

EXPERIENTIAL COURSE APPLICATION

DEADLINE – FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019 – 5:00 P.M.

Name:

Campus Mailbox No.:

ID No:

Phone:

Local Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Permanent Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Email Address:

Local Phone:

LEGAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

Present Year and Division:

Graduation Date:

No. of Credits Completed (as of term applied for):

Grade Point Average**:

Courses Taken to Date (check if taking concurrently):

- Professional Responsibility*
- Evidence*
- Interviewing & Counseling
- Negotiation
- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure I
- Criminal Procedure II
- Attach list of other relevant courses

Experiential Course Preferences:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Experiential Enrollment Prerequisites:

***Successful Completion required (C or better): Professional Responsibility; Evidence**

Exceptions – Environmental & Veterans Clinics – PR only)

****2.5 Minimum GPA required for Judicial Externship)**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Previous Clinic or Externship Enrollment: YES NO

If YES, which Program:

Semester/Year:

Credits Received:

If YES, which Program:

Semester/Year:

Credits Received:

Other Languages?

Fluency? Competence?

OTHER APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED

(Please Append Pages As Necessary)

1. Summarize your legal experience to date.
2. Summarize your other relevant experience (including jobs, skills, languages, interests, etc.)
3. Give a brief explanation of your plan for your legal career, and explain how the experiential program applied for fits into your plan.
4. Describe any employment, outside commitments and/or non-classroom law school activities in which you will be involved during your enrollment.
5. Submit a current résumé to the Director of each program for which you have applied (submit as email attachment.)
6. Submit a legal writing sample to the Director of each program for which you have applied (submit as email attachment.)

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DELAWARE CIVIL Law CLINIC

Offered for Fall, 2019 Registration

The **Delaware Civil Law Clinic (DCC)** provides free legal services to survivors of domestic violence seeking civil legal representation, in obtaining protection from abuse orders, custody, visitation, and preparing divorce petitions. Legal representation may also include preparing wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives for elderly and terminally ill Delawareans. The DCC operates in conjunction with Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. (DVLS), the *pro bono* arm of the Delaware State Bar Association.

Third year DCC students are admitted to the limited practice of law, as Certified Legal Interns, pursuant to Delaware Supreme Court Rule 56, and represent clients in Family Court. DCC students learn practical legal skills in the representation of clients. DCC is a one semester, graded course for 6 credits. Third year students are expected to work a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week. The DCC may also accept second year students for 2 credits, depending on space availability, to do limited work in the clinic for approximately seven (7) hours per week. Students enrolled in DCC are able to satisfy some of their Delaware Bar Clerkship requirements through participation in DCC.

Students must be available every Friday for court rotation, trial observation and hearings and must attend the class associated with the clinic. Student may also be required conduct telephone intake duty for DVLS, depending on clinic responsibilities and client needs in a given semester. Students participating in DCC must also attend all Friday training sessions beginning the first week of classes. These sessions are mandatory and will take place during business hours.

Once enrolled in the Delaware Civil Clinic, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CLINIC

Listed for Spring, 2020

The **Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic** has, since 1989, offered students the opportunity to prepare for practice by assisting clients with issues under federal Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environment Policy Act, and other federal, state, and local environmental laws.

The Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic provides legal representation to individuals and dozens of national and regional public interest environmental groups. Cases include appeals, regulatory proceedings, land use and citizen suits as private attorneys general in Federal and State courts. Students work with administrative agencies, scientists and engineers, conduct documentary research, and develop and implement legal strategies under the close supervision of the Clinic Director.

The Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic also includes a weekly seminar that addresses substantive and procedural problems encountered by students in their clinical work, as well as work on the Clinic Case, an exercise to develop and hone practical skills of civil litigation drafting and strategy.

Recommended but not required – one of the following: Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law, Enforcement of Environmental Law, Ocean & Coastal Law, Environmental Seminar, Toxic Torts, Evidence.

For more information, visit www.widenerelc.org and click on “Environmental Law Clinic – For Students” link.

Once enrolled in the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

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PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Offered for Fall, 2019 Registration; Listed for Spring, 2020

The **Pa. Criminal Defense Clinic** provides representation to people in Chester County who are indigent and charged with misdemeanors in state court. Our clients are referred to us by the Chester County Public Defender.

What Students Do – Students are certified by the PA Supreme Court to represent clients in court under the direct supervision of Clinic Director Judith Ritter and Supervising Attorney Romie Griesmer. Students represent clients through all phases of their case: initial client interview, investigation, plea bargaining, preliminary hearings, pretrial motions and trials.

Credits and Hours Required – Students are enrolled for six (6) Credits and are expected to spend an average of 20 hours per week working on clinic cases, 10 of those hours must be spent in the clinic workroom. Students work with an assigned partner and have a weekly meeting with one of the clinic supervisors regarding their casework. Once enrolled in the Clinic, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

Orientation and Clinic Seminar – In order to have students begin client representation as soon as possible there is a mandatory (1 or 2 day) orientation prior to the start of classes. The seminar meets once a week, usually from 2 - 4 p.m. Due to the importance of the professional skills, substantive law and procedure being taught, seminar attendance is mandatory-- no unexcused absences are allowed. If you have any questions about our program, please feel free to drop by our offices (Romie Griesmer Clinic Wing 253, Professor Ritter 305).

Enrollment – Only third year students are eligible to enroll. Students will be selected by the Clinic Director and Supervising Attorney after submission of application and interview. Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure I, Evidence and Professional Responsibility are course prerequisites. Preference will be given to students who have taken Trial Methods or ITAP and/or Criminal Procedure II.

Once enrolled in the Pennsylvania Criminal Defense Clinic, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

VETERANS LAW CLINIC

Offered for Summer & Fall, 2019 Registration; Listed for Spring, 2020 – (ED and RD students encouraged to apply)

The **Veterans Law Clinic (VLC)** provides free legal representation to low-income, disabled veterans and their dependents for appeals to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The clinic handles cases regarding disability compensation, needs-based pension, Section 1151 claims (malpractice-type claims against the VA), VA overpayment waivers, and dependency and indemnity compensation (survivor benefit). The Clinic also handles discharge upgrade applications and wills and related documents.

What Students Do – Students assist clients through all phases of a case: intake and initial interviews, investigation and gathering of documentary evidence, working with forensic experts, filing petitions, representing clients at hearings, and appellate brief writing. Students also attend the Clinic's Veterans Assistance Days, in which Clinic attorneys provide one-hour, free consultations to veterans.

The Clinic Class – During fall/spring semesters, the clinic class meets once a week, usually in the evening. Generally, students are enrolled for six credits and are expected to spend 20 hours per week working in the Clinic. Students can enroll for fewer credits with Clinic permission. Summer students operate on a compressed schedule.

Delaware Bar Clerkship Requirement – Students enrolled in the Clinic may be able to satisfy some of their clerkship requirements by working with our Delaware-barred attorney. Please let us know if you plan to sit for the Delaware Bar.

If you have any questions about our program, please feel free to drop by our offices in the clinics wing.

Once enrolled in the Veterans Law Clinic, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

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JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Offered for Summer & Fall, 2019 Registration; Listed for Spring, 2020 – (ED and RD students encouraged to apply)

Placements: Students enrolled in the **Judicial Externship Program (JEP)** are placed as part-time clerks for academic credit in the chambers of judges in State and Federal trial and appellate courts in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including Federal Circuit, District and Magistrate Courts; State Supreme, intermediate appellate and trial courts, and various other courts including U.S Tax Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, state courts of equity and administrative law courts.

Requirements: The course is graded pass/fail. Briefly put –and not intended to limit more specific instructions- to complete the program, externs must:

- Spend a minimum of 10 hours per week in placement (3 credits/semester; 2 semester commitment)
- Submit three periodic 3-5 page reflective writings; complete practice MPT exam
- Participate in weekly class activities on the JEP Homepage
- Complete student placement evaluation
- Satisfactory evaluation by supervising judge

Prerequisites: Applicants must have completed 3 semesters of law school, and must have successfully completed courses in Professional Responsibility and Evidence. The Director will have final authority to determine which applicants qualify for admission and to determine placements with particular courts. We recognize that some students have special relationships with judges, or may have contacted judges prior to application and enrollment. Such arrangements for placements will be carefully considered as they occur. Students are strongly urged to complete the application and placement interview before communicating with a judge.

Application Requirements: Applicants must complete the **Student Experiential Course Application Form** in this packet, and submit the completed Application Form, along with a complete, current, **official transcript of grades** to Patti Burns, 4th floor faculty secretarial area, Law Building.

In addition, applicants **must** submit an electronic copy (as an email attachment) of a current résumé and a writing sample to Professor Catania at fjcatania@widener.edu.

Once enrolled in the Judicial Externship Program, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

PUBLIC INTEREST EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Offered for Summer & Fall, 2019 Registration; Listed for Spring, 2020 – (ED and RD students encouraged to apply)

The Public Interest Externship Program (PIEP) is generally a full-year clinical legal field placement experience in which students may earn up to a total of eight (8) academic credits. The course is graded pass/fail.

If you have questions about placements for the Academic Year, please contact Professor Catania at fjcatania@widener.edu (ext. 2108).

Prerequisites: By the start of the Externship Placement, students must have earned 60 credits for DE and NJ (45 credits for PA), and must have successfully completed courses in Professional Responsibility and Evidence. Some placements may also require students to have completed additional courses, such as Federal Tax, Family Law, ITAP and/or Trial Methods.

Application Requirements: Applicants must complete the **Student Experiential Course Application Form** in this packet, and submit the completed Application Form, along with a complete, current, **official transcript of grades** to Patti Burns, 4th floor faculty secretarial area, Law Building.

In addition, applicants **must** submit an electronic copy (as an email attachment) of a current résumé and a writing sample to Professor Catania at fjcatania@widener.edu.

Once enrolled in the Public Interest Externship Program, students may not withdraw from the course without specific written authorization from the Program Director.

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ADDITIONAL EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Expected to be available Summer & Fall, 2019; Spring, 2020

- **Delaware Department of Justice** – DE DOJ has openings for two externs, with one being initially assigned to the Civil Division and the other to the Office of Civil Rights and Public Trust. At mid-semester, the assignments would be switched so that both externs both get a sense of how each Division and area of practice operates and differs.
- **Legal Affairs Division of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey** – Opportunities with the state's largest health insurer in its Hopewell and Newark offices. Focus on issues relating to health law and health insurers with exposure to federal and state regulatory compliance matters, including ACA, HIPAA, ERISA, and general health care compliance, physician self-referral law issues, fraud and abuse, provider network development, managed care, product development and general corporate and litigation matters related to health care. In addition, the extern may be exposed to general corporate matters such as vendor contracting, advertising and marketing, real estate and corporate governance.
- **Office of Counsel to New Castle County Council** – (*ED and RD students encouraged to apply*) – This is a placement in the office of a Delaware Law School alumnus who represents the County Council. Extern duties will include legal research, legislative research, drafting legal memoranda, and assisting Counsel to Council on substantive legal matters. Externs will be supervised by Michael Migliore, Esq., Counsel to Council.
- **Health, Education & Legal Assistance Project - Medical/Legal Partnership** – This program embeds attorneys in the Healthy Start Program and the Nurse Family Partnership Program of the Foundation for Delaware County, and in the Nurse Family Partnership Program of the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium. At each site, attorneys and externs support the nurses and case managers, working with them to address health-harming legal needs facing participants in the programs. Attorneys and externs provide direct legal services to program participants; consultation and advice to program staff to help them support program participants; training and education to partners and clients; and advocacy for meaningful change in laws and policies negatively affecting participants. The programs serve low income parents and pregnant women, providing direct legal services to participants.
- **Philadelphia District Attorney Trial Clinic** – This is a program of the Philadelphia DA comprised of in-court and classroom learning. To participate in this program, law students will need at least one free day in their weekly academic calendar to be in court and will also need to be available for the weekly seminar held on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students start the semester with a two-day intensive training period, after which they will go to court to handle preliminary hearings in felony cases. In the middle of the semester, the students will have another half-day intensive training session before going to court to conduct misdemeanor trials and suppression hearings. This training includes conducting mock preliminary hearings, suppression hearings, and misdemeanor trials where the students will examine witnesses and present legal arguments based on fact patterns from actual cases. While in court, each clinical student will be closely supervised by the instructors and by the Assistants District Attorney assigned to that room. After court, an instructor will meet with each student to provide feedback and critique.
- **U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations** – This is a subcommittee of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. The subcommittee hosts four externs each semester, investigating waste, fraud and abuse in government agencies.
- **MANY OTHER EXTERNSHIP PLACEMENT POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INQUIRE.**

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NOTE: STUDENTS CANNOT REGISTER FOR AN EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM A PROGRAM DIRECTOR. ONCE ENROLLED IN AN EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM, STUDENTS MAY NOT WITHDRAW FROM THE COURSE WITHOUT SPECIFIC WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM A PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

NOTE: APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR POSITIONS IN THE CLINIC OR EXTERNSHIP APPLIED FOR IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE.