

CIVIL LITIGATION CLINIC

Fall 2024 - Professors Tamara Kuennen & Trent Cromartie

The Civil Litigation Clinic ("CLC") students represent low-income clients in a variety of civil cases. During Fall 2024, these cases will likely fall within the areas of landlord-tenant, wage/employment, replevin, and intimate partner violence law. These cases, most often litigated in county court, involve little pre-trial discovery; however, civil discovery and procedure will be substantively addressed during the semester. As a result, the CLC focuses on trial and general litigation skills. The speed with which the cases proceed to trial (generally two to four weeks) affords students the opportunity to handle several cases in their entirety, including conducting the initial client interview and all factual investigation, developing a case theory and an opening statement, closing argument, direct and cross examination of all witnesses, and conducting the trials themselves.

Are there any prerequisites?

Evidence and Legal Profession are highly recommended as pre-requisites and are co-requisites if not already taken.

Are classes required?

Yes. Class will meet twice per week on M/W afternoons from 1:15 pm to 2:50 pm, and students will schedule one weekly supervision session with faculty at a mutually agreed upon time.

How many credits will I receive?

Students will receive a total of nine credits: four credits for the in-class component and five for the out of class (case work) component.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The Civil Litigation Clinic requires a substantial time commitment, though the time commitment may vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of litigation. Students should plan to spend (on average) 20 hours per week working on client-related matters. Students are not permitted to participate in externships or clerkships while enrolled in a clinic unless given permission in advance.

What are the benefits of taking this clinic?

The model of the Civil Litigation Clinic is based on student self-direction and experiential learning. Because of this focus, students have a great deal of input and the ability to shape their clinical experience. Students obtain a variety of learning experiences and may seek out cases in their expressed areas of interest. Other benefits include: court experience, negotiation experience, application of the rules of evidence, development of public speaking, oral advocacy and relationship-building skills, and exposure to a type of learning other than that offered in many traditional law school classes.

Where can I get more information?

- **Student Law Office Mixer** - Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in the Law Forum, 4:00pm-6:00pm
- **Clinic Fair** - Tuesday, March 19, 2024, in the Law Forum, 11am -1:00pm
- **SOpen House** - Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the Student Law Office suite 335, 3:00pm-5:30pm

How and when do I apply or register?

- Online applications open Mon Mar. 18th, 2024, at 9:00am
- Online applications close Sun Mar. 24th, 2024, at 11:59pm
 - Late Applications will not be considered.

More information and clinic applications can be found at <https://www.law.du.edu/student-law-office>