



THE CLINICAL LAW PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW CLINIC

Instructors: Professors Micah-Jones, Millemann, Mitterhoff, Olshansky, Rana, and Weiss

Type of Clinic – Spring 2011 semester (Up to 10-12)

The International and Comparative Law Clinic will be offered in the spring semester, 2011, for 11 credits. Students also may register for Independent Written Work for either one or two credits; with instructor approval that writing may be used to satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement. Thus, students may earn a total of 13 credits.

Although this is an “instructor approval” course, students who wish to take this Clinic must submit the Clinic/LTP/Cardin Preference Form according to the normal schedule. Proficiency in a foreign language, see below, may be required. This Clinic satisfies the law school’s Cardin requirement. Students who have taken International Law and/or Comparative Public Policy and Law Reform prior to taking the Clinic will receive an admission preference for the Clinic. Once a student is accepted for and enrolls in the Clinic, a student may drop the course after July 1 only with the permission of the Clinic professors and only for extraordinary cause.

Students will spend a substantial part of the semester in a foreign country--China, Mexico, or Namibia--working in a placement with a local partner of the law school. All students will spend the first part of the Clinic at the law school in an intensive classroom component of the Clinic. The students will travel to and work in their placements during the semester. They will return for at least the last week of the semester, during which they will make a presentation based on their legal work and experiences. The paper will be due by the end of the exam period.

While working in their international placements, students will post all of their legal work through Blackboard and will communicate with others in the law school or in other countries through the BB Discussion Board and SKYPE. Scholarship assistance may be available to pay for some of the costs associated with the foreign placement.

The following are the planned placements and related legal work for spring, 2011:

The International and Comparative Law Clinic

What follows is a description of the three placements and the work that the students are doing now and will be doing in 2011.

In Mexico, the Clinic is working in partnership with Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, an international program based in Zacatecas, Mexico that represents migrant workers. Rachel Micah-Jones, a Clinical Fellow at the Law School, is the executive director of CDM. Based at the law school, she and Professor Weiss will be primarily responsible for this component of the Clinic. In Mexico, the students are helping to introduce workers to the legal issues they will confront in the U.S. and are working on transnational litigation and law reform projects. In the process, they are applying bodies of U.S., Mexican, and international law. Fluency in Spanish is required.

In China, the Clinic is working in conjunction with the Law School of the Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing ("CUFE"). The students are working on projects related to the development and implementation of micro-credit and micro-financing laws, which are intended to benefit low-income residents, particularly in rural areas, who have small farms and home-based businesses. Professors Shruti Rana and Daniel Mitterhoff are primarily responsible for this component of the Clinic. The students are using Chinese, comparative commercial, and international law in their work. Some ability to speak Mandarin would be helpful.

In Namibia, the clinic is working with several local partners, including the University of Namibia's Faculty of Law. Professor Barbara Olshansky is primarily responsible for this component. She and the law students are working on a variety of projects in Namibia. These litigation and non-litigation, transactional projects are on behalf of women who were sterilized without their consent; a group of entrepreneurs, including women artists, who wish to form small businesses and get their products to regional and international markets; the many Namibians who cannot obtain clean water and thus suffer from a series of related health problems; and the many Namibians who cannot obtain the legal help that they need. New Perimeter, DLA Piper's international pro bono program, is a partner in some of these and other Namibian projects, and has provided strong support to the ICLC.

In all three placements, the Clinic is exploring public interest, social justice, and professional responsibility issues that arise in international practice. Professor Michael Millemann helped to develop the ICLC and teaches in it as well.

The law school will reimburse students for costs incurring in traveling to and from the country in which they will be working and for housing in that country, among other costs.