

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

DISABILITY RIGHTS FLORIDA

OBJECTIVE I Educate student in substantive areas of law affecting persons with disabilities in areas of education law, vocational rehabilitation (VR) and Medicaid.

- METHOD**
1. Review statutes, regulations, and major applicable cases.
 2. Observe due process proceedings involving education, VR, and Medicaid.
 3. Orientation by current legal and advocacy staff representing individuals with disabilities in education, VR, and Medicaid fair hearings and court proceedings.

OBJECTIVE II Learn to investigate and evaluate potential claims/ cases.

- METHOD**
1. Study casework procedures, goals and objectives, and case selection criteria of the Center.
 2. Review necessary records and documents, including medical and educational records, of potential clients.
 3. Observe, participate in, and later conduct under supervision, client interviews and subsequent client contacts.
 4. Interview potential witnesses or other individuals with pertinent information, and critique with supervising attorney.

OBJECTIVE III Develop negotiation skills.

- METHOD**
1. Prepare for negotiation with school officials, state social workers and administrators, and vocational rehabilitation staff, including negotiation strategy.
 2. Observe negotiation with supervising attorney.

OBJECTIVE IV Develop proficiency in pre-trial and trial skills.

- METHOD**
1. Prepare and maintain litigation checklist, notebook, and

anticipatory responses to possible evidentiary problems.

2. Observe hearings and trials.
3. Prepare pleadings, notices, motions, subpoenas, stipulations, and memoranda of law.
4. Draft/conduct/respond to discovery, including admissions, interrogatories, production of documents, and depositions.
5. Conduct administrative hearings, including opening statement, direct and cross examination, and closing statement.
6. Prepare recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders.
7. Participate in at least one court proceeding.

OBJECTIVE V Maintain awareness of progress in externship program.

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1. Make daily entries in learning journal.
 2. Discuss progress with supervising attorney, and send journal to faculty supervisor weekly.
 3. Write final report analyzing externship, including personal and professional growth, and substantive knowledge gained.