



# BLUHM LEGAL CLINIC

CLINICAL EDUCATION AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic)



*View video clips about the Bluhm Legal Clinic's programs on this DVD.*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



The mission of the Bluhm Legal Clinic is to train skilled, ethical, and public-spirited lawyers integral to a society that values and promotes justice. In a dynamic era for law and society, this mission is more critical than ever.

I am profoundly honored to succeed Tom Geraghty as the director of the Bluhm Legal Clinic. Tom's thoughtful lawyering, excellence in teaching, and commitment to justice have inspired his students, colleagues and clients for over 40 years. The Bluhm Legal Clinic's position at the forefront of clinical legal education and evolving issues in social justice today is due to Tom's tireless efforts on its behalf.

But the old saying that "success has a hundred fathers" also applies to the clinic. This issue of the newsletter features a story about the exoneration of Charles Johnson, wrongly convicted of a double murder in the 1990s and represented for over 8 years by my colleague Steve Drizin and his outstanding team of lawyers and law students; profiles of Abby Parr and Samantha Woo, two clinic alumni in government and private practice, respectively, whose commitment to public service and rule of law embody the mission of the clinic; and much more.

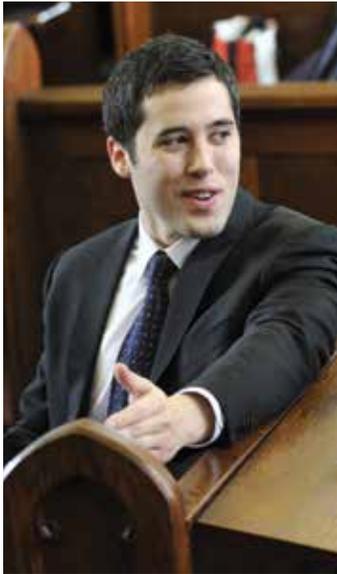
The hallmark of our faculty is dedication and innovation. These

qualities embody the dedicated trial advocacy professors and coaches of our trial advocacy classes and teams, including the student team that won first place at the 2017 National Trial Competition. They embody the faculty and staff of the Children and Family Justice Center, whose compassionate and strategic advocacy for children and families includes client representation in a variety of proceedings, policy advocacy, and holistic social support. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of their founding in 2017, my CFJC colleagues are creative leaders in their field, initiating last year a wide ranging speaker series on lawyering and race in the 21st century.

I could go on. Suffice it to say that it is a privilege to work at the Bluhm Legal Clinic, and to further its vital mission. I welcome your input on how best we can achieve it; my door is always open.

Juliet Sorensen  
Associate Dean and Director

# Client Representation and Legal Reform



CENTER ON WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

MACARTHUR JUSTICE CENTER

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN

RIGHTS

CHILDREN AND FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAW CENTER

INVESTOR PROTECTION CENTER

CIVIL LITIGATION CENTER

APPELLATE ADVOCACY CENTER

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CENTER

CENTER FOR CRIMINAL DEFENSE

AT THE **BLUHM LEGAL CLINIC**, students are provided with opportunities to assess the quality of justice by representing underserved and disadvantaged clients. Working in teams supervised by clinical faculty, students represent clients in juvenile court, in immigration and asylum cases, in wrongful conviction cases, and in criminal cases. They also provide affordable legal assistance to small investors, entrepreneurs, startups, and non-profit organizations, and work on cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

By representing clients, students not only fine-tune their skills as advocates; they also often produce change in the law and legal institutions. The Bluhm Legal Clinic's Children and Family Justice Center has led the way in convincing courts, legislatures, and law enforcement to re-examine important aspects of the juvenile justice process, including methods used by law enforcement to take statements from children.

The Center on Wrongful Convictions drafted a DNA testing bill and other criminal justice legislation that has been enacted into law. The Center for International Human Rights sends students and faculty abroad to work on access to justice projects and sponsors various events throughout the year, bringing together scholars and human rights advocates from around the world to present perspectives on how to address massive violations of human rights.



“Before working with the *Center on Wrongful Convictions*, I was really familiar with the good reputation of the clinic, but to see firsthand how it’s actually affecting and actively changing lives makes a huge

difference. Getting to know clients, learning their stories and getting the chance to change their lives by helping to get them out of prison has been an amazing experience. There was a client who came

to speak to our class about being wrongfully convicted, the day after being released from prison and it was a really moving experience. I was fortunate to work on his clemency case, and getting to

know him and his case, and watch him develop, has really changed my perspective.”

—ANDREA LEWIS JD '11

## CENTER ON WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/cwc](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/cwc)

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The Center on Wrongful Convictions (CWC) is at the forefront of the current nationwide movement to reform the criminal justice system. Focusing on convictions based on single eyewitness identifications, coerced confessions, jailhouse informants, and accomplice testimony, faculty and students have proposed several reforms, including expanding DNA testing, videotaping of confessions, and adequate funding for the defense of indigent clients.

Bluhm Legal Clinic faculty, staff, and students have worked on the cases of nine innocent men who have been exonerated from death row in Illinois since 1987.

Faculty, staff, and students working in the CWC were a driving force behind former Illinois Gov. George H.

Ryan’s decision to suspend executions in Illinois in 2000, his pardon of four death row inmates, and his commutation of the sentences of 167 prisoners remaining on death row in 2003. In 2011 Gov. Pat Quinn signed the bill abolishing the death penalty, at which time he noted the number of innocent defendants who had been condemned to death in Illinois.

In addition to representing imprisoned clients with claims of innocence, students conduct research to identify systemic problems in the criminal justice system; develop initiatives to raise public awareness of the prevalence, causes, and social costs of wrongful convictions; and promote substantive reform of the criminal justice system.

"From the moment I started at the *Roderick MacArthur Justice Center*, I realized this was the type of learning for me. I was really able to engage in the process and

feel connected and motivated. The opportunity to meet clients and help with their cases and adjustment to life, understanding that their livelihood is on the line,

made the learning process so much more inspiring. I was amazed that I felt like a valued colleague, like a member of a small civil rights law firm working with professors in an

environment. I hit the ground running, and in my substantial time at the clinic I really felt like a practicing lawyer."

—DAVID MAAS JD '11



## RODERICK MACARTHUR JUSTICE CENTER

[www.law.northwestern.edu/macarthur](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/macarthur)

The Roderick MacArthur Justice Center is a public interest law firm founded in 1985 by J. Roderick MacArthur to advocate for human rights and social justice through litigation. The MacArthur Center joined the Bluhm Legal Clinic in 2006. As one of the premier civil rights organizations in the United States, the MacArthur Center has played a leading role in most of the major civil rights controversies in the State including exposing and bringing to justice police officers who violate the civil rights of persons under investigation, working to impose a moratorium on executions (and the abolition of the Illinois death penalty), fighting for the rights of the mentally ill and others in Illinois prisons and jails and pursuing civil rights litigation on behalf of the wrongfully convicted.

Nationally, the MacArthur Center has been at the forefront of challenges to the post-9/11 policy of detaining terrorism suspects without trial or access to the courts. MacArthur Center lawyers have twice appeared before the US Supreme Court to argue for the rights of those detained.





*“Working with the Center for International Human Rights was the best part of law school. Law school is so demanding and taxing—and the clinic work is no less demanding—but in clinic work I was able to see firsthand the payoff. I get to see why I’m home on a Friday, studying so hard. I get to see the results of my hard work and what I am working towards. Getting through law school is so difficult, but I draw motivation from working with a group of people committed to the same cause. The goal makes it all worth it.”*

—ALEXIS ORTIZ JD-LLM IHR ’13

## CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

[www.law.northwestern.edu/humanrights](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/humanrights)

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) plays a vital role in the Law School’s expanding international programs. The Center focuses on researching and addressing emerging human rights norms as well as providing valuable clinical experiences for students interested in the protection of human rights on a global scale.

CIHR faculty members supervise students in several areas of clinical work, including advocacy before international tribunals and human rights bodies. Clinic students have traveled to Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Geneva, Paris, and other countries to engage in human rights advocacy on behalf of marginalized groups. Students participate in federal court litigation challenging non-compliance with human rights norms under the Alien Tort Statute and Torture Victim Protection Act. They gain valuable experience by assisting in the representation of foreign nationals facing the death penalty and by drafting amicus briefs in a wide range of human rights cases before federal and international and hybrid criminal courts.

CIHR faculty also teach the core courses required for the LLM and JD-LLM concentrations in International

Human Rights. This graduate program prepares American and international students and professionals to support the advancement of human rights around the world. In addition, the CIHR supervises the International Externship Program (for academic credit) and advises and assists in placing students in internships and staff positions with international courts and human rights organizations.

CIHR sponsors the annual Atrocity Crimes Litigation Year-in-Review Conference, the only one of its kind in the United States, bringing leading tribunal officials and scholars together to examine the jurisprudence and practice of the tribunals during the prior calendar year. Other conferences and distinguished guest speakers are arranged regularly for the benefit of the students. CIHR also edits and manages, in partnership with the Document Center of Cambodia, the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor ([www.cambodiatribunal.org](http://www.cambodiatribunal.org)), which provides comprehensive coverage of the trial work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.



“My favorite client was a young kid—so smart, talented and funny. My judge looks at him and sees a prisoner and troublemaker. As his lawyer, when I get in front of the judge it becomes my job to tell his story. It was the first time that this child had a lawyer who had an

investment in his future and cared about him and his story. Before going before the judge I remember being so nervous, but I prepared with my supervisor and with team members.

Something happened standing there with the client next to me. Nothing mattered

except for him. At that point it is just about the person next to you.

That experience was a prime example of being thrust into the world of practical instead of the theoretical, which is what made clinic work invaluable. [Working in] the *Children and Family*

*Justice Center* is the best thing that I’ve ever done because it taught me how to be a lawyer.”

—AIMEE GRAHAM JD '11



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/cfjc](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/cfjc)

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The Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC), one of the most comprehensive clinical children's law programs in the country, promotes justice for children, adolescents and their families through legal representation, policy development, and judicial reform. Center faculty, staff and students provide legal assistance for a wide variety of child, adolescent, and family needs, focusing on issues of fairness, disproportionate criminalization of children of color, comprehensive legal representation, detention and correctional reform, and community justice.

CFJC faculty members supervise students engaged in the representation of children. The Center has represented hundreds of children in criminal, juvenile, and immigration courts and in appeals in state and federal courts as well as at parole and clemency hearings. The CFJC seeks to expand the use of community justice alternatives, to improve the stakeholders' knowledge of the impact of adolescent development, the impact of trauma, the role of families, and to reduce the incarceration of boys and girls. Recently, the Center initiated a post-sentencing advocacy project, which focuses on release decisions and parole revocations.

The CFJC develops strategies to improve the outcomes and opportunities for children and families in crisis. Specifically, the center addresses the behavioral health and educational needs of youth while they are in the juvenile justice system as well as the extensive collateral consequences associated with the involvement in the juvenile justice system which includes, among other issues, expungement and termination from registry requirements.

The CFJC is on the front line with other local and national children's rights groups as an advocate for reform. The Center has partnered with other organizations to abolish the juvenile death penalty; challenge excessive sentences in juvenile cases; reduce reliance on incarceration pre and post-trial; and seek greater protections for children during police interrogations.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAW CENTER

[www.law.northwestern.edu/elc](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/elc)

The Entrepreneurship Law Center (ELC), originally founded as the Small Business Opportunity Center more than ten years ago is one of the first programs in the United States to provide intensive, hands-on training for law and business students who want to be transactional lawyers or founders of start-up companies. It is a model for similar programs developed in law schools across the country.

Essential to the ELC's operation is the Law School's close relationship with the Kellogg School of Management. The two schools offer an integrated, joint JD-MBA degree program that is one of only a few in the country designed to be completed in three years.

Under the supervision of clinical faculty and staff, law and business students work together in the ELC to

represent start-up companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations involved in economic development. They provide clients with affordable legal advice on matters such as incorporation, trademark registration, copyright protection, zoning requirements, and contract review.

The ELC's current roster of clients runs the gamut from small businesses (such as a real estate consultant or a caterer) to high-tech e-commerce enterprises. Although its principal purpose is to train students for leadership positions in law and business, the ELC also provides a valuable service to the community by helping many nonprofit organizations and other clients who could not otherwise afford legal assistance.

"I believe that the clinic is the best experiential learning that we have here at the Law School. Dealing with real clients and real issues forced me to actually have a working knowledge of

all parts of the law. It's my belief that we should leave law school learning how to apply what we have learned, and the clinic gives that exact hands on experience. I worked side by side with my

professors to solve problems and discuss cases. Learning from my professors in their element offered me a whole new level of perspective and appreciation for what they do and why they do it. To see the

appreciation in the eyes of a client, whom we've helped launch their dream business, is unrivaled."

—CARL P. EVANS III  
JD-MBA '11



## INVESTOR PROTECTION CENTER

[www.law.northwestern.edu/investorprotection](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/investorprotection)

The Investor Protection Center, funded originally by a grant from the NASD Investor Education Foundation, is one of a few such centers in the country and the only among law schools in the Midwest. Northwestern Law students and Kellogg MBA students have opportunities to work with clients on sophisticated legal and business problems that have increased since the dramatic economic highs and lows of the 1990s and the recent recession.

The Center provides investors who have limited resources with access to legal assistance in resolving securities disputes with broker dealers and investment advisors. These investors in the Chicago area now have access to services that previously were not readily available, if available at all, in the Midwest. In addition, the Center acts as a screening mechanism for regulators, including FINRA, the SEC and state regulators, as well as brokerage houses trying to identify legitimate claims.

Students working in the Center receive invaluable experience interviewing and counseling clients, explaining the arbitration and mediation processes, and investigating and selecting potential arbitrators. They also conduct discovery, negotiate settlements, and participate in mediations and arbitrations.

"I learned things in my time at the *Investor Protection Center* that I would not have learned in my traditional law school setting. I was forced to tap into the sides of being a lawyer that fall outside of the realm of law school theory. In dealing with the clients, managing people and expectations, it was something I'd never really experienced. This was often a very personal and stressful process for our clients and many were just waiting around to find out what's going to happen with their lost investment. They are depending on us, which is a very tall order. But throughout this experience I've gained confidence in my skills and have learned to trust my judgment."

—NAVID MORÈ JD '11



"In my time with the *Civil Litigation Center* I've done a little bit of everything. I've conducted interviews, I have communicated with and interviewed the clients,

written briefs, researched various topics, filled out different motions and I've also been to court. In every assignment and project, a lot of the work required me to

exercise judgment and really strategize and think about the case as a whole, which was the most valuable part of my experience. The opportunity to really learn about tons

of different things, from contracts, to the way local and international businesses work has really been fantastic."

—LARAH KENT JD '11

## CIVIL LITIGATION CENTER

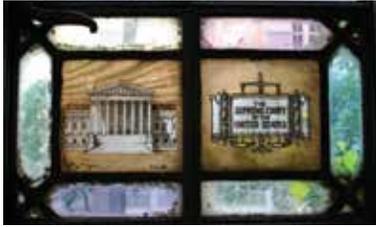
[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/civil](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/civil)

In the Civil Litigation Center, students litigate a wide variety of simple and complex civil cases. The Civil Litigation Center primarily emphasizes poverty law cases in which students advocate for clients at court in trials or in motions. Students take depositions, draft written discovery, prepare and argue motions, and try cases. They interview clients at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago's Loop office and make case presentations at case acceptance meetings. Weekly class sessions involve discussion of pre-trial litigation skills—interviewing, counseling, case planning, negotiation, discovery, and motion practice—as well as alternative strategies for litigating cases and various social and legal issues affecting the poor.

Cases handled by students and faculty in the program encompass a wide variety of legal subjects but in recent years have concentrated on the defense of public housing tenants from eviction, suits against landlords for unlawful



evictions, advocacy for students denied appropriate educational services, and representation of victims of predatory lending and consumer fraud. In the past, the program has focused on the areas of prisoners' rights, the protection of clients from abusive divorce attorneys, and the representation of victims of domestic violence.



*“The Appellate Advocacy Clinic has really given me a chance to get my feet wet. I’ve been fortunate to take on a lot of responsibility and argue in front of the court. I have the chance to do things that I likely*

*would not get to do until three to four years into my career. Researching, digging in and actively learning the law has proven to be a great supplement. The chance to write an appellate brief*

*and arguing before the 7th Circuit is an experience ultimately preparing me for my career.”*

—MICHAEL ROWE AJD '11

## APPELLATE ADVOCACY CENTER

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/appellate](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/appellate)

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### Supreme Court Clinic

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Through a partnership with Sidley Austin LLP, students have the opportunity to work on cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. Under the supervision of partners and associates from Sidley’s pro bono Supreme Court practice, students are involved in the challenging work that goes into advocating before the Court on behalf of indigent criminal defendants.

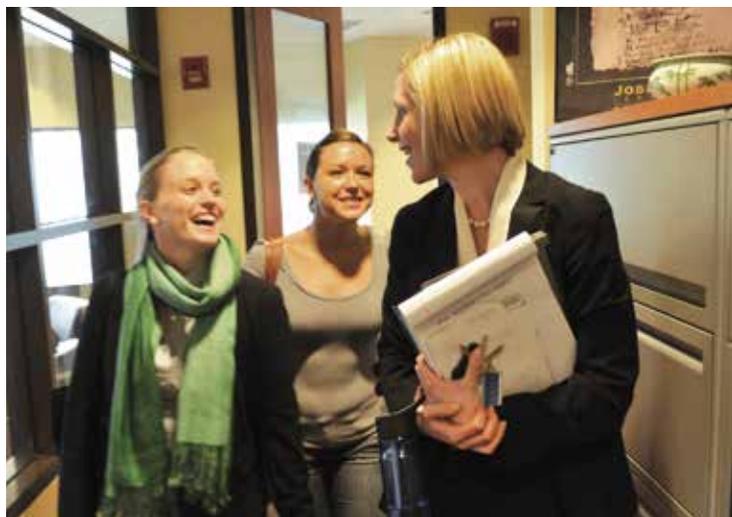
Students are involved in strategic decision making and research on case selection and help write petitions for certiorari. Students also help prepare the lawyers who argue before the court, draft briefs, and conduct research on a variety of important and controversial issues of law. In the classroom component of the program, students receive instruction on Supreme Court procedure, writing, advocacy, effective presentation of issues to the Court, and oral presentation. Guest lecturers include experienced Supreme Court practitioners.

### Federal Criminal Appellate Clinic

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In the Federal Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic, students have the opportunity to work on federal appeals. Students work collaboratively in groups of two to four in all aspects of brief and oral-argument preparation as they take a case from initial research and brief preparation to oral argument in Seventh Circuit in the Spring. A Clinic faculty mentors each group, guiding students through the appellate process and assisting in revising and perfecting the brief and argument. The course is designed to develop advanced legal writing, research, and analytical skills, and to offer in-depth and hands-on experience in appellate advocacy, appellate process and procedure, and substantive law and procedure, while simultaneously serving an underrepresented population: indigent civil plaintiffs and criminal defendants on appeal.

Students may take both clinical offerings during their time at Northwestern and may also pursue an academic concentration in appellate law by choosing a focused array of courses and senior research.





## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CENTER

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/environmental](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/environmental)

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The Environmental Advocacy Center provides a multidisciplinary clinical experience, emphasizing a broad based view of legal strategy and environmental solutions.

Students participate in cases and projects undertaken jointly by the clinic and the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Mid-West (ELPC).

The Environmental Advocacy Center trains students to pursue environmental solutions through strategies that incorporate a broad range of legal and advocacy options. Students participate either in clinic-led or in ELPC-led environmental litigation, administrative proceedings, legislative and rulemaking proceedings, and public advocacy and media activities, working with attorneys, scientists, economists and legislative experts. Through their participation in these projects and a weekly seminar,



students develop skills in assessing environmental issues and developing strategies, often using multiple legal and advocacy tools, to address particular environmental issues. The clinic also focuses on development of lawyering and advocacy skills.

“In deciding to do clinic work, I knew I wanted to do something less traditional that was still in keeping with my interests in science. My experience has proven to be eye-opening in ways that I never imagined. Being paired

with an attorney from the Environmental Law and Policy Center really offered me great perspective. I learned how to research, write and interact with other attorneys through real life cases involving the Clean Air Act and Clear Water

Act. There was a pressure to perform and a sense of urgency, with consequences larger than my grades, that really gave me a feeling of empowerment. After my work with the *Environmental Advocacy Center*, I feel more

connected to what I will be doing for my career. It reinforced for me why I decided to come to law school.”

—DOMINIQUE FREYRE JD '11



## CENTER FOR CRIMINAL DEFENSE

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/criminal](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/criminal)

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The Center for Criminal Defense provides trial level representation of adult criminal defendants and encompasses, to a lesser degree, the handling of criminal cases at the direct appeal and post conviction stages.

Founded in 2003, the Center represents a wide range of clients who have cases pending in Cook County, the collar counties, various other venues in Illinois, and in the Federal courts. The Center provides students with hands on experience in the trial of criminal cases, including pre-trial motion practice, bench and jury trials.

The Center for Criminal Defense frequently collaborates with the Center on Wrongful Convictions, particularly when the new trials that are granted take place. The Center for Criminal Defense also works closely with the MacArthur Justice Center, the Civil Litigation Center, and the Children and Family Justice Center.



*"I think what has made working for the Center for Criminal Defense so rewarding is definitely the clients. The opportunity to develop relationships with them and advocate on their behalf makes criminal defense work so enjoyable and appealing to me on a daily basis. Time and again I am outraged by client's cases — see abuse of state power, a retributive justice system, and the marginalization and disenfranchisement of large segments of society. My outrage over what I regard as systemic abuses and injustice motivates me to work on behalf of individuals who themselves are victims. Nothing is more rewarding than fighting to protect the rights and liberty of individuals caught up in the criminal justice system."*

—RACHEL GOOD JD '11

# Simulation-Based Teaching



*A firm grounding in ethics and professional responsibility is essential to the practice of law. At Northwestern Law, the values and skills necessary for ethical and successful practice are taught in a continuum of coordinated courses that involve students in active problem solving in the classroom under the guidance of Law School faculty and distinguished practitioners.*

## BARTLIT CENTER FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/bartlitcenter](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/bartlitcenter)

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### *Ethics and Professional Responsibility*

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The Bluhm Legal Clinic's unique course in ethics and professional responsibility requires students to assume the role of lawyers in simulations designed to impart and test knowledge of professional responsibility and ethical standards. Students are exposed to the complexities involved in making professional and ethical judgments in the context of simulations involving the representation of clients. These simulations are followed by analysis and discussion led by clinic faculty.



"My primary interest in coming to law school was to pursue a career in public service or public interest. I had a real interest in working for individuals who cannot afford to represent themselves in court or to a higher outside counsel. I wanted to be in a

courtroom and I wanted to be doing trials. So a natural place for me to go to was the *Bartlit Center for Trial Advocacy*. I was fortunate to join the trial team which is really where I learned to be a lawyer. It was the practical step above debating about legal theory and legal

doctrine in the classroom, so I gained the practical skills of how to do an opening statement, how to do direct examination, cross examine, write and perform a closing argument. In addition, we learned how to argue motions in front of real judges, make

evidentiary arguments and how to make objections on the spot. So trial team and the Bartlit Center is where I've really put my learned knowledge to the test."

—CLARE DIEGEL  
JD-LLM IHR '13

### *Evidence*

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Through the clinic's Bartlit Center for Trial Advocacy, students enroll in integrated evidence and trial advocacy courses. The issues discussed in the evidence course are timed to coincide with the problems assigned in the trial advocacy course.

As a result students are able to see how the rules discussed in the evidence course are actually enforced in the courtroom and how those evidentiary rules influence the way in which argument and witness examinations are conducted in the courtroom. The exercises in evidence and trial advocacy are also tied to the problems assigned in the Ethics and Professional Responsibility course, making the important relationships between ethics, professional responsibility, and trial strategy apparent to our students.

### *Pre-Trial Litigation*

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The Bartlit Center for Trial Advocacy teaches students the skills necessary for ethical and skilled representation of clients, at the pre-trial stage. Students participate in simulated exercises in interviewing and counseling clients, fact investigation, discovery, and motion practice. Students work in teams under the supervision of faculty members who act as "senior partners" guiding and commenting upon the students' performance as tasks are performed.



### *Trial Advocacy*

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The Bartlit Center also provides students with the training necessary to be effective in the courtroom. Faculty assemble a team of leading practitioners who observe and comment upon the work of students as they present opening statements, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments. Students also conduct simulated bench and jury trials under the supervision and observation of clinical faculty and skilled trial lawyers.



"The *Center on Negotiation and Mediation* has certainly been a huge part of my experience here at Northwestern Law. From the beginning I learned the basics of negotiation theory but then I was forced

to apply it so there was not a class that went by in our initial negotiations course where we weren't doing a negotiation. I view that as being incredibly useful both from a standpoint that I was reading the theory

outside of class and then coming into class with the opportunity to use that theory in a negotiation."

—KATHERINE HAYES JD '11





## CENTER ON NEGOTIATION AND MEDIATION

[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/negotiations](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/negotiations)

The Center on Negotiation and Mediation teaches students effective negotiation and mediation theory and skills through a series of courses and workshops. Students learn that a substantial amount of their time as lawyers will be spent negotiating with other lawyers, clients, and colleagues and that as lawyers they will resolve the vast majority of cases through settlements and, increasingly, mediation.

In the Negotiation Workshop, law students collaborate with students in the Kellogg School of Management, attorneys in the Chicago area, and students from other law schools in actual negotiations. Working in teams or one-on-one, students cover a wide range of situations, including real estate transactions, lawsuit settlements, and intrafamily, neighborhood, or labor disputes.

In the Mediation Process and Advocacy Workshop, students approach the process from two perspectives: as a mediator and then as an advocate considering whether mediation is appropriate for a particular dispute. Students who successfully complete the training can become certified and conduct actual mediations on behalf of the Center for Conflict Resolution. Students also can enroll in the Mediation Practicum, which combines their mediation experience with study of mediation theory.



# Externships



*Northwestern Law offers one of the most comprehensive externship programs in the country. Our location in Chicago allows us to provide a variety of opportunities for students in a number of different areas. Each year more than 200 second- and third-year JD students gain on-the-job training through externships while earning class credit in a practicum course. Fifty percent of students in the most recent graduating class participated in an externship at some point during their law school career.*

## CENTER FOR EXTERNSHIPS

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[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/externships](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/externships)

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The Northwestern Law Center for Externships uniquely combines practical externship experience with classroom work. Students work about 12 hours per week during the school year and at least 18 hours a week in the summer, under the close supervision of government and public interest lawyers, judges, and corporate counsel. They also attend a weekly seminar that includes assigned readings and discussions about key issues they may be dealing with

*"In working at my externship, the ability to use my skills and my knowledge for something that I was passionate about, is unrivaled. Being able to sit across from a client knowing*

*that you have a skill that you can offer to help them figure out whatever the solution is to their problem was really rewarding. It was awesome to know the work that we were*

in their day-to-day externship work. These students bring valuable firsthand experience to their classroom work in non-clinical courses, and gain a heightened level of confidence about appearing before judges, writing briefs or opinions, preparing cases, and working with clients. Although each externship clinic has its own requirements, all students write a reflective journal and participate in an associated seminar.

*doing was able to help equip somebody else to empower themselves to move forward. "*

—NAKEENA COVINGTON JD '11

*Externships are available in the following areas:*

## **Judicial**

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Students who are placed as externs with U.S. District Court and Magistrate judges gain a solid understanding of the role of the federal courts. Working under the close supervision of the judges and their law clerks, students conduct research and draft memoranda and opinions. In addition, students participate in the work of chambers and observe courtroom proceedings.

## **Public Interest**

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Students explore the role of the public interest lawyer by working with legal organizations, such as the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, or the American Civil Liberties Union. Students' responsibilities vary by placement, but most conduct research and write memoranda or briefs, interview clients, prepare cases and provide courtroom support. Students may also assist with community legal education efforts.

## **Criminal Law**

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Students are placed as externs with prosecution and defense lawyers in the federal and state criminal justice system, including the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Defender's Office, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Cook County Public Defender's Office. Students conduct research, write legal memoranda and briefs, assist in trials and trial preparation, and participate in courtroom proceedings.

## **Civil Government**

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Students explore the role of the government lawyer by working in federal, state, or local government agencies or offices, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, and the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian.



## **Corporate Counsel**

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Students gain an understanding of in-house legal work by working with general counsel in corporate law departments. In addition to doing legal research, externs become involved in the work of corporate law departments by attending meetings, observing negotiations, and gaining an understanding of how law is practiced in a business setting.

## **Mediation**

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After completing mediation skills training through the Center for Conflict Resolution and becoming certified mediators, students conduct mediations under faculty supervision. Mediations can be done at the Center for Conflict Resolution, or at the Cook County Courthouse at the Richard J. Daley Center.

## **Intensive Semester Practicum**

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Students may apply to spend an entire semester working with attorneys in a government or non-profit agency anywhere in the United States. Students work 40 hours per week doing legal research, drafting briefs, working with clients, and assisting with trials.

## **Intensive Semester Clinical Practice**

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Students may also apply to spend an entire semester working in the Bluhm Legal Clinic on a specific project with a professor or professor team in the Clinic.



## BLUHM LEGAL CLINIC

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION, JUSTICE, AND LEGAL REFORM

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