I. Michigan Law School's Clinical Opportunities

The Child Advocacy Law Clinic

The Child Advocacy Law Clinic (CALC) seeks to introduce students to their new lawyer identity, the substantive and skill demands of this new role, and the institutional framework within which lawyers operate. The Clinic especially focuses on the relationship between the lawyer and other professionals facing the same social problem. Building on the field experience of actual case handling as a basis for analysis, it seeks to make students more self-critical and reflective about various lawyering functions they must undertake. Students are asked to integrate legal theory with real human crises in the cases they handle. Students will develop habits of thought and standards of performance and discover how to learn from raw experience for their future professional growth.

Our students don't just learn about law, they learn to be lawyers. Students are in control of their cases, under supervision, and complete all the steps required to take a case to court, just as they will when they begin practicing after law school. The clinic provides an in-depth, interdisciplinary experience working with problems of child abuse and neglect and of children in foster care. Students taking this clinic represent children, parents, or the Department of Human Services in court cases that may be located in Washtenaw, Genesee, Wayne, Jackson, Livingston or Monroe counties. Each student team has a mix of child welfare cases representing each of the three major roles, so they get to see and understand the lawyer role from different vantage points and with different concerns and interests.

Students work in partnerships and find that they have the true lead on their cases. Three clinical law faculty who are specialists in child advocacy law, supervise up to eight students each and act as advisers, but clinic students make the decisions about their cases. Some law students are drawn to the clinic because of their interest in child welfare law or public interest lawyering. Others are particularly attracted to the intense litigation experience where students end up in court quite often and each student team handles at least one full trial, usually seeking termination of parental rights on behalf of the county agency.

With such responsibility, students are thoroughly prepared for each aspect of representing their clients, for their court experience, and for working in the field of child advocacy. The CALC program begins with a series of classes to prepare students for what will happen in court. Class sessions cover child welfare and procedure; preliminary hearing simulations; learning to interview clients, especially children; dealing with evidence; case and trial preparation, including direct and cross examination; and mock trial practices. The law students also address the complex legal, social, emotional, ethical, and public policy questions of when and how the state ought to intervene in family life on behalf of children.

Besides the student attorneys, the conferences include the faculty supervisors for each case, and a psychologist and a psychology student intern, who provide guidance. Depending on the

needs of the case, students might also work with professionals, faculty or student colleagues from social work, pediatrics, and psychiatry. In addition to clinical psychology, CALC regularly has participating students from other disciplines, including social work graduate students, pediatric residents, public policy graduate students and journalism fellows.

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Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic

Students in the Criminal Appellate Practice (CAP) Clinic have the opportunity to represent convicted felons on appeal. Under the supervision of attorneys from Michigan's State Appellate Defender Office, students prepare and file briefs in the Michigan Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the United States District Court.

CAP seeks to improve students' understanding of and skill in all phases of appellate advocacy through the various activities of the clinic. Students will review trial transcripts and lower court records, interview the client in prison, develop a theory for the case, and help draft the client's brief on appeal. By determining relevant facts, navigating competing interests, conducting legal research, and developing oral and written presentations, students will gain real-world practice in criminal appellate law.

Students can expect frequent individual meetings with instructors and oral arguments before a panel of experienced criminal attorneys that offer important feedback as they prepare their client's appeals. While this clinic is most relevant to students with an interest in criminal law, its lessons in appellate advocacy are generally applicable to all students of law.

Environmental Law Clinic

The Environmental Law Clinic (ELC) provides opportunities to litigate and develop policies to protect natural resources and the environment. The ELC operates in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center in Ann Arbor. NWF's docket ranges from federal litigation to stop water pollution to advocacy on behalf of endangered species. In one recent case, ELC students worked to prevent the filling of crucial wetlands along Lake Huron to build an RV park. In another case, which is ongoing, students are aiding in the appeal of an Ohio EPA decision giving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permission to annually dump large quantities of dredged sediment into Lake Erie, contributing to harmful algal blooms and

potentially raising pollution levels in the lake. Past cases have dealt with a proposal to reclassify the wolf's status in the Western Great Lakes under the Endangered Species Act, the restoration of water quality in Ohio's lakes and rivers, and lawsuits in federal district court to stop water pollution.

Working closely with NWF staff attorneys, student attorneys taking the ELC have the opportunity to influence state and national policy and to see that current laws that benefit the environment are upheld.

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General Clinic

In the General Clinic, students practice law under faculty supervision in a variety of civil and criminal settings. Through the clinic experience, students will develop lawyering skills both in the courtroom and in the classroom.

On the civil side, students work on cases in many areas of the law, including landlord-tenant, consumer, domestic violence and/or family, welfare, employment discrimination, asylum and refugee, and prisoners' civil rights. On the criminal side, students represent clients charged with misdemeanors, from intake through trial. Students also handle some post-judgment issues in serious felony cases. Clinical professors supervise students, but they will do all of the work for their clients, including interviewing, counseling, legal research, discovery, negotiation, motion practice, bench and jury trials, and appeals. Each student and his/her clinic partner will have "first-chair" responsibility for their cases and clients. Cases are heard in the state district, circuit, and probate courts, as well as in the federal courts, and some less formal administrative venues. Clinic students have conducted jury trials in all of these courts, and have taken appeals to every level of the state and federal appellate courts, including the Michigan and U.S. Supreme Courts. Unlike in some more urban areas—where the courts are overwhelmed and the delays are interminable—in the courts where we practice the dockets move quickly. Every semester all of our students get to court steadily, on a rich variety of cases.

In the classroom, students will participate in trial advocacy simulations to master basic trial skills. Additional class sessions address the role of the lawyer, ethical issues on law practice, client-centered lawyering, the adversarial process, and other related issues affecting the clinic's clients.

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General Clinic

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Human Trafficking Clinic

The Human Trafficking Clinic (HTC), launched in 2009, is the first clinical law program solely dedicated to the issue of human trafficking. Also known as modern-day slavery, human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of people for the purposes of slavery, forced labor, and servitude.

The HTC offers students the opportunity to work on both domestic and international human trafficking issues and cases. The HTC provides a range of services, including direct representation of both domestic trafficking victims and foreign nationals trafficked into the United States, advocacy for trafficking victims, and community education and training. The HTC also provides students with the opportunity to learn, practice, and improve essential advocacy skills. Students working in the HTC obtain real-world experience by working on behalf of victims of human trafficking. They also collaborate with a variety of stakeholders, including survivors of human trafficking, law enforcement, government officials, and nongovernmental organizations, to identify solutions to combat human trafficking. Students are responsible, under supervision, for all of the cases and projects within the HTC.

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International Transactions Clinic

The International Transactions Clinic (ITC) is the first of its kind. It is a training ground for highly qualified lawyers who graduate already experienced at representing their clients' interests in an increasingly globalized and complex world.

Like other clinics, the ITC provides real-world experience for students working on real matters for real clients. Unlike other clinics now found in U.S. law schools, however, the ITC combines transactional work with an international focus.

Most of the clients of the ITC are socially responsible investors who want to see their international investments provide a positive social as well as financial return and microenterprises that provide services and products at the base of the economic pyramid in emerging markets.

The ITC concentrates on teaching students skills that are critically important to their professional development as they enter into practice areas that involve international transactions. Under the supervision of faculty members who are practicing attorneys in Los Angeles, Michigan, New York, and Washington, D.C., students learn drafting and negotiation skills as applied to cross-border transactions, structuring and documenting investments in enterprises in emerging markets, exposure to ethical issues and the types of disputes that arise in the international commercial context, and an understanding of international economic and financial policies and markets.

Federal Appellate Litigation Clinic

Beginning in Fall 2011, the Federal Appellate Litigation Clinic will allow second- and third-year law students to gain hands-on experience in various stages of federal appellate litigation. Under the supervision of attorneys from the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Ohio, students will prepare and file briefs on behalf of criminal defendants and/or habeas petitioners in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Each student will manage an appeal from its inception, and will gain hands-on experience by reviewing the district court record and identifying issues for appeal, developing a theory of the case, researching substantive law, and preparing the client's merits brief. When appropriate in view of timing and subject matter considerations, students will have an opportunity to write reply briefs and conduct oral arguments in Cincinnati before a panel of judges on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Juvenile Justice Clinic

In the Juvenile Justice Clinic (JJC), students represent minors charged with violations of the criminal law and status offenses in Michigan's family courts. Students have first-chair responsibility for the JJC clients and their cases. This responsibility means that students directly engage in, and reflect on, the practice of law while in law school, under the supervision of experienced professors. While primarily a litigation clinic, students may, from time to time, handle appellate matters and may be involved in public policy issues.

In the course of the clinic, students will develop litigation skills including case investigation, trial preparation, and presenting evidence and argument in the courtroom. Casework, which is supervised by a clinical professor, may involve client interviewing and counseling, legal research and motion drafting, negotiation with prosecuting authorities, and courtroom presentation of

the case. Students are encouraged to take a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to their representation and to develop creative or systemic solutions to the legal problems presented. In addition to trial advocacy and casework, the classroom seminar will also focus on legal ethics, the basics of child development, juvenile justice reform, and other relevant topics.

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Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

Student attorneys in the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) assist clients with Internal Revenue Service controversies. For example, clients may have received notice that the IRS was imposing a lien or levy on their personal assets, that an audit will be performed, or that the IRS thinks they owe an amount that they can't pay.

In the process of securing the best possible result for their clients, LITC student attorneys interview clients, gather and analyze relevant information, perform legal research, provide advice, negotiate with IRS agents, and appear at U.S. Tax Court. They also provide education and outreach to area social services agencies and their clients and handle State of Michigan tax controversies related to their clients' federal matters.

The intimate size of the Clinic—only six students, one supervising attorney, and one administrator—allows class sessions to be somewhat informal, and student attorneys have sufficient independence to meaningfully develop their legal skills. At the same time, student attorneys are expected to prepare rigorously and provide excellent, professional legal services, and have the necessary information, support, and supervision to do so. Upon completing their time with the clinic, students will have gained vital experience in the field of tax law.

Mediation Clinic

In the Mediation Clinic, law students learn the skills and processes of facilitative mediation and mediate legal disputes in a variety of community settings. Traditionally, legal disputes have been resolved through an adversarial process culminating in a trial, but the clear trend in recent years has been away from trials. Nationally about 97 percent of all civil cases are resolved through some type of settlement process short of trial. Alternatives to the adversarial process are becoming an integral part of the practice of law and will become even more so in the future.

Although mediators have no authoritative decision-making power, as neutral third parties they facilitate communication between the parties, assist in identifying issues, and help explore solutions to promote a mutually acceptable settlement.

Michigan Law graduates may choose to qualify and serve as mediators in the course of their professional practice. But whether they are mediators or not, lawyers need to be comfortable with the process so they can advise clients when to use mediation and represent clients through mediation.

The clinic combines training and community service. Students have the personal satisfaction of helping resolve actual conflicts between real people, which adds immeasurably to the experience.

By the end of the Mediation Clinic semester, students may be eligible to be placed on the court-approved list of general civil mediators in Michigan.

Michigan Innocence Clinic

At the Michigan Innocence Clinic, clinic students investigate and litigate cases on behalf of prisoners who have new evidence that may establish that they are actually innocent of the crimes for which they have been convicted. Unlike many other innocence clinics, which specialize in DNA exonerations, the Michigan Innocence Clinic focuses on innocence cases where there is no biological evidence to be tested. Under the supervision of its founders, Professors Bridget McCormack and David Moran, Innocence Clinic students work on all aspects of the cases, including investigating new evidence, preparing state post-conviction motions, conducting hearings and arguing motions in conjunction with these motions, and filing appeals to the state and federal courts. The Michigan Innocence Clinic has already exonerated several of its clients since its inception in 2009.

Prisoners must submit an application to the Innocence Clinic to determine whether the clinic can take the prisoner's case.

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Pediatric Advocacy Initiative

The mission of the Pediatric Advocacy Initiative (PAI) is to achieve justice and dignity for all low-income children and their families by integrating high-quality legal advocacy into health care settings. As a medical-legal partnership, we pursue our mission by uniting health care providers, attorneys, and social workers to eliminate the effects of poverty on children's health and well-being.

Low-income children experience relatively poor health outcomes even when they receive high-quality health care. Today, medical research demonstrates that the social context of poverty contributes to these poor health outcomes. For decades, poverty lawyers, health care providers, and social workers have been fighting poverty—food and income insecurity, housing instability, concerns about safety, adequate education, and access to health care—the problems that are now called "social determinants of health." A medical-legal partnership brings these professional disciplines together, magnifying their impact. PAI helps families stay violence free, live in safe and healthy housing, receive the nutrition they need, earn sufficient income, have access to health care, and receive appropriate educational services.

Social issues clearly affect child health. Children who are allergic to cockroaches and are exposed to them in their housing are 3.4 times more likely to be hospitalized with an asthma attack. Children who move frequently are more likely to fail a grade and have behavorial problems. Children who are hungry have stunted growth and cannot learn. Homeless children have higher rates of asthma, infections and hunger compared to poor children living in housing.

Children who witness violence, including domestic violence, can have behavorial problems. By representing individual families and supporting health care providers in addressing social issues that impact child health, PAI seeks to improve the health and quality of life of low-income pediatric patients and their families.

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Urban Communities Clinic

The Urban Communities Clinic provides transactional legal services to groups engaged in community development and small businesses. The Clinic was founded in 1991 to give community-based organizations the legal resources to improve their neighborhoods. Recognizing the role of small businesses in community economic development and the need by many for pro bono legal services, the Clinic expanded its client base to provide legal assistance

to small businesses. The Clinic seeks to sustain effective organizations and build institutions that provide needed services and opportunities in underserved urban communities. It seeks to contribute to the economic development of the region by assisting locally owned and operated businesses that will provide needed jobs, goods, and services in the community.

Our clients work with second- and third-year law students under the close supervision of two full-time faculty members who are licensed Michigan attorneys with significant transactional experience.

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Clients seeking the assistance of the Urban Communities Clinic should use this application.

II. External Studies Programs

Michigan Law School's Pro Bono Program

Michigan Law has a long tradition of serving the public in a variety of ways. That's part of our heritage as a public school, and it stretches back to our beginnings in 1859. To celebrate Michigan Law's 150 years of producing lawyers committed to public service, we launched the Voluntary Pro Bono Pledge in Fall 2009. We ask students to voluntarily commit to performing 50 hours of pro bono service while enrolled at Michigan Law.

The Pledge allows students to connect their developing knowledge to the world outside the Law School. In this way, they gain valuable legal skills while helping an organization in our community meet the needs of underrepresented individuals. In traditional Michigan fashion, our projects range from those that provide legal assistance to local residents to projects that spotlight events across the nation and around the globe.

While the Program cannot directly represent individuals, any non-profit or government organization seeking to expand its capacity to provide legal services should consider requesting the help of our law students. Please visit our website or contact us at lawprobono@umich.edu for more information.

Michigan Law School's Externship Program

Michigan Law School offers students the chance to work at a non-profit or government agency of their choice during the semester for credit via our externship program. Externships, also

known as external studies opportunities, offer an exciting opportunity to augment classroom study with real-world work experience.

In recent years, students (under the guidance of both a faculty sponsor and an attorney supervisor) have pursued externships and immersed themselves in legal work at nonprofits such as the Institute for Justice, the Food and Drug Administration, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, and the Human Rights Law Network in New Delhi, India, and the Financial Action Task Force in Paris, France. Closer to Ann Arbor, students have worked at the ACLU of Michigan, the Washtenaw County Prosecutors Office and Office of the Public Defender, and the Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review, to name a few. The Law School also has special externships based in South Africa and Geneva, Switzerland, both of which take place in the winter academic term.

Students can choose a full-time externship, where they work 40 hours a week in the city or country of their choice. Or they can pursue a part-time externship closer to home, where they work at least eight hours a week.

If your non-profit or government agency is interested in hosting a Michigan Law extern, either full-time or part-time, please contact Amy Sankaran at aharwell@umich.edu.