

Public Interest Law Center
Law 7949: Spring 2011
Clinical Professors Paolo Annino and Ruth Stone
Children's Advocacy Clinic and Family Law Clinic

Meeting Times:
Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Friday 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Pass/Fail
6 Credit Hours

The FSU College of Law, Public Interest Law Center consists of the Children's Advocacy Clinic and the Family Law Clinic.

The Public Interest Law Center is dedicated to educating students in the various substantive areas of law, professionalism, law office management, and trial advocacy skills. Two faculty members act as mentors and instructors. They provide direct supervision to the students.

The Law Center's Goals are to:

- ❖ Provide students with practical skills training.
- ❖ Represent clients in a professional manner in a variety of forums.
- ❖ Provide students with organizational and management skills.
- ❖ Instill a sense of professionalism and an understanding of the code of professional responsibility.
- ❖ Teach students to advocate zealously within the bounds of the law for their clients.
- ❖ Broaden the pool of skilled advocates available to represent children and other under-represented individuals.
- ❖ Provide students with an opportunity to develop a well-grounded confidence in their skills and abilities in and out of the courtroom.
- ❖ Educate those students who will be tomorrow's lawmakers and to awaken in them a sense of compassion and responsibility for the under-represented.

LAW CENTER'S COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Organize and manage client case files
- ❖ Interview clients, witnesses, and other case-related individuals and/or professionals
- ❖ Create documents and draft pleadings
- ❖ Participate in negotiations
- ❖ Conduct direct examinations, cross-examinations, and make evidentiary objections
- ❖ Attend/participate in administrative and/or court hearings
- ❖ Utilize PIKA (law office management software) for recording client case file information

SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF LAW

Each student will be responsible for several cases in one or more substantive areas of law. Students will represent clients in the following substantive areas of law:

- ✚ **Special Education**
- ✚ **Disability**
- ✚ **Social Security**
- ✚ **Medicaid**
- ✚ **Health Care Access**
- ✚ **Domestic Violence**
- ✚ **Family Law**
- ✚ **Criminal Defense**
- ✚ **Foster Care**
- ✚ **Juvenile Delinquency**

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **ATTENDANCE:** attend all scheduled classes, court and administrative hearings, and professional appointments on time. All requests to be excused from class, office hours, or any other mandatory requirement must be in writing and approved by your supervising attorney. Three (3) unexcused absences constitute an automatic failure in the course. Absences will be excused at the discretion of the clinic director. Examples of excused absences are: medical emergencies with appropriate documentation, family emergencies, and observation of religious holidays.

- ✓ **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** follow the ideals and rules of professional responsibility.
- ✓ **OFFICE HOURS (8 hrs. per week):** during office hours you will physically be inside the Johnson-Caldwell House; you will be available for clients' visits and telephone calls; you will meet each week with your supervising attorney to discuss case developments and strategy, interview clients, research legal issues, draft pleadings, and work on various class assignments.
- ✓ **20-HOUR WORK WEEK:** devote a **minimum** of 20 hours per week to the FSU PILC.
- ✓ **OBSERVATION HOURS:** observe 12 hours of legal proceedings involving the subject matters addressed this semester; observation hours will help meet the 20-hour week requirement.
Professor Annino's Intern's Only: 2 Hours Federal Court, 2 Hours Appellate Court, 2 Hours Administrative Hearings, 6 Hours Miscellaneous.
- ✓ **JOURNALS (double-spaced, 1" margins, one page minimum):** submit a typed weekly journal containing your reflections on assigned cases; to receive credit for journal submissions, place journals in the administrative assistant's box every Monday (**no later than Tuesday by Midnight of deadline week**)
- ✓ **RECORD KEEPING:** all time spent and all actions taken should be entered in PIKA for each client; complete a **TICKLER** form for **ALL** appointments, court dates, legal deadlines, and legal proceedings.
- ✓ **WEEKLY PIKA ENTRIES:** once a week, place an entry in PIKA summarizing important developments in each of your assigned clients' cases.
- ✓ **TIME LOGS:** submit time logs every Monday (**no later than Tuesday by Midnight of the deadline week**). There is a 7-day grace period to submit time logs. After the grace period, time logs will **NOT** be accepted and the hours for that week will **NOT** be counted toward fulfilling the total hour requirement for the course.
- ✓ **END-OF-SEMESTER REQUIREMENT:** close out assigned cases at the conclusion of the course. If a case is not ready for closure, a transfer memorandum must be prepared and enclosed in the case file. See the Public Interest Law Center's Manual for case closure and case transfer information and instructions.

Failure to meet any one of these requirements constitutes a failing grade for the course. During mid-term week, interns will receive an update of their total hours.

I) CLASS MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE – PROF. ANNINO'S SECTION ONLY

1. L. Timothy Perrin, H. Mitchell Caldwell, Carol A. Chase, "The Art & Science of Trial Advocacy," Anderson Publishing, 2003.
ISBN: 1583607765
ISBN-13: 978-1583607763

II) CLASS MATERIALS PROVIDED

1. Fla. Stat. Ch. 741 and 61, and the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, local rules; Public Interest Law Center, Domestic Violence Manual.
2. Public Interest Law Center, Professionalism, Ethics and Law Office Management.

III) RECOMMENDED REFERENCE MATERIALS

The following recommended resources are available for use in the Public Interest Law Center Library:

1. **PHILIP J. PADOVANO**, Florida Appellate Practice
2. **CHARLES W. EHRHARDT**, Florida Evidence
3. **TRAWICK**, Florida Practice and Procedure
4. **MARK C. WEBER**, Special Education Law and Litigation Treatise
5. **ABRAMS**, Florida Family Law - also on reserve in the library.
6. **CHARLES HALL**, Social Security Disability Practice
7. **LEMON**, Domestic Violence Law, A Comprehensive Overview of Cases and Sources

IV) Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center, 97 Woodward Avenue, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University; Tallahassee, FL 32306-4161

(850) 644-9566 (Voice)

(850) 644-8504 (TDD)

sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>