CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES AT THE REMINGTON CENTER

CORRECTIONS-BASED CLINICAL PROJECTS

LAIP  (Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project)

LAIP is open to students who have finished their first year of course work. The LAIP project provides assistance to inmates in state prisons throughout Wisconsin. Under the direct supervision of clinical faculty, students visit the institutions, interview clients, and develop a varied caseload dealing with such matters as postconviction criminal law, sentence credit, debt resolution, and resolution of pending fines or charges.

LAIP provides valuable training in legal skills such as factual investigation, strategizing about a case, research, writing, and negotiating. LAIP also gives students an in-depth education about correctional institutions, the people in them, the human consequences of confinement, and the ways in which lawyers can help confined people. Finally, LAIP allows students to develop an understanding of the lawyer’s professional responsibility to the client and to the justice system. Questions? Contact Clinical Professor Meredith Ross at mjross1@wisc.edu.

Oxford Federal Project

In this project, students represent clients at the federal prison at Oxford, Wisconsin. Students take front line responsibility for representing their clients, and develop their lawyering abilities by assisting their clients with a wide variety of problems. These generally center around the validity of federal convictions and sentences under the complex federal sentencing laws. Other client problems typically involve resolving outstanding criminal matters from other jurisdictions, return of property, immigration issues (we have number of clients who speak only Spanish), U.S. Parole Commission hearings, and any other issues that can be handled competently. Students also have the opportunity to represent a defendant on a federal criminal appeal before the Seventh Circuit. Questions? Contact Clinical Professor Meredith Ross at mjross@wisc.edu.
Family Law Project

Incarcerated parents often face great barriers to establishing or maintaining relationships with their children. One of the main reasons is that there is a lack of awareness on the part of court officials and other attorneys involved in the family court system of the importance for most children to have some meaningful connection and contact with both parents, even when a parent is in prison. In the Family Law Project (FLP), students have the opportunity to help incarcerated parents and their children by representing male and female prison inmates in divorce, paternity, custody/placement and child support cases, in various stages of litigation.

The FLP is available to a limited number of students who have finished their first year of law school. Each student will be responsible for all aspects of managing his/her own caseload, including interviewing and counseling clients; interviewing witnesses; drafting opinion letters; investigating claims; drafting and filing pleadings; negotiating settlement agreements with opposing counsel or parties; writing trial briefs; and preparing for and conducting hearings before family court commissioners and circuit court judges. Additional projects may be offered, such as updating pro se family law materials and making presentations to inmates, attorneys and/or court officials.

Questions? Contact Clinical Assistant Professor Leslie Shear at ldshear@wisc.edu.

Restorative Justice Project

In the Restorative Justice Project, students will primarily be involved with facilitating face-to-face meetings (“victim offender conferencing”) or other contact between people victimized by crime and the people who were found guilty of offending against them. Such work will provide the students the opportunity to work outside of the adversarial process which characterizes most of the criminal justice system. This work also gives students the opportunity to develop negotiation and mediation skills and to assess the effects of a process outside the adversarial nature of the traditional criminal justice system.

This project is available to a limited number of students who have completed their first year of law school. A summer/fall and a fall/spring program will be available. Participating students will also have the opportunity to work on a limited number of family law cases, representing Wisconsin prison inmates. See the Family Law Project description for more details regarding the type of cases the family law work will involve. Questions? Contact Clinical Associate Professor Pete DeWind at pjdewind@wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Innocence Project

In recent years, a number of wrongly convicted individuals have been released from prison after new evidence, often scientific evidence such as DNA testing, has established that they were actually innocent. In this three-semester project (summer + fall + spring), fifteen to twenty 2nd- and 3rd-year law students investigate and litigate claims of innocence cases involving inmates in Wisconsin and other states. The students’ clinical work is complemented by a classroom
component which focuses on problems in the criminal justice system that contribute most often to
convicting the innocent; the nature and uses of DNA and other scientific evidence; rules governing
the admissibility of such evidence; postconviction discovery rules; state and federal postconviction
procedures; and the competing interests of finality and accuracy in criminal litigation. **Questions?**
Contact Clinical Professor John Pray at japray@wisc.edu, or Clinical Professor Keith Findley at
kafindle@wisc.edu.

**Clinical Semester: Federal Postconviction Project**

This project offers an immersion clinical semester to a limited number of upcoming second
and third year students. For one semester during the academic year, students take 13 credits of
clinical work, and a two-credit seminar, for a total of 15 credits for the semester. In this project,
students represent clients at the federal prison at Oxford, Wisconsin. Students take front line
responsibility for representing their clients, and develop their lawyering abilities by assisting their
clients with a wide variety of problems. These generally center around the validity of federal
convictions and sentences under the complex federal sentencing laws. Other client problems
typically involve resolving outstanding criminal matters from other jurisdictions, return of property,
immigration issues (we have number of clients who speak only Spanish), U.S. Parole Commission
hearings, and any other issue that can be handled competently. Students make one to two visits each
week to the prison to meet with their clients. **Questions?** Contact Clinical Professor Meredith Ross
at mjross1@wisc.edu.

**Criminal Appeals Project**

The Criminal Appeals Project is an opportunity for students to work in pairs, under the
supervision of clinical faculty, on one or two criminal appeals. This two-semester (fall + spring)
project is open to up to eighteen 2nd- and 3rd-year law students. The project combines a clinical
component (work on clients’ direct appeals) with class work on appellate procedure, client-centered
representation on appeal, issue spotting, and persuasive writing. Appeals are timed so that the
transcripts begin arriving early in the fall semester. Assuming that a case has merit, postconviction
litigation in the trial court or briefing in the Court of Appeals takes place during the spring semester.
**Questions?** Contact Clinical Assistant Professor Byron Lichstein at bclichstein@wisc.edu.

**Community Supervision Legal Assistance Project (CSLAP)**

CSLAP provides a wide range of legal assistance to clients who are on community
supervision through the Wisconsin Department of Corrections' Division of Community Corrections.
The clinic emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to legal representation and provides assistance
to clients with civil, criminal, and administrative matters. Specific areas of assistance include
housing law, employment discrimination, child support, disability law, correction of credit reports,
revocation hearings, alternatives to revocation, early release from supervision, and disposition of
criminal matters. **Questions?** Contact Clinical Professor Judy Olingy at jeolingy@wisc.edu.
THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE INSTITUTE’S CIVIL CLINICAL PROJECTS

Neighborhood Law Project

The Neighborhood Law Project (NLP) is a community-based civil clinic, emphasizing housing, employment, and public benefits law. NLP’s office is on South Park Street, and students have extensive client contact in Madison’s low-income neighborhoods. Along with meeting clients at the community office, students do presentations and intake outreach all around Madison. NLP students represent clients in small claims court, circuit court and at administrative hearings. NLP students also gain interviewing, counseling, and advocacy skills, as well as knowledge about law and poverty. Questions? Contact Clinical Assistant Professor William Carlos Weeden at wcweeden@wisc.edu.

Consumer Law Litigation Clinic

The Consumer Law Litigation Clinic represents low-income consumers in individual and class action lawsuits on a variety of consumer protection issues, including misrepresentation, fraud, bad faith insurance claim denials, anti-trust violations, credit scams, unfair debt collection and "fringe banking" abuses by the rent-to-own and payday loan companies. The Clinic also provides consumers with workshops on handling their finances, and advocates for consumers before the Wisconsin Legislature and administrative agencies. Questions? Contact Clinical Professor Steve Meili at semeili@wisc.edu.

Family Court Assistance Project

The Family Court Assistance Project (FCAP) is a hands-on experience for law students, designed to provide information, education and assistance with both forms and processes to self-represented family law litigants to help them navigate the court process and emerge with the relief to which they are entitled under the law. FCAP students work at the Dane County Courthouse and with the NLP students at our community office in an economically challenged area of Madison. Students learn substantive family law and apply their knowledge when assisting consumers in both limited service and full representation. FCAP also offers unique opportunities for students to work with other family law attorneys in the community. They observe court hearings in a variety of contexts, including the beginning of a divorce or paternity matter and a contested trial or a domestic abuse restraining order hearing. They discuss and reflect on their observations and their work during weekly class individual supervision meetings. Questions? Contact Clinical Associate Professor Marsha Mansfield at mmmansfield@wisc.edu.
EXTERNSHIP PROJECTS

Prosecution Project

The Prosecution Project represents a joint effort by the Law School and a number of Wisconsin counties to sponsor summer internships for law students in prosecutors’ offices throughout the state. The project is open to 2nd-year law students, and consists of four parts: (1) a 3-credit seminar during the spring of the students’ second year which provides an in-depth understanding of the role of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system; (2) a 2-credit trial advocacy course to prepare students for their summer internships; (3) a 10-week paid summer internship in a Wisconsin prosecutor’s office; and (4) a 2-credit seminar in the fall of the students’ third year. The application and interview process for the project begins in mid-October. Questions? Contact Clinical Associate Professor Ben Kempinen at kempinen@wisc.edu.

Public Defender Project

Students are accepted into the Public Defender Project to intern in State Public Defender Offices throughout Wisconsin during the summer following their second year of law school. In the spring of the students’ second year, there is a required seminar in basic procedures and an intensive two week trial advocacy course. The classroom component is followed by a ten week paid internship. Participating students are certified to appear in court under Wisconsin’s student practice rules. Students provide representation to individual clients in criminal and juvenile cases and have the opportunity to work on all facets of the defense of a case, including evidentiary motions and jury trials. The summer internship is followed by a fall seminar in which students share and reflect upon their summer experiences. Questions? Contact Clinical Professor Michele LaVigne at mlavigne@wisc.edu.

Gary P. Hayes Police-Prosecution Internships

In this project, students spend a summer working jointly with a Wisconsin district attorney’s office and a police agency or sheriff’s department within that prosecutorial jurisdiction. Placements are based on a match between a willing and knowledgeable police executive, district attorney, and student. Each student’s work will focus on one or more public safety problems of special concern to both the prosecutor and the police. The intern will assist the prosecutor and police in examining the problem—its scope and severity, its causes and contributing factors, the state of the current responses, and the relative effectiveness of current responses. The student will then produce a final report on the problem to be submitted to the Law School and the participating prosecution and police agencies. Participating students would enroll in the classroom components of the Prosecution Project as well as Professor Scott’s spring policing seminar. Questions? Contact Clinical Associate Professor Michael Scott at mscott@wisc.edu or Clinical Associate Professor Ben Kempinen at kempinen@wisc.edu.