1L Immigration Law & Advocacy Clinic

Info Session for 1Ls
November 10, 2023
Professor Jaclyn Kelley-Widmer
Professor Alisa Whitfield
Students Mimi Goldberg, Oscar Ruiz, and Debbie Morales
Clinic Structure

- Substantive Instruction
  - Weekly seminars
  - Team & individual meetings
  - Clinic Orientation & workshops
- Practical Work
  - Client representation
  - Advocacy projects
Seminar Sessions

• Weekly readings
• Substantive law
• Current events in immigration
• Case rounds
• Multi-clinic trainings or guest speakers
Case Work

Partners and/or teams
• You will meet regularly with your partner
• You will have regular supervision meetings with the teaching team

Case Types for Spring 2024
• DACA & Advance Parole
• Asylum applications
• Intakes: undocumented clients, detained people, others in vulnerable status

Clients
• Cornell staff, students, faculty
• Asylum seekers living in upstate NY
• Immigrant detainees in Louisiana or upstate NY
Advocacy Projects

- Immigrant Allyship
- Know Your Rights
- Community Education
  - In detention center in Batavia, NY
  - In collaboration with Southeast Dignity Not Detention Project in Louisiana
- Emerging Legal Issues
The clinic team will travel Batavia, NY to work with attorneys from RFK Human Rights and Prisoners’ Legal Services of NY. In groups, we will provide legal orientation information to people in detention and conduct intakes. Batavia is about 2 hours from Ithaca. Trip likely to occur in early March; is optional for 1Ls. Trip costs are covered by the clinic.
Skills and Goals

- Facility in practical application of substantive immigration law
- Client interviewing and communication
- Public speaking
- Intercultural competency
- Understanding of current events in immigration law
Student Experiences
Clinic Policies

- Additional application materials are required for consideration
- I suggest you list the clinic as your first-choice elective
- You cannot add/drop the course after the first session
- Course is graded on a curve
**Application Process**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2023</td>
<td>Pre-registration for clinics and 1L electives</td>
<td>Rank your electives, listing clinic first</td>
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<td>Submit additional application materials on portal by 11/27/23 at noon</td>
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<td>Early Jan. 2024</td>
<td>Registrar posts all 1Ls’ electives at the same time</td>
<td>Contact me if you have changed your mind or have questions!</td>
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Contact me if you have changed your mind or have questions!
Application Materials: submit as a single PDF

Basic info: name, section, etc.

Personal Statement
- Why do you want to take the clinic, particularly in your first year?
- What relevant personal or professional experiences do you have, if any?
- What are your career goals?

Resume/CV
- Please state level of language proficiency (can you converse without an interpreter?)
- No non-English language requirement
Professors select pool of qualified students

Use of randomized selection technology to choose final group of 8 students (plus 2 waitlist)
Q&A

• Professor Kelley-Widmer
  jak533@cornell.edu

• Professor Alisa Whitfield
  arw263@cornell.edu

• Teaching Assistant Mimi Goldberg
  mmg234@cornell.edu