



Levin College of Law UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA



Clinics and Experiential Learning

DEVELOPING LEGAL SKILLS

As part of its commitment to experiential learning, UF Law offers nine legal clinics. During the 2017-2018 academic year, over 100 students participated in our clinics. Working in civil and criminal practice settings, clinic students interview clients, draft pleadings, conduct discovery, research and write motions and briefs, and help provide legal counseling to clients.



NEW CUTTING EDGE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING HUB

In 2018, UF's clinic space was transformed into the cutting-edge Experiential Learning Hub. The completely redesigned space, which incorporates more natural light, is built on a floor plan designed to optimize client-student-faculty interaction.

Virgil Hawkins Civil Clinics

FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC

Students represent clients with various family law issues, including dissolution of marriage, division of assets, and establishing paternity. Students in the clinic learn many important practical legal skills, including client intake, establishing factual records, writing and arguing motions, advocating at mediation, and taking cases to trial.

GATOR TEAMCHILD JUVENILE LAW CLINIC

Students advocate for children in many areas of juvenile law, including dependency, delinquency, and expunction. Students also learn the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to lawyering by consulting with an in-house social worker who provides assistance on cases.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE CLINIC (IPVAC)

The IPVAC clinic was the first in the nation to utilize a multidisciplinary team of professionals consisting of lawyers, law students, and mental health professionals who provide counseling to victims of intimate partner violence. Students, working in federal and state courts, help clients with a variety of legal issues, including orders of protection.

IMMIGRATION CLINIC

Funded by a grant from the Florida Bar Foundation, this clinic is an outgrowth of IPVAC. Students help clients obtain visas through claims under the Violence Against Women Act and U Visas under the Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000. Students also engage in rural community outreach providing information about the immigration process.

COUNTY COURT MEDIATION CLINIC

Students gain valuable experience by observing mediation of civil matters filed in small claims courts. Students also have the opportunity to serve as "co-mediators" on cases. Upon completion of program requirements, students may acquire status as a County Court Mediator, certified by the Florida Supreme Court.

VETERANS' CLINIC

UF's newest clinic will provide legal service on a host of issues affecting veterans, including discharge review, access to records, expunctions, consumer protection, and landlord/tenant law. The clinic gives students the opportunity to interview clients, conduct legal research and will draft legal documents. Students may serve clients with complex mental health issues, such as PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma.

Virgil Hawkins mounted an historic legal battle to desegregate UF. Hawkins was denied admission to UF in 1949. He challenged this decision in a lawsuit that culminated in a Supreme Court ruling ordering UF to end its policy of racial discrimination. In 1989, the State of Florida and UF Law honored Hawkins's courage and persistence by naming the civil clinics after him.

Conservation Clinic

Law students and graduate students in conservation-related fields work on cutting edge environmental and land use law and policy issues. The Conservation Clinic gives students the opportunity to assist with transactional matters, such as the drafting of easements and conducting research and providing analysis regarding national and state policy matters. Recent clients include the Alachua Conservation Trust, Florida Springs Institute, Sea Turtle Conservancy, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Community Land Trust Institute, Working Food, and Wildlife Conservation Society. The Conservation Clinic is a project in UF Law's Center for Governmental Responsibility.



Criminal Clinics

Students in UF Law's criminal clinics work in field placements at the Public Defender and State Attorney's offices.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

This clinic provides students an opportunity to defend clients charged with criminal offenses. Students spend a minimum of 25 hours a week on site at the Public Defender's Office or Regional Conflict Counsel's Office. Students explore the unique dynamics of the attorney/client relationship in criminal proceedings. They also learn discovery techniques, client interviewing, case analysis, plea negotiation, evidentiary issues, and ethical concerns that arise in the context of criminal defense practice.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION CLINIC

This clinic provides students an opportunity to represent the state in criminal matters. Students spend a minimum of 25 hours a week on-site at the Alachua County State Attorney's office. Participation in the Criminal Prosecution Clinic exposes students to all aspects of the prosecution of criminal cases, including intake, investigation, discovery, pretrial proceedings, trial, and sentencing. Students also have the opportunity to try cases before a jury under the supervision of an Assistant State Attorney.

Other Experiential Learning

UF has thriving and expanding Externship and Semester in Practice programs. Over 300 UF Law students take advantage of these programs yearly. Students gain valuable practice skills and real world experience while earning academic credit.

Externships

Externship students work for a number of different entities, including federal and state courts, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and in-house counsel for private organizations. Students who choose to complete externships between their second and third years of law school may be eligible for public interest fellowships from the law school.

Semester in Practice

The Semester in Practice program allows third-year students to work in practice settings outside of Gainesville. Our students have worked in a variety of locations, including Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York City, and Denver. The wide range of businesses and agencies that participate in the Semester in Practice program allows students to choose from many different practice settings. Students have worked at the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Federal Trade Commission, Americans for Immigrant Justice, and NASCAR, to name but a few sites.

Clinic Alumni *share their thoughts*



The hands-on experience I gained while enrolled in the Prosecution Clinic gave me a direct path to employment at the State Attorney's Office immediately upon graduation. Before I ever sat for the bar exam, I had argued motions, presented evidence in multiple jury trials, and gained invaluable training and practice while under the supervision and guidance of some of the best trial attorneys in Florida.

Katherine S. Artman, J.D.'13
Associate Attorney
at Stephen H. Artman, P.A.



The experience and mentorship I received during my time in the Family Advocacy Clinic was invaluable. Although I ended up in the healthcare law field after graduating, my clinic work prepared me for any path with real life cases, clients and research. I left law school with the confidence to quickly adapt and succeed in my chosen career.

Jennilyn Nevins, J.D.'12
Senior Director
of Compliance Operations,
EnvisionRx





Levin College of Law
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

P.O. Box 117625
Gainesville, FL 32611-7625
www.law.ufl.edu

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gainesville, FL
Permit No. 94



Levin College of Law
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Clinics and Experiential Learning