

## **ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING 2023**

### **ACCOUNTING FOR LAWYERS**

Accounting is the fundamental language of business. Businesses speak many different languages but the essential, core language, the one that deals directly with business performance and viability is accounting. In this course we will study some of the basic concepts of accounting such as debits and credits, double entry bookkeeping, financial statements, assets, liabilities, shareholders' equity, accrual and cash methods of accounting, time value of money, depreciation, auditing, and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. We will explore how a working knowledge of these concepts is helpful to attorneys in a wide variety of different contexts so that, when you find yourself in a situation that requires at least a basic understanding of accounting concepts, you will be able to use that knowledge to successfully fulfill your role as an attorney.

### **ADMIRALTY**

This course involves a study of the jurisdiction of admiralty courts and the laws affecting maritime rights and obligations. Areas included are the history of maritime law, choice of law in admiralty cases, maritime property interests, rights of seamen, carriage of goods, salvage, and collision.

### **ANIMAL LAW**

This course includes legal frameworks that establish what can and cannot be done with and to animals. Animal law is an evolving legal field that is developing rapidly. It overlaps with contracts, criminal law, torts, property, constitutional law, wills and trusts, domestic relations, environmental law, evidence, patent law, tax law, and other areas. Animal law is interconnected with other fields of law, from FOIA requests to pet trusts to veterinary malpractice. The study of these concepts helps attorneys and law students understand not only the law's evolving attitude toward animals but also how the law operates and develops.

### **ANTITRUST**

This course examines the limitations imposed by the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, and Federal Trade Commission Act on anti-competitive practices of businesses. The course includes price fixing, monopolization, mergers, tying, restraints in distribution, boycotts, price discrimination, procedural issues in private enforcement, and the relationship between state and federal laws and enforcement.

### **BANKRUPTCY**

This course covers the basic principles of individual and business bankruptcies. The course will first cover the core bankruptcy principles that are generally applicable to every type of bankruptcy, including the automatic stay, the bankruptcy estate, and the rights of creditors. These provisions of the Bankruptcy Code are found in Chapters 1, 3 and 5. The course will then cover the basic principles of individual bankruptcies. This part of the course will focus on Chapters 7 and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code. The course will then cover the basic principles of business bankruptcies. This part of the course will focus on Chapter 11.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS LAW**

This course will look at the issues arising from bringing cases against government actors under 42 U.S.C. §1983-- the federal statute which authorizes lawsuits for the violation of Constitutional and civil rights. It focuses on the ways such civil rights claims are actually litigated in lawsuits against public officials and local governments. Topics will include what it means to act "under color of state law;" absolute and qualified immunities; government liability for the acts of individual officials; remedies for constitutional violations, including monetary and injunctive relief; structural reform litigation; and the award of attorney's fees. Cases considered include those involving prison conditions, excessive use of force, and other constitutional claims. Students will engage in simulations and other exercises, as well as complete a student-selected project.

## **EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION**

This course will explore the law's response to the phenomenon of employment discrimination. We will focus on some of the major federal statutes that forbid employment discrimination based on protected characteristics such as race, sex, age, and disability status - Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. We will look at the proof of intentional discrimination required under the statutes, their treatment of neutral employment practices that have a disparate impact on members of the protected classes, and the enforcement and remedial provisions of the statutes. Throughout we will try to assess the efficacy of these regulatory interventions.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

The regulation and control of water, air and land is the broad subject matter of this course. The emphasis is on federal statutory and regulatory law but international issues and state and local regulation will be reviewed in areas in which they have broad relevance.

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

This course examines the history, development, structure, and efficacy of international human rights law. Students will investigate the legal framework of the United Nations and regional systems relating to the protection and promotion of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, women's rights, the rights of migrants and refugees, cultural rights, and the emerging field of environmental rights. The course will examine the major sources of international human rights law--including treaties, customary international law, international soft law, and domestic law. Key mechanisms of human rights protection also will be discussed including, multilateral organizations including the United Nations Security Council and Human Rights Council, international, regional, and national courts and tribunals; and quasi-judicial treaty bodies (e.g. the U.N. Committee Against Torture). Students will develop familiarity with the human rights positive legal documents, and how to enforce those rights within treaty bodies, courts and commissions. They will learn how to develop strategies for domestic Tribal Nations and Tribal Courts to establish an international human rights framework to protect their members from internal and external civil rights and economic rights abuses. Students will assess the remedies that exist for violations of human rights law in the various systems and examine practical case studies where relevant. Guest speakers will be featured.

## **INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW**

Families and children increasingly cross borders regularly in this global world, without considering potential consequences. This course will explore the major elements and current trends in international

family law. The course will emphasize the role played by private international law in protecting families and children cross-border and explore the international legal framework in place to protect human rights within the context of family law. Areas of concentration will include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the several Hague family law treaties (Parental Abduction, Child Protection, Maintenance, and Intercountry Adoption) as well as related European Union regulations and US federal and state (uniform) law, and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. We will also look at current initiatives underway in some of the following areas: \* crossborder surrogacy, \*cross-cultural mediation, \* domestic violence and its impact in crossborder family matters, \*the role of religion and tensions with human rights in the family law context, \*forced marriage, \*property regimes for international couples and \*rights of unmarried couples.

With the permission of the professor, a student may substitute a paper for the final exam.

## **INTERNATIONAL LAW**

This basic course introduces students to the central topics, ideas and principles of present-day public international law. It will also cover the judicial and other structures including the United Nations, which are central to the determination and enforcement of this legal regime.

## **OCEAN & COASTAL LAW**

The areas in which oceans and their branches and land masses meet are the source of many relationships largely peculiar to those areas. Sea level rise, global warming and effects on our oceans, coastal resilience and retreat options from mega storms like Sandy and Katrina, wetlands protection, environment and ecological issues, the position of the area in terms of industry and commerce including such international rules as those governing fisheries, whaling and other trapping and hunting, are a part of the special problems facing this zone and the areas of water and land nearby. The course examines the various legal regimes with a consideration of policy issues that are involved in the complex relationships generated in these areas.

## **LAND USE PLANNING**

This course explores the relatively evolving field of land use law, seeking to understand the theoretical basis for such regulation, the effects (intended, unintended or perhaps unconsciously intended) of such regulation and the practicalities of land use and development within the legal framework. Among the major issues this course will examine are the law of zoning, the constitutional constraints on land use regulation, the establishment and enforcement of subdivision and land development controls, and other development regulations. The course will examine several current topics in land use regulation, including climate change, environmental regulations, smart growth, historic preservation and renewable energy. Students will approach the course material from both theoretical and practical vantage points, and will be required to conduct research on how land use regulations are implemented in "real world" situations.

## **MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS**

Doctrinal and practical oriented course with ample problem solving. The course leverages "real world" M&A related materials and the professor's in house and outside law firm experience practicing law in this area, to make key teaching points. The students will explore thoroughly the three most common M&A transactions or structures: asset purchases, mergers in their several forms, and stock purchases including tender offers, primarily under Delaware general corporation law. These transactions will be examined from the perspective of large "Wall Street" public company transactions and smaller private or close

corporation “Mainstreet” transactions. Students will learn the fundamental principles underlying the “law of M&A” and important steps necessary to complete M&A transactions including obtaining a working knowledge of how to assess the advantages and disadvantages of each transaction and recommend the transaction that best meets the client’s objectives. The course will cover the critical internal and external stakeholders who influence M&A transactions, client objectives for M&A transactions, advising business people, deal checklists, due diligence, confidentiality agreements, letters of intent, drafting and negotiating definitive agreements, closing including closing and post-closing checklists, integration, appraisal rights, board and senior manager fiduciary duties [good bar exam prep], shareholder rights and remedies, anti-takeover statutes, tender offers, successor liability, accounting, finance and tax implications of M&A transactions and antitrust and federal securities regulation. The students also will learn the important role that the M&A lawyer plays in M&A transactions on behalf of their clients, most importantly, selection of the transaction that best meets their objectives and compliance with the legal requirements.

The course assessment tools will consist of 15 sets of overnight problems which will be compared with the professor’s suggested solutions and discussed in class, and comprehensive problem-oriented mid-term and final take-home exams and the professor’s grading matrix for comparison purposes. The casebook and statutory Delaware General Corporation Law [DGCL] will be supplemented by an instructional syllabus and comprehensive glossary of key terms and provisions provided by the professor.

If the students apply themselves diligently, they will be well-prepared to begin the practice of business law, recognizing that one does not really learn any area of the law until she or he practices.

**Business Organizations is a prerequisite.**

### **MENTAL HEALTH LAW: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

This course is designed to create a cross disciplinary environment where students can explore some of the critical issues that cross the boundaries between law and behavioral health. It will focus on selected topics, exploring each of them from a medical as well as legal perspective. The course will begin with an overview of the mental health system and its history, as well as an outline of the specialized legal environment in which it works. There will then be a series of focus sessions that zoom in on specific issues. There will be three skills workshops providing practical application of the material to common types of psychiatric hearings: civil certification; dangerousness; and competency/diversion. Brown University graduate students in psychiatry and psychology will be registered students in this course.

### **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

This course is intended to introduce students to the growing field of corporate compliance. Students will learn the fundamental elements of an effective corporate compliance program and will analyze the practical and legal issues involved in designing, implementing and operating such a program. A compliance program is an organization’s policies, procedures, and practices designed to create an ethical corporate culture and to prevent and detect wrongdoing.

### **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

This course will examine how sexual and reproductive health laws may impede or increase access to reproductive health care and shape how we understand what constitutes sexual and reproductive health. The course will incorporate the understanding of legal doctrine, public health research, and will critically assess issues arising from sexual and reproductive health law. The course will draw on various tools of analysis including critical race theory, feminist theory, critical legal theory, human rights, and a range of public health methods. Topics covered will include, amongst others, sexual and reproductive health law as

it pertains to abortion, sexuality, pregnancy, assisted reproductive technology, health care in prisons, and immigrants.

### **WORKERS COMPENSTATION**

This course will consider and evaluate benefit delivery systems for those who suffer work related injuries. Class discussion will trace the evolution of the law from common law tort system and the use of the affirmative defenses to bar most claims to the development of benefit systems which do not utilize fault as a liability measure. The structure of the benefit system will be evaluated and distinctions considered between the various state systems as well as the federal longshore and harbor workers compensation act.

### **BAR TESTED ELECTIVE COURSES**

#### **BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS (SPACONE)**

Doctrinal and practical oriented course designed to prepare the students for the bar exam, the practice of business law and the practice of law in general. The course will explore the law and practicalities of agency relationships which pervade business organizations and the major for- profit business organizations: sole proprietorships, general partnerships, public and private or close corporations, Limited Liability Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies. The course will leverage “real world” examples and draw on the professor’s in- house and outside law firm experience in the areas of business and corporate law and litigation, to make key teaching points.

The primary of the law that will be studied includes case law and the Restatement, Third, Agency, the Model Business Corporation Act [MBCA] with occasional divergence to Delaware General Corporation Law [DGCL], the Revised Uniform Partnership Act [RUPA], the Revised Uniform Limited Company Liability Act [RULLCA] and the Securities Act of 1933 and Securities & Exchange Act of 1934. Specific subjects that will be discussed are the fundamental principles that underly the law of agency and business organization law, the characteristics of agency relationships and the individual business organizations, the formation of agency relationships and legal requirements for the formation of business organizations, the dimensions of a business including why for- profit businesses are started and how businesses are organized and function, client objectives for selecting a business organization, representing business people, agency and business organization agreements, owner liability, veil piercing, control of business organizations, agents, managers and owners’ authority to make decisions, the fiduciary duties of agents, directors and officers, partners, other managers, and owners; owners’ rights and remedies, transfer of ownership interests, dissociation or withdrawal, dissolution, financing a business through securities offerings and other means, and mergers and acquisitions. Additional important topics will include the importance of preventive law, accounting and financial statements, insurance, contractual indemnification and the tax implications of business organizations. Also, the course will thoroughly explore the important role the business lawyer plays in advising her or his clients as to what business organization to select based on the client’s objectives. and eliminating or minimizing potential legal issues that can arise from the business.

Assessment tools include seven sets of overnight problems and the professor’s suggested solutions, both of which will be discussed in class, and problem-oriented comprehensive mid-term and final take- home examinations and the professor’s grading matrix for comparison purposes. The casebook and statutory supplement will be supplemented by an extensive instructional syllabus and glossary of key terms and definitions prepared by the professor.

## **FAMILY LAW**

This course examines the underlying social and economic principles of family life, its regulation by government, and constitutional limitations on regulation. Direct laws covering marriage, divorce, and child custody will be examined but also the course will cover those areas of law--property, income maintenance, medical care, schooling and crime--that also have direct impact on families in this society.

## **REMEDIES**

The remedies course surveys what a court can do for a claimant who has been, or might be, wronged by the defendant. We will address the principal remedies: damages; injunctions (orders to do or refrain from doing certain conduct); restitution (including the possibility of recovering the defendant's gains from a wrongful act, even if the gains exceed the amount of the plaintiff's loss); remedies that simply declare the rights of the parties; pre-judgment remedies before a determination of liability; and the various means of enforcing remedies (including contempt and seizure of property). Throughout the course, we will discuss which of the several remedies are best for the plaintiff, and how to determine the extent of the remedy that the plaintiff may obtain.

## **SALES**

This course focuses primarily on Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. A study of the law governing the sale of goods and financing thereof is covered including the law governing the formation and interpretation of commercial contracts, perfection of security interests and available remedies upon breach of contract. Implied and express warranties, risk of loss allocation and default are discussed.

## **SECURED TRANSACTIONS**

This course surveys Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and focuses on financing and creation of a security interest in personal property and fixtures.

## **SEMINARS**

## **COMPUTER CRIMES**

Cyber crime – presents a criminal and national security threat that grows in proportion to the increasing ubiquity of digital and networked devices, and that is limited only by the bounds of human creativity. Moreover, as digital and networked devices permeate more and more into daily lives and economic sectors, concepts underlying the investigation and prosecution of cyber crime become more broadly relevant. The vast quantity of data that such devices collect and store about their owners and third parties also implicates significant privacy considerations. The investigative authorities available to law enforcement thus have a direct impact upon privacy interests. Finally, as new technology and new uses of technology continue to emerge, substantive criminal law and procedural law governing lawful access to data must be applied in new, often unanticipated contexts. In the absence of legislative change, the executive and judicial branches are left to apply old statutes and to rely on analogies to physical-world doctrines that do not always translate easily into the digital context.

Students who intend to investigate, prosecute, or defend criminal cases require an understanding of the substantive and procedural law in this area, regardless of the types of cases that interest them. A street-level drug case, a white-collar fraud case, and a human trafficking case, for example, will all have cyber components. Also, an increasing number and type of businesses hold third-party data that is potentially subject to lawful demands by law enforcement seeking evidence of criminal conduct. Businesses may also, of course, be the victims of cyber crime or of insider criminal conduct that leaves a digital trail.

Accordingly, students who intend to counsel corporate clients or employers will benefit from a cyber crime and investigations course. Finally, students interested in privacy and technology outside the criminal context the opportunity to round out their understanding of constitutional, statutory, and caselaw considerations in digital and networked environments.

### **FEDERAL LITIGATION & APPEALS IN IMMIGRATION LAW**

This course introduces students to Federal District Court litigation and representation in the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, both academically and practically, with a focus on representing immigrants. Students will learn tools to prepare for litigation and appellate practice, including drafting petitions for review, motions, mootng a First Circuit case. This course satisfies the writing requirement.

### **PATENT LAW**

Creativity and productive ideas have proven essential to economic progress. The federal government has developed an elaborate set of laws and regulations to protect these ideas from appropriation by others. This body of law, and elements of the practice under it, will be covered in detail. The patent law seminar includes elements of US and foreign patentability standards, perfection of patent rights, enforcement (litigation and ADR, border controls), relation to other bodies of law and practice such as antitrust, employment, corporate finance, licensing and joint ventures, federal civil procedure and evidence, international law, legal ethics, trademark, copyright, trade secret and Constitutional law. A background of science or technology education or experience can be helpful but is not required. Practical exercises in analyzing inventions and patents are given during the semester. The seminar grade is based primarily on a term paper due at the beginning of the exam period with some adjustment for class participation.

### **SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Slavery and Human Trafficking in the 21st This seminar will introduce students to the federal, selected state, and international laws and policies now available to combat human trafficking and modern-day forms of slavery. The course will begin with a brief examination of abolitionism. It will then review the adoption of U.S. anti-slavery and peonage laws, showing how those laws proved insufficient to curb modern slavery and trafficking, such failure forming the backdrop for the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000. The seminar will then conduct an in-depth analysis of federal laws prohibiting sex and labor trafficking crimes and consider how such laws are used to investigate and prosecute those offenses. A brief investigation of selected state laws as well as the problem of migrant smuggling will also be conducted. The last part of the seminar will examine the international anti-trafficking legal framework established under the U.N. Palermo Protocol and consider whether global efforts to implement the Protocol have had any success.

The methodology employed in the seminar will examine each topic using the lenses of legal history, analytical jurisprudence, and criminal law theory. The focus will be on the criminal law provisions of the TVPA as it is logistically impossible to cover the foreign policy, immigration, and social service aspects of that law in a course like this and our concern will be the implications of the TVPA for criminal theory and practice. After tracing the evolution of the legal definition(s) and social, religious, and economic conceptions of slavery and the rise of anti-slavery thought, we will explore the advent of legislative and prosecutorial recognition of the alleged new crime of “human trafficking” and examine how TVPA has been interpreted and applied by the courts in cases involving allegations of human trafficking and slavery. By the end of the course, students should come away with a good understanding of the major legal, jurisprudential, public policy, and practical law enforcement issues involved in the struggle against

modern-day slavery and human trafficking. This will include a close examination of the role of the internet in sex and labor trafficking. The reading in the course will be supplied by the professor and will be substantial. The reading will be supplemented with lectures, video presentations, and talks by one or more guest speakers.

## **COURSES THAT MEET THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT**

### **(THE CLINICAL COURSES LISTED BELOW ALSO COUNT TOWARD SATISFACTION OF THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)**

#### **APPELLATE ADVOCACY: CRIMINAL LAW**

This course focuses on the art of persuasion, with attention paid to both written and oral advocacy. Students will have an opportunity to write from either prosecution or defense perspectives. Using transcripts of two actual criminal trials – one raising 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment issues and the other exploring 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment *Miranda* law – we look at how the choice of language impacts persuasion. Words count! When do we choose to call a defendant “Ms. Smith,” when “Jacqueline,” when “Jackie” and when “the young woman”? Do we refer to “the prosecution” or “the State” or “the government” or the prosecutor by name? Do we say, “Despite the late hour, she claimed she was alert and watching carefully out the window,” or do we say, “She testified she was awake and looking out the window at 2:14 a.m.”? Or even, “Apparently wide awake and unable to sleep at 2:14 a.m., she was intently peering out the window.” What difference does it make? We stress creating themes, supporting them with propositions, and crafting messages to sell those propositions. We will also spend time on issue selection and framing: how does framing influence success? Issue analysis, creative reasoning, research skills and persuasive organization are all part of the advocacy process. The class is conducted as a writing workshop. You will write drafts, we will review and discuss them, and you will have the benefit of instructor and peer comments in refining your graded product. We will also look at research techniques and focus on using both good and bad cases to our advantage. By the end of the course, you will have written two short appellate briefs. No exam or final paper; all work will be completed by the final class.

#### **ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH**

A survey of legal research strategies and resources not covered in the first-year Legal Practice classes, including federal legislative history, administrative law research, foreign & international law, finding and using practice materials, and law-related digital resources. There will be an emphasis on research strategy and process for the effective use of digital sources. Students will complete exercises in class, in a hands-on workshop format. Formative assessments consist of problem sets covering topics and resources discussed in class. Students will complete a research memo and guide on a topic they choose.

#### **ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY**

This course will take a criminal case as the jumping off point. Students will learn how to prepare and try a complex case. The class will focus on trial technique and strategy using cutting edge trial techniques and theories. Students will be evaluated based upon class participation and role playing in mock trial during the last two sessions of the class. Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite.



## **ESTATE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

This course deals with the practical application of estate planning principles to various client situations. Topics include client interviews; estate planning for young adults, individuals contemplating marriage, unmarried couples, young couples with children, and older clients with children; transfers to grandchildren; planning for second marriages; asset protection; retirement planning; perpetual trusts; charitable gifts; and an overview of estate administration. **Wills and Trusts is a prerequisite.**

## **MEDIATION**

When parties are unable to resolve their dispute through discussion or negotiation, a logical next step is to seek the assistance of a third party mediator to facilitate communication and the search for a solution. This course is intended to familiarize students with the norms of the mediation process and to develop the skills that will enable students to either serve as mediators or to better represent clients in this increasingly important form of ADR. Attention is given to both facilitative and evaluative styles of mediation. Significant emphasis is placed on role playing exercises and on the legal consequences of the mediation process.

## **SEA GRANT LAW FELLOW PROGRAM**

Students enrolled in this program work under the professor's supervision on a legal research project on behalf of an outside organization. Projects are assigned by the professor and will focus on a specific research question related to ocean and coastal law or maritime law. Law Fellows have the opportunity to work with stakeholders on important issues, to gain in-depth substantive knowledge on the applicable law and its real-world application, and to draft a high-quality written product, and may have the opportunity to present their work in a professional setting. Certain projects can satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement. Law Fellows must dedicate a minimum of 10 hours per week during the semester, but hours are flexible. The professor's permission is required to register.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND LAW PRACTICE**

This course surveys software systems that embody specialized legal knowledge and know-how, considers the role of technology on lawyering and the legal services delivery system, and provides hands-on instruction in current technologies including document assembly, automated client interviews, social media marketing, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, data analytics, project management, and virtual law practice. The course will also examine the burgeoning literature on the practicalities and ethics of "e-lawyering," with attention to the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Student projects will provide hands-on experience in current technologies with broad application in public interest and pro bono contexts, as well as application appropriate to solo and small firm practitioners.

## **TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERING AND CONTRACT DRAFTING**

This course teaches all of the foundational skills of transactional lawyering, from advising and counseling business clients to the highest professional and ethical standards, to analyzing and drafting contracts to reflect the parties' deal, objectives, and concerns. Students learn to understand a transaction through both its legal and business issues. In learning the process of drafting a contract, students learn to understand a client's deal and then translate the deal into contract concepts that become the building blocks of the contract. Through exercises, simulations, and projects, students then learn to draft clear, careful, unambiguous provisions in a well-organized, readable, complete contract. Students learn how to add value to the contracted deal by drafting language or structuring the deal so that it shifts the risk levels for each party. Students also learn the art of analyzing, reviewing and commenting on drafted contracts using

current practices and technologies. The class involves group exercises, simulations, and role play, as well as lecture. The type of contracts covered are relevant to most transactional law practices.

### **TRIAL ADVOCACY**

The trial advocacy course employs a learning-by-doing approach. Thus, most of the course will involve the practice of trial skills including direct and cross examination, opening statements, closing arguments, and jury selection, in a simulated courtroom environment. During the last two weeks of the course, each student will participate as co-counsel in a full-length simulated civil or criminal trial with a sitting Rhode Island judge or professor presiding.

**Evidence is a prerequisite but may be taken concurrently with the permission of the Trial Advocacy instructor.**

### **CLINICS & EXTERNSHIPS**

#### **BUSINESS STARTUP CLINIC**

The Roger Williams University School of Law Business Start-up Clinic provides services to small start-up businesses and nonprofit organizations in Rhode Island. Services include navigating legal entity choice, drafting basic contracts, and certain intellectual property assistance. The primary goal of the clinic is to teach the practice of transactional lawyering while providing service to under-served entrepreneurs and organizations.

#### **CORPORATE COUNSEL CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & CORPORATE COUNSEL SEMINAR**

Students are assigned to in-house corporate offices of prominent for-profit and not-for-profit entities in and around Rhode Island and southern New England. Students will conduct legal research, write memoranda of law, draft legal documents, and engage in other activities as assigned. Students will be exposed to the various ways in which law is practiced in-house and for corporate clients. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the assigned office and must be taken in conjunction with the Corporate Counsel Seminar.

#### **CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC**

Students represent indigent criminal defendants in Rhode Island District Court, Traffic Tribunal, and/or Superior Court from arraignment through to final trial or other disposition. **Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite.**

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & SEMINAR**

The DC SIP immerses students in the Washington DC legal and policy world through a full-time placement with a federal agency, legislative office, non-profit, or trade group. The externship placement is complemented by a weekly, two-credit, graded seminar. The seminar will cover the rules and skills relevant to government practice and the entities that interact with the federal government, such as conflict-of-interest and lobbying regulations. Substantive issues will span administrative and regulatory enforcement, legislative drafting and congressional oversight, federal judicial policy making, and public interest litigation. Guest speakers will walk students through real world issues from their careers. Students will also engage in self-reflective journaling and other writing assignments.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL/LAND USE CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & ENVIRONMENTAL/LAND USE SEMINAR**

Through the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinical Externship, students train in legal offices or departments of government agencies and non-government organizations doing environmental and land use legal work in Rhode Island and southern New England. Externs are exposed to the various ways in which environmental and land use law is practiced by government agencies and non-government organizations through litigation, administrative rulemaking and adjudication, and engagement in the legislative process. The students also participate in a two-credit, graded seminar “Advanced Topics in Environmental and Land Use Law” that will be designed by the professor, after consultation with the field supervisors, to teach substantive law, regulation, and policy directly relevant to the students’ field work, as well as the ethics and legal skills required of an environmental attorney.

### **JUDICIAL CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & JUDICIAL PROCESS SEMINAR**

Students are assigned to selected judges in Rhode Island and federal trial and appellate courts. The student externs conduct legal research, prepare memoranda of law, observe trial and appellate proceedings, participate in discussions with the court, and perform the duties of a judicial law clerk under the supervision of the assigned judge and a faculty member. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the judge's chambers and must be taken in conjunction with Seminar: Judicial Process and Ethics.

### **IMMIGRATION CLINIC**

Students enrolled in the immigration clinic represent noncitizens in their applications for relief from removal before the Immigration Court in Boston, prepare applications for benefits under the immigration laws and represent noncitizens in their interviews for such benefits before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Providence. Types of cases typically include asylum and other relief based on fear of persecution in the country of removal, waivers of deportation for long-term residents of the U.S., adjustment of status for noncitizens with U.S. citizen or permanent resident family members and relief for noncitizen victims of domestic violence. Students also conduct “Know Your Rights” presentations for the immigrant communities in Rhode Island and for immigration detainees in New England, conduct intake interviews following these presentations and provide consultations under the supervision of the Clinic Director. In class, students learn trial skills and discuss substantive, ethical and policy issues relating to the practice of immigration law.

### **NY PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM & PROSECUTION SEMINAR**

The New York Pro Bono Scholars Program (NYPBSP) bridges law school education and the practice of law while engaging students in the provision of critical legal assistance to low-income people. Students will provide approximately 520 hours of pro bono legal service over a 12-week period for which they will receive 12 fieldwork credits. In addition, students will take a two-credit weekly seminar on pro bono practice, access to justice and public interest lawyering. The field work will be graded Pass/Fail. The seminar will be graded.

### **PROSECUTION AND GOVERNMENT CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & SEMINAR**

Through our Prosecution and Government Clinical Externship Program, students train in a prosecution or government office on the federal, state or municipal level. Students will gain valuable hands-on experience representing the government in a variety of settings, including criminal prosecutions. Students may be certified to appear in court at some of these sites. Students will participate in a weekly seminar with classmates who are working in a variety of prosecutorial and government placements.

## **PUBLIC INTEREST CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERING SEMINAR**

Through this program, students will be representing low-income clients. Students may choose from a variety of placements in civil legal services offices, public defender offices, immigration non-profit offices, and any other non-profit law office that provides direct representation to low-income or marginalized clients. Eligible students may be certified to appear in court under a student practice order. The seminar will focus significantly on the issue of race including mass incarceration, the history of slavery in the US, and bias in the court system that impact marginalized communities and particularly low-income clients seeking legal help for civil, immigration, and criminal issues. The seminar will also focus on bias in the legal profession.

## **VETERANS DISABILITY APPEALS FIELD CLINIC**

The Veterans Disability Appeals Field Clinic is a one semester program in which law students represent military veterans whose applications for disability benefits have either been denied or granted at a level that is inappropriate to the level of disability. Working with experienced attorneys from Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick, a nationally recognized law firm specializing in this work, students will research and draft legal memoranda and briefs, participate in pre-briefing conferences and, when appropriate, argue cases before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

## **HONORS ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES**

### **ELECTION LAW**

Race, class and party intertwine in almost every decision of the Court in election law. This course introduces students to the judicial doctrines of our democratic system and the interplay of race, class and party. We will survey the history, case law and current debates on the right to vote, redistricting and regulation of voting.

### **JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION**

Description Forthcoming

### **LEGAL HISTORY: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW STORIES**

Description Forthcoming

### **SIMPLE JUSTICE: THE HISTORY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The text is the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Simple Justice*, by Richard Kluger. The book traces the line of cases from *Plessy v. Ferguson* to *Brown v. Board of Education*, blending constitutional and historical analysis with fascinating portraits of the lawyers (and their litigation strategy) and the judges (and their personal struggles with how to dispense justice a changing society) who were involved in the history-making journey from “separate but equal” to the death of state-sponsored racial segregation in public schools. The grade will be based on class participation and a take-home exam.

### **STANDARD REVIEW**

Description Forthcoming

## **OPEN ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES**

### **LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE**

American popular culture is fascinated with lawyers, the law and the legal system. This course explores how film and television shows portray lawyers, the legal system, ethics and justice. Specifically, we will use films and television shows as “case studies” to understand how law and popular culture influence each other, and the American system of justice.

### **JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION**

Description Forthcoming

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### **SUPERHEROES AND THE LAW**

This one-credit course will focus on preparing you for the Multistate Performance Test, a section of the Uniform Bar Exam through written assignments and a final exam. This course will help refine your analytical and critical thinking skills as you prepare for a life as a lawyer. We will discuss various areas of law and the hypothetical impact superpowers would have on our law. Some of those questions will involve who pays for the damage after a superhero battle and if masked superheroes can testify in court. You do not need to know anything about comics or superheroes to get the most out of this class.