

SAVE: YOU WILL NEED THIS TO COMPLETE REPORTS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

Florida Innocence Initiative, Inc. Externship

OBJECTIVE 1 Gain basic familiarity with postconviction law and procedure regarding actual innocence

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1. Attend orientation and lecture, and read and discuss applicable statutes, criminal rules, and caselaw.
 2. Read and discuss a selection of law review and media articles documenting the history and current status of innocence work in Florida and the United States
 3. Read and discuss articles concerning the science and scope of DNA testing

OBJECTIVE 2 Learn the identifiable causes of wrongful arrest, prosecution and incarceration, and review possible remedies, including those currently being evaluated through pilot projects

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1. Read and discuss Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution and Other Dispatches from the Wrongly Convicted, by Scheck, Neufeld and Dwyer
 2. Review sections of a litigation file in an active innocence case
 3. Perform original research into causes and remedies of wrongful conviction. Produce a memorandum, consider supervisor's critique, and redraft as necessary.
 4. Present research findings and direct a group discussion on the topic

OBJECTIVE 3 Develop an appreciation of the experience of the wrongfully incarcerated and learn about prison life and conditions

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1. Meet with a wrongfully incarcerated citizen freed by DNA testing, if available, and respond to inmate correspondence.
 2. Read and discuss a selection of background materials about

prison conditions in Florida and elsewhere, and attend lecture regarding the physical and mental health implications of incarceration

OBJECTIVE 4 Achieve an understanding of litigation materials and gain case review skills

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1. Attend lecture regarding the components of a record on appeal and assessing same for indicia of innocence
 2. Review and outline one record on appeal in a case under review for postconviction DNA testing
 3. Attend weekly class sessions at which progress made by each student and questions or problems encountered are discussed by the group
 4. Produce memorandum of major findings of case review process. Consider critique of supervisor and redraft as necessary.

OBJECTIVE 5 Learn necessary investigative skills and put them into use

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1. Produce requests for necessary case documents using public records law
 2. Find and contact relevant evidence custodians telephonically; negotiate fees and receipt of records as necessary
 4. If geographically possible, travel to court and law enforcement evidence lockers and obtain biological material for testing
 5. Interview previous legal counsel and others relevant to innocence claims

OBJECTIVE 6 Develop proficiency in legal drafting

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1. Draft a motion for postconviction DNA testing
 2. Attend individual sessions with staff on the draft, accept feedback, and rewrite if necessary
 3. Lead a group discussion about the case, including the motion

OBJECTIVE 7 Reflect on the realities of postconviction and DNA/Innocence practice

METHOD

1. Participate in regular discussions with supervisor
2. Participate in group case discussions
3. Submit a weekly reflective journal to faculty supervisor, consider comments and questions, and expand or respond as appropriate.