

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING 2022

CONSTRUCTION LAW

This course examines various legal issues affecting public and private construction projects from inception through post-completion. Among the topics covered in the course are: (1) project delivery methods; (2) risk identification and allocation; (3) responsibilities and liabilities of project owners, architects, contractors and subcontractors; (4) design and construction contracting principles and standard forms of agreement; (5) risk mitigation using insurance, bonds, indemnities and limitations of liability; (6) change management; (7) common dispute types such as design errors and omissions, project delays and differing site conditions; and (8) claims and dispute resolution.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

This course will examine government regulation of the relationship of the individual employee and his or her employer. The propriety of regulating particular areas of the employment relationship and the efficacy of alternative regulatory schemes will be recurring themes. Areas of coverage may include employment at-will, wrongful termination, employment discrimination, regulation of compensation, workplace health and safety, unemployment compensation, and pensions.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The regulation and control of water, air and land is the broad subject matter of this course. The emphasis is on federal statutory and regulatory law but international issues and state and local regulation will be reviewed in areas in which they have broad relevance.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

This basic course introduces students to the central topics, ideas and principles of present-day public international law. It will also cover the judicial and other structures including the United Nations, which are central to the determination and enforcement of this legal regime.

OCEAN & COASTAL LAW

The areas in which oceans and their branches and land masses meet are the source of many relationships largely peculiar to those areas. Sea level rise, global warming and effects on our oceans, coastal resilience and retreat options from mega storms like Sandy and Katrina, wetlands protection, environment and ecological issues, the position of the area in terms of industry and commerce including such international rules as those governing fisheries, whaling and other trapping and hunting, are a part of the special problems facing this zone and the areas of water and land nearby. The course examines the various legal regimes with a consideration of policy issues that are involved in the complex relationships generated in these areas.

LAND USE PLANNING

This course explores the relatively evolving field of land use law, seeking to understand the theoretical basis for such regulation, the effects (intended, unintended or perhaps unconsciously intended) of such regulation and the practicalities of land use and development within the legal framework. Among the major issues this course will examine are the law of zoning, the constitutional constraints on land use regulation, the establishment and enforcement of subdivision and land development controls, and other development regulations. The course will examine several current topics in land use regulation, including

climate change, environmental regulations, smart growth, historic preservation and renewable energy. Students will approach the course material from both theoretical and practical vantage points, and will be required to conduct research on how land use regulations are implemented in "real world" situations.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Doctrinal and practical oriented course with ample problem solving. The course leverages "real world" M&A related materials and the professor's in house and outside law firm experience practicing law in this area, to make key teaching points. The students will explore thoroughly the three most common M&A transactions or structures: asset purchases, mergers in their several forms, and stock purchases including tender offers, primarily under Delaware general corporation law. These transactions will be examined from the perspective of large "Wall Street" public company transactions and smaller private or close corporation "Mainstreet" transactions. Students will learn the fundamental principles underlying the "law of M&A" and important steps necessary to complete M&A transactions including obtaining a working knowledge of how to assess the advantages and disadvantages of each transaction and recommend the transaction that best meets the client's objectives. The course will cover the critical internal and external stakeholders who influence M&A transactions, client objectives for M&A transactions, advising business people, deal checklists, due diligence, confidentiality agreements, letters of intent, drafting and negotiating definitive agreements, closing including closing and post-closing checklists, integration, appraisal rights, board and senior manager fiduciary duties [good bar exam prep], shareholder rights and remedies, anti-takeover statutes, tender offers, successor liability, accounting, finance and tax implications of M&A transactions and antitrust and federal securities regulation. The students also will learn the important role that the M&A lawyer plays in M&A transactions on behalf of their clients, most importantly, selection of the transaction that best meets their objectives and compliance with the legal requirements.

The course assessment tools will consist of 15 sets of overnight problems which will be compared with the professor's suggested solutions and discussed in class, and comprehensive problem-oriented mid-term and final take-home exams and the professor's grading matrix for comparison purposes. The casebook and statutory Delaware General Corporation Law [DGCL] will be supplemented by an instructional syllabus and comprehensive glossary of key terms and provisions provided by the professor. If the students apply themselves diligently, they will be well-prepared to begin the practice of business law, recognizing that one does not really learn any area of the law until she or he practices.

Business Organizations is a prerequisite.

MENTAL HEALTH LAW: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

This course is designed to create a cross disciplinary environment where students can explore some of the critical issues that cross the boundaries between law and behavioral health. It will focus on selected topics, exploring each of them from a medical as well as legal perspective. The course will begin with an overview of the mental health system and its history, as well as an outline of the specialized legal environment in which it works. There will then be a series of focus sessions that zoom in on specific issues. There will be three skills workshops providing practical application of the material to common types of psychiatric hearings: civil certification; dangerousness; and competency/diversion. Brown University graduate students in psychiatry and psychology will be registered students in this course.

POST-CONVICTION RELIEF

The Post Conviction Relief course will provide a broad, but experiential, overview of post-conviction relief, both in state court (with some exemplary emphasis on Rhode Island case law) and federal court. Subjects covered will be the various grounds that may -- or may not -- be asserted as a basis for post-conviction relief, procedural and substantive defenses to post-conviction relief, standards of review applicable to such actions, higher court review of actions for post-conviction relief, and the competing societal and other interests that have resulted in the development and evolution of state and federal provisions governing post-conviction relief.

PRODUCTS LIABILITY

This course explores tortious injuries engendered by products, a predominant basis of modern tort litigation. Students will discuss the nature of product defect- manufacturing, design and marketing imperfections--and the various theories of liability--risk/utility and consumer expectation models. Finally, this course will examine contemporary products liability issues including the nature of products and their associated services, as well as the predicted return to a fault-based system of liability.

SEXUALITY AND THE LAW

This course explores aspects of the legal regulation of sexuality. Among the questions on which we will focus throughout the semester are these: How has sexuality (and related notions such as sexuality and gender) been defined, posed and addressed as a problem in and for the U.S. legal system? What role do various conceptions of sexuality play in framing the terms, the argumentative strategies and resolution of legal disputes? What shaping functions do legal constructions of sexuality exert in and on broader political conversations about sex and social justice in the contemporary U.S.? Topics to be discussed include the scope and limits of the "public/private" distinction as a conceptual framework in U.S. sex law; legal efforts to define and distinguish sex, gender and sexuality, sexual acts, gender identities and expressions (male, female, transgender, transsexual, intersex), and sexual identities ("homosexuality," "heterosexuality," and "bisexuality"); law, sexuality and intimate association; sexuality, gender, and reproduction; gender, sexuality, surveillance and citizenship; law, sexuality, kinship and family relations; gender identity, sexuality and the legal construction, and regulation, of the human body; sex.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

This course is intended to introduce students to the growing field of corporate compliance. Students will learn the fundamental elements of an effective corporate compliance program and will analyze the practical and legal issues involved in designing, implementing and operating such a program. A compliance program is an organization's policies, procedures, and practices designed to create an ethical corporate culture and to prevent and detect wrongdoing.

TRIBAL COURTS, TRIBAL LAW, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The course will examine American Indian tribal courts, including tribal laws, codes, statutes, customs, and the interplay between tribal courts, state, and U.S. federal law. Students will learn the intricacies of both criminal and civil jurisdiction in tribal courts, how disputes are adjudicated on American Indian reservations and be able to navigate the choice of law. They will gain an understanding of the rich history of tribal courts, tribal governance, and tribal constitutions. They will gain an understanding of how differing Native Nations organize tribal governments, including those in the Northeast region. Students will gain an appreciation for how customs and customary law is applied in modern tribal governance and adjudication, along with Indigenous approaches and philosophies associated with dispute resolution.

Family law, tribal membership and advocacy for civil and political rights will be discussed. Students will be well prepared for both practice and employment in American Indian tribal courts and governments.

WORKERS COMPENSTATION

This course will consider and evaluate benefit delivery systems for those who suffer work related injuries. Class discussion will trace the evolution of the law from common law tort system and the use of the affirmative defenses to bar most claims to the development of benefit systems which do not utilize fault as a liability measure. The structure of the benefit system will be evaluated and distinctions considered between the various state systems as well as the federal longshore and harbor workers compensation act.

BAR TESTED ELECTIVE COURSES

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS (SPACONE)

Doctrinal and practical oriented course designed to prepare the students for the bar exam, the practice of business law and the practice of law in general. The course will explore the law and practicalities of agency relationships which pervade business organizations and the major for- profit business organizations: sole proprietorships, general partnerships, public and private or close corporations, Limited Liability Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies. The course will leverage “real world” examples and draw on the professor’s in- house and outside law firm experience in the areas of business and corporate law and litigation, to make key teaching points.

The primary of the law that will be studied includes case law and the Restatement, Third, Agency, the Model Business Corporation Act [MBCA] with occasional divergence to Delaware General Corporation Law [DGCL], the Revised Uniform Partnership Act [RUPA], the Revised Uniform Limited Company Liability Act [RULLCA] and the Securities Act of 1933 and Securities & Exchange Act of 1934. Specific subjects that will be discussed are the fundamental principles that underly the law of agency and business organization law, the characteristics of agency relationships and the individual business organizations, the formation of agency relationships and legal requirements for the formation of business organizations, the dimensions of a business including why for- profit businesses are started and how businesses are organized and function, client objectives for selecting a business organization, representing business people, agency and business organization agreements, owner liability, veil piercing, control of business organizations, agents, managers and owners’ authority to make decisions, the fiduciary duties of agents, directors and officers, partners, other managers, and owners; owners’ rights and remedies, transfer of ownership interests, dissociation or withdrawal, dissolution, financing a business through securities offerings and other means, and mergers and acquisitions. Additional important topics will include the importance of preventive law, accounting and financial statements, insurance, contractual indemnification and the tax implications of business organizations. Also, the course will thoroughly explore the important role the business lawyer plays in advising her or his clients as to what business organization to select based on the client’s objectives. and eliminating or minimizing potential legal issues that can arise from the business.

Assessment tools include seven sets of overnight problems and the professor’s suggested solutions, both of which will be discussed in class, and problem-oriented comprehensive mid-term and final take- home examinations and the professor’s grading matrix for comparison purposes. The casebook and statutory supplement will be supplemented by an extensive instructional syllabus and glossary of key terms and definitions prepared by the professor.

CONFLICT OF LAWS

Callie from California and Max from Massachusetts get into a car accident with each other in the parking lot of Disney World (Florida). Max returns home to Massachusetts and sues Callie and Disney World in Massachusetts state court. Does the Massachusetts court have jurisdiction over Callie and/or Disney World? If so, what law would a Massachusetts court apply to the dispute – Massachusetts law? California law? Florida law? If Max obtains judgment against Callie and Disney World, are these judgments enforceable in California and Florida? Let's say that Callie moves to France and obtains a declaratory judgment there that she is not liable to Max for the car accident. Would this French judgment be recognized by a Massachusetts court to preclude Max's lawsuit against Callie? These are the questions to be explored in this Conflict of Laws course. The course will focus on three broad questions: When does a court have jurisdiction over a dispute? What law will a court apply to a dispute? When will a judgment from a foreign court be recognized? Contemporary topics in the Conflict of Laws, including the recognition of same-sex marriage and jurisdiction in internet cases, will also be explored.

FAMILY LAW

This course examines the underlying social and economic principles of family life, its regulation by government, and constitutional limitations on regulation. Direct laws covering marriage, divorce, and child custody will be examined but also the course will cover those areas of law--property, income maintenance, medical care, schooling and crime--that also have direct impact on families in this society.

REMEDIES

The remedies course surveys what a court can do for a claimant who has been, or might be, wronged by the defendant. We will address the principal remedies: damages; injunctions (orders to do or refrain from doing certain conduct); restitution (including the possibility of recovering the defendant's gains from a wrongful act, even if the gains exceed the amount of the plaintiff's loss); remedies that simply declare the rights of the parties; pre-judgment remedies before a determination of liability; and the various means of enforcing remedies (including contempt and seizure of property). Throughout the course, we will discuss which of the several remedies are best for the plaintiff, and how to determine the extent of the remedy that the plaintiff may obtain.

SALES

This course focuses primarily on Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. A study of the law governing the sale of goods and financing thereof is covered including the law governing the formation and interpretation of commercial contracts, perfection of security interests and available remedies upon breach of contract. Implied and express warranties, risk of loss allocation and default are discussed.

SECURED TRANSACTIONS

This course surveys Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and focuses on financing and creation of a security interest in personal property and fixtures.

WILLS AND TRUSTS

This course is intended to prepare a student to advise clients about ordering their personal and financial affairs to more effectively provide for themselves and the people about whom they care. Various dispositive mechanisms inter vivos testamentary and in trust, will be covered, as well as devices to appoint health care and financial proxies. The course will also address the ethical and professional responsibilities of lawyers representing clients in this area.

SEMINARS

CHILDREN & LAW

This course would focus on the law and policies underlying the allocation of power and responsibility among children, parents and the state. Areas that the course covers include children's constitutional rights; child abuse and neglect; and juvenile crime and delinquency.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Critical Race Theory is the intellectual movement developed by legal scholars to confront the role American law has played in legitimizing and upholding racial hierarchy. This course will explore some of the foundational works in this influential movement from scholars Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado, Kimberle Crenshaw and others. The course will conclude with a one hour exam and will be taught by Diana Hassel.

PATENT LAW

Creativity and productive ideas have proven essential to economic progress. The federal government has developed an elaborate set of laws and regulations to protect these ideas from appropriation by others. This body of law, and elements of the practice under it, will be covered in detail. The patent law seminar includes elements of US and foreign patentability standards, perfection of patent rights, enforcement (litigation and ADR, border controls), relation to other bodies of law and practice such as antitrust, employment, corporate finance, licensing and joint ventures, federal civil procedure and evidence, international law, legal ethics, trademark, copyright, trade secret and Constitutional law. A background of science or technology education or experience can be helpful but is not required. Practical exercises in analyzing inventions and patents are given during the semester. The seminar grade is based primarily on a term paper due at the beginning of the exam period with some adjustment for class participation.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

This course is designed to introduce students to fundamental legal problems encountered by U.S. enterprises engaged in international business. The course will focus on some major legal problems encountered in commercial and financial business ventures that cross national borders, analyzing basic international business transactions and the effects of U.S. law, specific foreign law, and treaties on the conduct of the parties involved. Topics include an introduction to: commercial law, formation of contracts, choice of law, international sale of goods (including the CISG), letters of credit, foreign direct investment, the organization and operations of international (World Trade Organization) and regional trade institutions (European Union), international dispute resolution, and corporate social responsibility. The goal of the course is for students to develop an understanding of the laws applicable to private international transactions and an awareness of the risks inherent in doing business in or with other countries and their nationals.

COURSES THAT MEET THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

(THE CLINICAL COURSES LISTED BELOW ALSO COUNT TOWARD SATISFACTION OF THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)

APPELLATE ADVOCACY: CRIMINAL LAW

This course focuses on the art of persuasion, with attention paid to both written and oral advocacy. Students will have an opportunity to write from either prosecution or defense perspectives. Using transcripts of two actual criminal trials – one raising 4th Amendment issues and the other exploring 5th Amendment *Miranda* law – we look at how the choice of language impacts persuasion. Words count! When do we choose to call a defendant “Ms. Smith,” when “Jacqueline,” when “Jackie” and when “the young woman”? Do we refer to “the prosecution” or “the State” or “the government” or the prosecutor by name? Do we say, “Despite the late hour, she claimed she was alert and watching carefully out the window,” or do we say, “She testified she was awake and looking out the window at 2:14 a.m.”? Or even, “Apparently wide awake and unable to sleep at 2:14 a.m., she was intently peering out the window.” What difference does it make? We stress creating themes, supporting them with propositions, and crafting messages to sell those propositions. We will also spend time on issue selection and framing: how does framing influence success? Issue analysis, creative reasoning, research skills and persuasive organization are all part of the advocacy process. The class is conducted as a writing workshop. You will write drafts, we will review and discuss them, and you will have the benefit of instructor and peer comments in refining your graded product. We will also look at research techniques and focus on using both good and bad cases to our advantage. By the end of the course, you will have written two short appellate briefs. No exam or final paper; all work will be completed by the final class.

ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH – HOLD RAQUEL

A survey of legal research strategies and resources not covered in the first-year Legal Practice classes, including federal legislative history, administrative law research, foreign & international law, finding and using practice materials, and law-related digital resources. There will be an emphasis on research strategy and process for the effective use of digital sources. Students will complete exercises in class, in a hands-on workshop format. Formative assessments consist of problem sets covering topics and resources discussed in class. Students will complete a research memo and guide on a topic they choose.

ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY

This course will take a criminal case as the jumping off point. Students will learn how to prepare and try a complex case. The class will focus on trial technique and strategy using cutting edge trial techniques and theories. Students will be evaluated based upon class participation and role playing in mock trial during the last two sessions of the class. Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite.

ESTATE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

This course deals with the practical application of estate planning principles to various client situations. Topics include client interviews; estate planning for young adults, individuals contemplating marriage, unmarried couples, young couples with children, and older clients with children; transfers to grandchildren; planning for second marriages; asset protection; retirement planning; perpetual trusts; charitable gifts; and an overview of estate administration. **Wills and Trusts is a prerequisite.**

MEDIATION

When parties are unable to resolve their dispute through discussion or negotiation, a logical next step is to seek the assistance of a third party mediator to facilitate communication and the search for a solution. This course is intended to familiarize students with the norms of the mediation process and to develop the skills that will enable students to either serve as mediators or to better represent clients in this increasingly important form of ADR. Attention is given to both facilitative and evaluative styles of mediation. Significant emphasis is placed on role playing exercises and on the legal consequences of the mediation process.

SEA GRANT LAW FELLOW PROGRAM

Students enrolled in this program work under the professor's supervision on a legal research project on behalf of an outside organization. Projects are assigned by the professor and will focus on a specific research question related to ocean and coastal law or maritime law. Law Fellows have the opportunity to work with stakeholders on important issues, to gain in-depth substantive knowledge on the applicable law and its real-world application, and to draft a high-quality written product, and may have the opportunity to present their work in a professional setting. Certain projects can satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement. Law Fellows must dedicate a minimum of 10 hours per week during the semester, but hours are flexible. The professor's permission is required to register.

TECHNOLOGY AND LAW PRACTICE

This course surveys software systems that embody specialized legal knowledge and know-how, considers the role of technology on lawyering and the legal services delivery system, and provides hands-on instruction in current technologies including document assembly, automated client interviews, social media marketing, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, data analytics, project management, and virtual law practice. The course will also examine the burgeoning literature on the practicalities and ethics of "e-lawyering," with attention to the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Student projects will provide hands-on experience in current technologies with broad application in public interest and pro bono contexts, as well as application appropriate to solo and small firm practitioners.

TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERING AND CONTRACT DRAFTING

This course teaches all of the foundational skills of transactional lawyering, from advising and counseling business clients to the highest professional and ethical standards, to analyzing and drafting contracts to reflect the parties' deal, objectives, and concerns. Students learn to understand a transaction through both its legal and business issues. In learning the process of drafting a contract, students learn to understand a client's deal and then translate the deal into contract concepts that become the building blocks of the contract. Through exercises, simulations, and projects, students then learn to draft clear, careful, unambiguous provisions in a well-organized, readable, complete contract. Students learn how to add value to the contracted deal by drafting language or structuring the deal so that it shifts the risk levels for each party. Students also learn the art of analyzing, reviewing and commenting on drafted contracts using current practices and technologies. The class involves group exercises, simulations, and role play, as well as lecture. The type of contracts covered are relevant to most transactional law practices.

TRIAL ADVOCACY

The trial advocacy course employs a learning-by-doing approach. Thus, most of the course will involve the practice of trial skills including direct and cross examination, opening statements, closing arguments, and jury selection, in a simulated courtroom environment. During the last two weeks of the course, each

student will participate as co-counsel in a full-length simulated civil or criminal trial with a sitting Rhode Island judge or professor presiding.

Evidence is a prerequisite but may be taken concurrently with the permission of the Trial Advocacy instructor.

TRIAL AND PRACTICE COMPETITION

This course is designed to be an intensive study of trial advocacy skills for students interested in pursuing litigation careers. It also serves as a foundational course for students who wish to participate in law school-level trial competition. The course will build upon the foundation of previous instruction in LAW 641 (Trial Advocacy) and LAW 645 (Evidence) to perfect trial practice skills of organized argument, the development of theories and themes, confidence in presentation, extemporaneous speech, and application of law to fact. Students will have the opportunity to prepare and argue motions, make opening statements, conduct direct and cross-examinations and deliver closing arguments. Students will participate in a final mock trial competition at the end of the course.

CLINICS & EXTERNSHIPS

BUSINESS STARTUP CLINIC

The Roger Williams University School of Law Business Start-up Clinic provides services to small start-up businesses and nonprofit organizations in Rhode Island. Services include navigating legal entity choice, drafting basic contracts, and certain intellectual property assistance. The primary goal of the clinic is to teach the practice of transactional lawyering while providing service to under-served entrepreneurs and organizations.

CORPORATE COUNSEL CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & CORPORATE COUNSEL SEMINAR

Students are assigned to in-house corporate offices of prominent for-profit and not-for-profit entities in and around Rhode Island and southern New England. Students will conduct legal research, write memoranda of law, draft legal documents, and engage in other activities as assigned. Students will be exposed to the various ways in which law is practiced in-house and for corporate clients. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the assigned office and must be taken in conjunction with the Corporate Counsel Seminar.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Students represent indigent criminal defendants in Rhode Island District Court, Traffic Tribunal, and/or Superior Court from arraignment through to final trial or other disposition. **Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite.**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & SEMINAR

The DC SIP immerses students in the Washington DC legal and policy world through a full-time placement with a federal agency, legislative office, non-profit, or trade group. The externship placement is complemented by a weekly, two-credit, graded seminar. The seminar will cover the rules and skills relevant to government practice and the entities that interact with the federal government, such as conflict-of-interest and lobbying regulations. Substantive issues will span administrative and regulatory enforcement, legislative drafting and congressional oversight, federal judicial policy making, and public interest litigation. Guest speakers will walk students through real world issues from their careers. Students will also engage in self-reflective journaling and other writing assignments.

ENVIRONMENTAL/LAND USE CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & ENVIRONMENTAL/LAND USE SEMINAR

Through the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinical Externship, students train in legal offices or departments of government agencies and non-government organizations doing environmental and land use legal work in Rhode Island and southern New England. Externs are exposed to the various ways in which environmental and land use law is practiced by government agencies and non-government organizations through litigation, administrative rulemaking and adjudication, and engagement in the legislative process. The students also participate in a two-credit, graded seminar “Advanced Topics in Environmental and Land Use Law” that will be designed by the professor, after consultation with the field supervisors, to teach substantive law, regulation, and policy directly relevant to the students’ field work, as well as the ethics and legal skills required of an environmental attorney.

JUDICIAL CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & JUDICIAL PROCESS SEMINAR

Students are assigned to selected judges in Rhode Island and federal trial and appellate courts. The student externs conduct legal research, prepare memoranda of law, observe trial and appellate proceedings, participate in discussions with the court, and perform the duties of a judicial law clerk under the supervision of the assigned judge and a faculty member. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the judge's chambers and must be taken in conjunction with Seminar: Judicial Process and Ethics.

IMMIGRATION CLINIC

Students enrolled in the immigration clinic represent noncitizens in their applications for relief from removal before the Immigration Court in Boston, prepare applications for benefits under the immigration laws and represent noncitizens in their interviews for such benefits before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Providence. Types of cases typically include asylum and other relief based on fear of persecution in the country of removal, waivers of deportation for long-term residents of the U.S., adjustment of status for noncitizens with U.S. citizen or permanent resident family members and relief for noncitizen victims of domestic violence. Students also conduct “Know Your Rights” presentations for the immigrant communities in Rhode Island and for immigration detainees in New England, conduct intake interviews following these presentations and provide consultations under the supervision of the Clinic Director. In class, students learn trial skills and discuss substantive, ethical and policy issues relating to the practice of immigration law.

NY PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM & PROSECUTION SEMINAR

The New York Pro Bono Scholars Program (NYPBSP) bridges law school education and the practice of law while engaging students in the provision of critical legal assistance to low-income people. Students will provide approximately 520 hours of pro bono legal service over a 12-week period for which they will receive 12 fieldwork credits. In addition, students will take a two-credit weekly seminar on pro bono practice, access to justice and public interest lawyering. The field work will be graded Pass/Fail. The seminar will be graded.

PROSECUTION AND GOVERNMENT CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & SEMINAR

Through our Prosecution and Government Clinical Externship Program, students train in a prosecution or government office on the federal, state or municipal level. Students will gain valuable hands-on experience representing the government in a variety of settings, including criminal prosecutions. Students may be

certified to appear in court at some of these sites. Students will participate in a weekly seminar with classmates who are working in a variety of prosecutorial and government placements.

PUBLIC INTEREST CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERING SEMINAR

Through this program, students will be representing low-income clients. Students may choose from a variety of placements in civil legal services offices, public defender offices, immigration non-profit offices, and any other non-profit law office that provides direct representation to low-income or marginalized clients. Eligible students may be certified to appear in court under a student practice order. The seminar will focus significantly on the issue of race including mass incarceration, the history of slavery in the US, and bias in the court system that impact marginalized communities and particularly low-income clients seeking legal help for civil, immigration, and criminal issues. The seminar will also focus on bias in the legal profession.

VETERANS DISABILITY APPEALS FIELD CLINIC

The Veterans Disability Appeals Field Clinic is a one semester program in which law students represent military veterans whose applications for disability benefits have either been denied or granted at a level that is inappropriate to the level of disability. Working with experienced attorneys from Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick, a nationally recognized law firm specializing in this work, students will research and draft legal memoranda and briefs, participate in pre-briefing conferences and, when appropriate, argue cases before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

HONORS ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES

LEADERSHIP & LAWYERS

Lawyers often serve as leaders in society. Lawyers take on many types of leadership roles—in law firms, all three branches of state and federal government, academic institutions, businesses, philanthropic and not for profit organizations, the volunteer sector, and so on. Your future as lawyers will present you with many different leadership opportunities.

In this seminar, we will explore and discuss various aspects of leadership theory and practice, and we will focus on developing effective leadership skills for your careers and lives. By the end of the course, I hope you will have developed a deeper and clearer understanding of the characteristics and importance of good leadership.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

This course will examine how sexual and reproductive health laws may impede or increase access to reproductive health care and shape how we understand what constitutes sexual and reproductive health. The course will incorporate the understanding of legal doctrine, public health research, and will critically assess issues arising from sexual and reproductive health law. The course will draw on various tools of analysis including critical race theory, feminist theory, critical legal theory, human rights, and a range of public health methods. Topics covered will include, amongst others, sexual and reproductive health law as it pertains to abortion, sexuality, pregnancy, assisted reproductive technology, health care in prisons, and immigrants.

U.S. SUPREME COURT CASES

This course will focus on the art of appellate advocacy with particular focus on two cases that will be argued this spring before the United States Supreme Court. The class will be taught by Professor Jared Goldstein.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES

DEPOSITION PRACTICE

Description Forthcoming

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SUPERHEROES AND THE LAW

Have you ever wondered what happens after the big superhero fight? Can a hero with a secret identity testify in court or is that a violation of the confrontation clause? Who pays for the property damage; are the heroes personally liable to insurance companies/property owners? We'll discuss these and more! This course will help refine your analytical and critical thinking skills as you prepare for a life as a lawyer. We will discuss various areas of law and the hypothetical impact superpowers would have on our law. The final exam will be in the style of a Multistate Performance Test, a section of the Uniform Bar Exam.

WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS & THE ROLE OF LEGAL ADVOCACY

This one-credit graded eight-week course will shine a light on racial injustice within the criminal justice system through the lens of the Netflix Documentary Trial 4. The 2020 documentary is about Sean Ellis, a black man who was wrongfully convicted of killing a Boston police officer and consequently spent 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. This course will explore the many factors that lead to wrongful convictions, including coerced and fabricated evidence in criminal investigations, tunnel vision and confirmation bias, false testimony, and single witness identifications. The course will also explore the role that effective legal advocacy can play in overturning wrongful convictions. Students will watch Trial 4 outside of class, share their thoughts in weekly forum posts and during class discussion. The course will culminate with group presentations on other wrongful conviction cases, weaving in themes and issues discussed throughout the class and contemplating possible solutions.