Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic

Spring 2021 Syllabus

LAW 6940-17559

Rm: 355D

Professor/Director: Teresa Drake, drake@law.ufl.edu & [drake.t@uflawclinics.org](mailto:drake.t@uflawclinics.org) (CLIENT RELATED COMMUNICATION ONLY)

Office Location: Virgil Hawkins Civil Clinic

Phone: 352-273-0825

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon, 2-3 PM via Zoom through <https://calendly.com/drake-ipvac> Student meetings can also be set at other times by contacting Professor Drake at her email.

6 credit hours

<http://statements.ufl.edu/statements/2020/june/another-step-toward-positive-change-against-racism.html>

**Course Objectives:**  The Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic (IPVAC), which is a part of The Virgil Hawkins Civil Clinic (VHCC), operates simultaneously as a trauma-informed law office and as a classroom. We take a deep dive into the law and delivery of services to survivors of IPV (domestic, dating, sexual, and stalking violence). Law students will learn and practice interviewing and counseling skills, draft pleadings, develop trial strategies, prepare and represent clients in court, and understand the basic workings of a multidisciplinary team. Students are expected to think deeply about the universe of a survivor’s situation, not just the particular legal issue in front of him/her/them. Students will also survey social justice issues that impact the lives of survivors specifically, and the practice of law in general. These topics include, but are not limited to, poverty, race, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity and health/housing inequities. The Clinic aims to teach law students to be skilled, self-reflective lawyers equipped to litigate and counsel in various fields such as State Circuit Court civil injunction.

**Outline of Subjects to be Covered**: Because this is a “live” clinic, some of our class outline remains fluid to accommodate the discussion of current issues. Each week students will be informed of the topics and required readings via CANVAS. The following is a list of topics that will be included: interview/counseling, civil injunctions, legal writing, court procedures, dependency procedures, criminal procedures, civil procedures, preparing clients for court, confidentiality in a multi-disciplinary setting, lethality assessments and safety planning, professional responsibility and ethical considerations, investigations by the Department of Children and Families, criminal justice system, family law (timesharing), paternity, law enforcement procedures, strangulation, effects of IPV/Adverse Childhood Experiences on children, the biology of trauma, representing trauma survivors, intergenerational trauma, intersectionality, cross cultural counseling, working with translators, resources for those who abuse, IPV in the LGBTQ communities, IPV in the homeless community, IPV in the immigrant community, affordable housing for indigent clients, state and federal aid to indigent survivors, immigration law, judicial battering, vicarious trauma, and self-care. All readings are on Canvas.

**Assignments for First Two-Three Weeks of Class:**

First Day of Class: All students will meet at 9 am, Tuesday, January 19, 2021. This may be a hybrid class with some students online and others in the classroom. All assignments will be on Canvas.

**IPVAC Student Goals:**

**1.** Become competent at basic lawyering, including using technology to connect clients and court, through classroom simulation and client/courtroom experience, this includes cultural competency;

2. Further develop skills and professional identity through reflective supervision and feedback;

3. Become familiar with concepts of lawyering for social change through a domestic violence framework;

4. Become familiar with the concepts of intersectionality as it relates to poverty, gender, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity;

5. Value interdisciplinary relationships with other professionals such as social workers and health care professionals, as well as partners in the community;

6. Critically analyze the terms “justice” and “winning”;

7. Learn that lawyers can bring their hearts, values and convictions to their legal work and professional identity;

8. Understand vicarious trauma and its impact on lawyers both as experienced through client interactions and systematic injustices; and

9. Develop skills to support healthfulness in lawyering and living.

The Virgil Hawkins Civil Clinic (VHCC) consists of four separate clinical sections: A Juvenile law clinic (Gator TeamChild), an Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic (IPVAC-Injunction), an Immigration Clinic, and a Veteran’s Clinic. Because of the robust speaker schedule this term, you will be interacting with students from these other clinics as you listen and participate during these sessions. Please continue a dialog with students from other civil clinics. Your experience will greatly expand.

**Office Hours:** Professor Drake has a Calendly account. Students may schedule a 15–30-minute Zoom meeting Tuesday, Thursday or Friday 2-3 pm. https://calendly.com/drake-ipvac.

**Diversity Policy:** IPVAC includes a diverse group of students, staff and clients. We celebrate differences in culture, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, life choice, and physical and mental abilities. We strive to create a safe space where each person can fully self-express and feel supported and safe physically, socially and personally. Our expectation is that each individual involved in the clinic be respectful of the humanism in all.

**Grades:** IPVAC is pass/fail, however, successful completion of this clinic requires a great deal of effort in both the classroom work and the representation component. This includes doing your homework, always being prepared, and knowing when to ask for assistance. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.  Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can 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 at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**University Honesty Policy:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**Attendance:** IPVAC, as an approved course at the Levin College of Law, requires “a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor.” We define satisfactory attendance as presence at 90% or more of all scheduled classes. Discuss the need to miss a class with Professor Drake in advance, if possible. The 90% rule does not apply to case work events; the 100% rule does. Do not schedule trials, hearings, depositions, negotiations, or client meetings in conflict with classes, unless the judge orders. If a judge schedules a court event during another non-clinic class, Professor Drake will contact the professor and explain the situation, if necessary. Most professors have been gracious about an absence assuming the student has not missed a number of classes for other reasons.

**Preparation for Class:** We will assume you have read, understood, and digested assigned materials before class. Thoughtful discussion is not only welcome; it is required. Other students will be counting on your full participation to enhance their learning experience.

**Penalties for Noncompliance:**

1. Course failure

2. Dropped from the class

3. Incomplete grade

4. Contacting the Florida Bar regarding unprofessional conduct

**Time Commitments/Credit Hours:**

Students can expect to spend 18 hours a week…4 hours of classroom instruction, at least four hours of class preparation, and 10 office/clinical hours. These clinical hours will be established and placed on the IPVAC calendar so that there is always one student available for client needs.

**Class Recordings:**

Students may not take, circulate, or post photos or videos of classroom discussions, whether they are in-person, hybrid, or completely online. Students failing to follow this rule will be referred to the College of Law Honor Code Council and the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

**Religious Holidays:**

The Florida Board of Education and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays. The following guidelines apply:

Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. If a faculty member is informed of or is aware that a significant number of students are likely to be absent from class because of a religious observance, the faculty member should not schedule a major exam or other academic event at that time.

A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence. Furthermore, a student who believes that he or she has been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious beliefs or practices may seek redress through the student grievance procedure.

**Health and Wellness**

Being a part of this clinic includes attention to and care of your physical, mental, emotional and physical health. If you do not feel comfortable discussing any of these with IPVAC staff, please see the resources below:

[www.mindfulnessforlawyers.com](http://www.mindfulnessforlawyers.com)

<https://www.law.ufl.edu/wellness-at-uf-law>

**Academic Resources**

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu.

https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

http://www.crc.ufl.edu/

Library Support, http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\_Complaints\_policy.pdf

On-Line Students Complaints: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess

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

**COVID-19 Policies:**

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions. I may take noncompliance into account when grading students or determining if a student may remain in the course.

* You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. You also will no longer be permitted on the UF Law campus. Finally, Dean Inman will also report your noncompliance to the relevant state board of bar examiners.
* This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
* Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
* Be mindful of how to properly enter and exit the classroom.  Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
* If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please do not come to campus or, if you are already on campus, please immediately leave campus. Please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions about when you are able to return to campus.  <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>.
* Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.”

I confirm that I have read this document in fully and understand its contents and will abide by its direction.

Name (print):

Signature: Date: