Syllabus: LAW6946: Externship/Bridge to Practice/Semester in Practice Classroom Component (Wolking), Spring 2020

Welcome! This course provides an educational framework for your field placement which will help you identify and cultivate your professional goals. In this class, you will develop habits of reflective learning through engaging in written and oral analysis, and you will critically examine the role of the parties and your position in your field placement. For those of you working in the criminal justice arena, you will also explore the efficacy of our criminal justice system and identify opportunities for you to be agents of change. There are 35 students enrolled in this course and your assignments in this course will depend on your placement site and the number of credits you are earning. You will be divided into four groups (A, B, C, and D) for Zoom, in-person, or onsite meetings  during the semester.

SPRING 2020 EXTERNSHIP/BRIDGE TO PRACTICE/SIP CLASSROOM COMPONENT LAW6946 -185F (15484)

COURSE POLICIES & SYLLABUS

Instructor's Contact Information:

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The Objectives of this Externship Course include:

* Enabling students to develop their professional goals through practicing, and reflecting upon, their work at their state and federal field placements;
* Improving students' lawyering skills, including research, writing, and oral advocacy by putting into action these skills and receiving detailed feedback from site supervisors;
* Developing lifelong habits of reflective learning and self-awareness to help students make good decisions regarding their professional growth in the future;
* Teaching the rules of professional responsibility and the importance of professionalism through participating in, and observing, work in a real-life legal setting;
* Expanding students' substantive legal knowledge and analytic skills through their work at their placement sites as well as through course readings and discussions; and
* Fostering initiative--encouraging students to judge what needs to be done and take action, especially without suggestion from others.

These goals are achieved by structured reflection and learning opportunities during this companion course, in which students will:

* Create a Professional Development Plan in which students will identify and describe with specificity their primary professional development goals to be gained from their placements;
* Study and discuss substantive practice-focused readings in relation to field experiences;
* Complete exercises that enhance practical skills like communication, time management, and cultural competence;
* Discuss and share student experiences at field placement sites;
* Write bi-weekly Reflection Papers.

This course allows you to step out of the classroom to work closely with practicing lawyers and judges while earning academic credit. The work you will be assigned in your field placement should be intellectually challenging and it should contribute to your professional growth and development. You’ll learn by doing and observing, and in the process, garner essential skills for becoming an ethical and skilled lawyer.

You’ll be monitored by an attorney field supervisor, and will be required to submit detailed time sheets every week.  This class includes assignments which consist of bi-weekly Reflections and readings/recordings. In addition, we’ll have one required online synchronous chat session where we’ll discuss the readings, your experiences and anything else that may be of interest to you related to your field placement.

Externship Course Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Conduct accurate legal research and write competent legal memoranda;

2. Exemplify professionalism with unimpeachable ethical behavior;

3. Develop lifelong habits of reflective learning and self-awareness;

For students in criminal justice field placements, students should additionally be able to:

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the life of a case, including arrest and charging, discovery, witness and client interviewing, pre-trial motions, jury selection, trial, and appeal;

5. Resolve evidentiary issues both in the courtroom and pre-trial; and

6. Understand the roles of a prosecutor and public defender in our criminal justice system and the relationship between prosecutors, police, defense lawyers and the court

Grading Policies:

This course is graded pass/fail. In order to obtain passing credits for your Externship/Semester in Practice/Bridge to Practice class, I expect you to:

1. Work the requisite number of hours at the field placement and report them weekly and in a professional manner to Debbie Vincent (vincent@law.ufl.edu). If you know you will be absent, you must let your field supervisor know beforehand. Under no circumstances may you fail to appear at work without telling your supervisor;

2. Satisfactorily and timely complete all reading and assignments;

3. Furnish bi-weekly journal entries to me on time and of professional quality;

4. Participate in, and be prepared for, all Zoom or in-person meetings;

5. Perform work in the field of professional quality;

6. Conduct yourself in an ethical and professional manner at all times during your Externship or Semester in Practice. This semester is a fantastic opportunity for the attorneys at your field placement to see your work over an extended period of time--make the most of it!

In addition, you must adhere to the following provisions:

1. I will follow the rules and policies established by the Field Supervisor and the Levin College of Law, including but not limited to the rules for hours of office operation and absences, rules governing office procedures, requirements governing the submission of time sheets, and all other requirements established by my Field Supervisor and my Faculty Supervisor.

2. I will complete all of the work hours required for this externship/SIP.

3. I will complete all documentation required by the Field Supervisor and the Levin College of Law.

4. I understand that the Field Supervisor will supervise me while I am at the field placement site.

5. I understand that I must act professionally and ethically and that I must maintain the confidentiality of information provided to me through this Externship/Semester in Practice/Bridge to Practice course(s).

6. I will prepare for and participate in all meetings, including orientations, tutorials, and evaluation meetings scheduled by my Field Supervisor and my Faculty Supervisor.

7. I will participate with my Faculty Supervisor in an online course, or other form of guided reflection, related to my Externship/SIP and I will complete the written assignments necessary to satisfy this requirement. I understand that I must observe restrictions mandated by confidentiality and privilege when describing my work to my Faculty Supervisor.

8. I will prepare and submit weekly time sheets to Debbie Vincent.

9. I understand that I am responsible for my own health, accident, and automobile insurance.

10. I understand that I may not receive financial compensation for the work I perform during the course of this externship/SIP without prior approval from Dean Menendez.

12. I understand that if I fail to complete and report all of my hours or fail to complete any work assigned by my Faculty and Field Supervisors, I may fail the Externship/Semester in Practice/Bride to Practice course(s).

A Word on Time Sheets

Please use the time sheet template in "Files" to log your hours worked. Time sheets should be typed and have original signatures by you and your site supervisor. These should be submitted weekly to Debbie Vincent at vincent@law.ufl.edu. Please save and send the timesheet using the first day of the week (e.g., Wolking Time Sheet 1/6/20, Wolking Time Sheet 1/13/20, Wolking Time Sheet 1/20/20, etc.)

University Policy on Academic Misconduct:

The University of Florida College of Law Honor Code represents a commitment by students to adhere to the highest degree of ethical integrity. Teaching and learning flourish best in an environment where mutual trust and respect form the bedrock of relationships. The Honor Code helps create a community in which students can maximize their intellectual and academic potential. Please be sure that you understand the UF Honor Code, which may be found at: https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/additional-information/honor-code-and-committee/honor-code.

Learning Environment and Preferred Name:

It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class; and that you are comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. If your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or otherwise. I would like to acknowledge your preferred name, and pronouns that reflect your identity. Please let me know how you would like to be addressed in our Zoom or in-person meetings, if your name and pronouns are not reflected by your UF-rostered name. I welcome you to the class and look forward to a rewarding learning adventure together!

You may also change your “Display Name” in Canvas. Canvas uses the "Display Name" as set in myUFL. The Display Name is what you want people to see in the UF Directory, such as "Ally" instead of "Allison." To update your display name, go to one.ufl.edu, click on the dropdown at the top right, and select "Directory Profile." Click "Edit" on the right of the name panel, uncheck "Use my legal name" under "Display Name," update how you wish your name to be displayed, and click "Submit" at the bottom. This change may take up to 24 hours to appear in Canvas. This does not change your legal name for official UF records.

Student Course Evaluations:

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/ (Links to an external site.). 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/.

Statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students requesting special accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading/viewing assignments for this course are listed below and may be supplemented periodically throughout the semester. In addition to completing the assigned reading/viewing, be prepared to discuss your cases during each Zoom meeting or in-person class. These “case rounds” enable students to form connections with one another and to help you analyze legal, ethical, and practical problems more easily than doing it on your own. Learning by rounds is one of the best aspects of experiential education!

A summary of assignments is below. Please complete your work in a timely manner and complete all assignments prior to our online Zoom sessions.

1. Bi-Weekly Reflection Journals

Beginning January 26th, you must write a paper reflecting on your experiences at your field placement over the previous weeks or on the criminal justice system more broadly. Reflection papers are due before midnight on six Sundays throughout the semester. Delivery via Canvas upload is best, but email is also acceptable.  It is helpful—but not required—to begin these papers with a brief description of what you did or saw in the previous weeks. Please do not merely recite events. The purpose of these papers is to encourage you to comment on your work or the justice system as you see it. Ask yourselves whether the system is working, whether the various players are doing their jobs, and whether defendants are getting a fair shake. How could the system work better? Do you like your role?

If it’s been uneventful at the office or if something else in the news or in the class readings or in your life experience has grabbed your attention, please feel free to discuss these other matters. Again, the aim is to reflect on your work or on the justice system. Within that realm you are free to explore widely. These papers also may serve as a forum for you to air concerns or suggestions about your Externship/Semester in Practice or its classroom component. You may note that you would prefer a different focus; that you would like different kinds of cases; or that you are having difficulties at the office and want extra guidance. There is no upper page restriction on these papers, but they should be no less than three (3) double-spaced pages. Please be sure to include your name and indicate the dates covered in your reflection. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your bi-weekly reflection assignments.

2. Online Chat groups

Our three synchronous group meetings will be conducted via Zoom and take place on the following dates and times:

Group A:  Monday, February 10th 6-8pm

Group B:  Tuesday, February 11th 6-8pm

Group C:  Monday, February 24th 6-8pm

Students in Group D will meet in person at UF Levin College of Law on Tuesday, February 25th 6-8pm

It is required that you attend the session to which you are assigned. Individual student assignments will be sent via email. Notwithstanding these scheduled online meetings, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone at anytime during the semester to talk about issues which arise during your Externship or Semester in Practice. This is an outstanding learning experience and opportunity to explore a time-honored, deeply respected profession--enjoy it!

Your synchronous group Zoom or in-person participation is mandatory, in order to receive credit for your Externship/Semester in Practice/Bridge to Practice course(s). If you believe that because of a work or academic conflict, you will not be able to participate at your assigned time, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will try to work with you to accommodate your schedule.

3. Reading/Viewing Assignments

* Watch Taiye Selasi "Don't Ask Where I'm From Ask Where I'm a Local" [https://www.ted.com/talks/taiye\_selasi\_don\_t\_ask\_where\_i\_m\_from\_ask\_where\_i\_m\_a\_local?language=en (Links to an external site.)](https://www.ted.com/talks/taiye_selasi_don_t_ask_where_i_m_from_ask_where_i_m_a_local?language=en) (16:00)
* Read "Federal Prosecution for the 21st Century," Brennan Center for Justice (Eisen, Fortier and Chettiar) in "Files"
* Read "The Next Step: Ending Excessive Punishment for Violent Crimes," The Sentencing Project in "Files"
* Watch Amy Cuddy "Your Body Language May Shape Who You Are"  [https://www.ted.com/talks/amy\_cuddy\_your\_body\_language\_may\_shape\_who\_you\_are#t-224637 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_may_shape_who_you_are#t-224637) (20:48)
* Read "21 Principles for the 21st Century Prosecutor," The Justice Collaborative in "Files"
* Read "Disrupting the Cycle: Reimagining the Prosecutor's Role in Reentry," NYU Center on the Administration of Criminal Law in “Files"