority.

Please leave your completed registration materials in the box on the reception desk located just inside Room 1102. Enrollment forms will be accepted until Tuesday, March 19th at 5:00 pm. Students will be notified of their selection by Thursday, March 28th. If you are admitted, we will forward your name to the registrar, who will enroll you in the Clinic.

Mississippi Limited Practice Act (MLPA)

Pursuant to the MLPA, typically only 3L students meet the qualifications necessary to be sworn in to the Mississippi Bar or to the U.S. Court for the Northern District of Mississippi in order to make limited court appearances. 2L students who are ineligible under the MLPA may still be enrolled in the Clinic and can fully participate in representing clients; however, they will not be sworn in and may not appear in court.