**Social Justice Lawyering Field Placement**

LAW6940, 14455

2 credits

Fall 2021

Time and location TBD

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*MTW 2:30-3:30 or by appointment. Available anytime via email.*

# COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OUTCOME

# The Social Justice Lawyering (SJL) Field Placement explores how legal professionals can advance social justice, encourages students to engage with broader social justice communities, and teaches how to be pursue paid or pro bono work that focuses on social justice after graduation. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to selected causes. Field placement outcomes will be the development and performance of individual and group strategies to address specific social justice issues under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Enrollment in the SJL course is a co-requisite for enrollment in the SJL field placement component.

# MATERIALS

# Required readings for each field placement project are linked within the Project Descriptions (Assignments Tab) and posted for each project within the Files tab. Students must complete readings before their first meeting with their supervisors. In addition to the required readings, students are responsible for seeking out relevant information if needed to ensure they have the necessary skills to complete the assigned deliverable work product. This may include asking their supervisors for additional background material.

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

# Field Placement Process:

# SJL Field Placements are experiential learning processes. Students will work for a legal organization or a community group to complete field placements under the supervision of attorneys and consistent with the rules of professional responsibility. Each field placement requires deliverable work products and a final presentation to the SJL class, as outlined below.

# Students will select a field placement project described in the Assignments Tab on Canvas. Students can sign up through the Sign-Up page in the Pages tab. The 2021 projects require students to work in teams of two to four, depending on total enrollment in the field placement component.

# Also posted on Canvas in the Files tab are introductory readings for each project to assist students in making project selections. Students are required to read the introductory readings for their projects before their first meeting with the client organization or supervising attorney.

# In addition to the introductory readings, students are responsible for ensuring they seek out relevant information (including by asking their supervising attorneys) to ensure they have the necessary skills to complete the assigned deliverable work product.

# After signing up for a field placement, students must meet as a group, and arrange to meet their supervising attorney or community organization.

# There are six written components that must be submitted on CANVAS for each field placement, as described in the sections that follow and in CANVAS. Group components can be submitted once under one team member’s name. Individual reports must be submitted by each student. Please note that deadlines are firm.

## Field Placement Contracts: Students must meet with their supervisors before the deadline for Field Placement Contracts and Work Plans. Objectives for this first meeting include:

### Students will read background material for their project prior to the meeting and be prepared to discuss.

### Supervisors will provide additional background information about the project and their organization’s goals. Students should ask thoughtful questions.

### Together, students and supervisors will decide the expected requirements of the final deliverable project, including: (1) research required (factual and/or legal); (2) description of work product; and (3) whether there are professional obligations related to the duty of confidentiality that apply to all or some of the project. Students will draft these sections of the Field Placement Contract and provide to the supervising attorney for their review prior to the contract submission deadline.

### Supervisors and students will also discuss any other requirements of the project and students will add these to the section of the Field Placement Contract titled “Social Justice Student Lawyering Team Responsibilities.” For example, the supervising attorney may require students to orally present the final project at a meeting. A date and time for that presentation should be selected in advance.

### Supervisors and students should establish a framework and schedule for communication. Field Placements generally require additional phone calls or emails to check in about progress and have questions answered by the supervisors. The timeframe for periodic check-ins should be discussed at this initial meeting and put into the Field Placement Contact under the section titled “Social Justice Lawyering Team Responsibilities.”

### Students should ask questions to ensure that they have enough information about the project to develop a work plan (including additional reading materials or suggested avenues of research).

## Work Plans: Students must divide work responsibilities among team members. It is up to the team to decide how the best divide the project responsibilities according to the skills and personalities of each team member. For example, some people are extroverted and like to talk to other people while some prefer to do research. *It is not mandatory that every team member be involved in every task, unless that is how students decide to divide responsibilities.* Everyone on the team, however, must be familiar with the background of the issue. The Work Plan must demonstrate a reasonable division of labor among team members, diligence, and a realistic timeframe for completion of project objectives.

### Students will prepare Field Placement Contracts and Work Plans after meeting with their supervisors. Students must submit these documents for review by the supervisors (and obtain supervisor’s signature on the contract) prior to submission on CANVAS.

## Field placement Progress Reports:Students will prepare a brief progress reports (no more than 2 pages) answering the following questions: (1) What impact do you think your project will have? (2) Is there a person or activity you find interesting or challenging in your project? Discuss. (3) Describe any concerns you have about the project.

## Rough Drafts: Students MUST submit rough drafts of deliverables to the supervisors by the deadline and request feedback or required revisions.

## Final Products:Final products must incorporate edits and revisions suggested by supervisors and instructors. Students must also submit final products to their supervisors.

## Individual Reports: Please submit answers to the following questions in a report no more than 3 pages: (1) How is your field placement relevant to what you have learned in class? (2) What was your most valuable contribution to the field placement? (3) Did your group function effectively as a team? Why/why not?

# Presentations. In addition to the written work products described above, student teams will make presentations of their field placements in the SJL class at the end of the semester. Students may invite anyone they would like to attend the presentation. Supervisors will also be invited to attend.

# Time Expectations: Students should expect to spend an average of approximately 7 hours/week on their field placements. If a student plans to use this field placement to fulfill the pro bono requirement, it is advisable to keep a time sheet.

# Field Placement Timeline:

# Field placement sign-up open – Monday 8/30/21, 5 pm.

# Field placement sign-up closed, teams finalized, and notified by email – Wednesday,

#  9/1/21, 5pm.

# Field placement Contract/Work Plan due – Wednesday, 9/15/21, submit on CANVAS by

#  5pm.

# Field placement Progress Reports due – Wednesday, 10/6/21, submit on CANVAS by 5

#  pm.

# Field placement Rough Drafts due – Monday, 11/8/21, submit on CANVAS by 5pm.

# Field placement Presentations – Monday, 11/15/21, IN CLASS.

# Final work products and individual reports due – Monday, 11/22/21, submit on

#  CANVAS by 5 pm.

# GRADING PROCESS

# The SJL Field Placement is a two-credit, pass/fail course. All components of the course will be considered when evaluating students’ performances. Supervisors will also provide their feedback on student performance. A copy of the form that they will use is posted on CANVAS so students understand in advance the criteria that will be used to evaluate their work. Other elements considered when evaluating student performance may include:

## Fulfillment of Ethical Obligations to “Client”

## Successful completion of agreed-upon scope of work to “client”

## Level of professional responsibility including diligence and competence

## Sense of responsibility

## Ability to work with minimal levels of supervision

## Quality of Legal Research and Analysis (if applicable)

## Accuracy & understanding of legal rules

## Relevance of selected legal authorities

## Reasonable basis for conclusions

## Explanation of context

## Writing and Presentation Style

## Organization

## Clarity of presentation

## Clear and concise language

## Content is appropriate for the audience

## Reflection

## Critical thinking about the link between what students learned in the classroom and what they learned in the community

## Understanding of broader social justice issues and the political, social, legal, and economic factors that impede or contribute to solving these issues

## Fair evaluation of self and team members

**UF POLICIES**

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities:**

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Brian Mitchell when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Academic Misconduct:**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should understand the UF Student Honor Code located [here](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/).

**Online Course Evaluation:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click [here](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/) for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).