ILLINOIS INNOCENCE PROJECT EXTERNSHIP

LAW 675; §002

1-3 credit hours

SIU LAW SCHOOL

SYLLABUS SPRING 2016

Professor: Erica Nichols Cook, JD
Adjunct Professor of Law at SIU
Assistant Appellate Defender, Illinois State Appellate Defender
Email: ericanichols01@gmail.com; erica.nicholscook@siu.edu
Cell phone: 217-725-6499

Class Meetings are held in Lesar Law Bldg, Room 103

Information for the IIP

John Hanlon, Executive & Legal Director: jhanl2@uis.edu; O: 217-206-8558

Lauren Kaeseberg, Staff Attorney: laurenkaeseberg@gmail.com; C: 773-517-0622

Gwen Jordan, Staff Attorney & UIS Prof. Legal Studies: gjorda2@uis.edu; O: 217-206-6569

Rhonda Anders, Office Assistant: rande8@uis.edu; O: 217-206-6569

Kiran Desai, Volunteer & Tech Support: kdesa3@uis.edu; O: 217-206-6569

Larry Golden, Founding Director: lgold1@uis.edu; O: 217-206-7885; C: 217-553-7171

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the Innocence Project Externship at SIU Law in partnership with the Illinois Innocence Project at University of Illinois Springfield (UIS). As a law extern you are a vital part of the work to assist the wrongfully convicted in Illinois.
COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Gain knowledge and familiarity with post-conviction and criminal law.
2. Gain knowledge and expertise in the most common causes of wrongful convictions, including, but not limited to: eyewitness identifications, false confessions, junk science, police & prosecutor misconduct, perjury or snitches, and ineffective assistance of counsel.
3. Gain a familiarity with the science of DNA and post-conviction testing statutes.
4. Understand the ethics of legal representation of the indigent criminal defendant.
5. Develop skills in interviewing witnesses, clients, and members of the legal community.
6. Develop skills including drafting of post-conviction motions, memoranda and petitions.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The externship is graded on a modified Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale (S, S+, S-, U). To complete the course for 3 academic credits, students must complete 140 extern hours, for 2 credits, 94 extern hours, and for 1 credit hour, 47 extern hours. Hours must be documented to the IIP and to the School.

Report your hours to SIU via TWEN on the SIU form provided on TWEN. Hours are scheduled to be reported every month. Please complete the form and upload it. Do not just input into the text box.

Hours are also reported to the IIP via their spreadsheet and email. See Kiran Desai for more information on that.

There is 1 required individual meeting with your professor to discuss your progress and case work at mid-semester. You must turn in a mid-semester journal and hours. You must submit a final journal with your final hours. Your journal should be an ongoing reflection of your experience working on potentially
actual innocence claims. It should not be a short summary at the end of the semester. Use this assignment to track what work you have done and how if any your perception of the justice system has been altered.

Turn this in on TWEN in the assignment drop box.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

We will be using a TWEN course for discussion boards, reading materials and videos.

EACH STUDENT WILL SELECT A TEXT/BOOK FROM THE ATTACHED LIST AND COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENTS USING THAT TEXT.

Additional suggested reading:

1. Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
2. Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice by Adam Benforado

Mandatory Course Assignments:
1. Journal, including a mid-term and a final.
2. Hour Submission Forms
3. Work product: As assigned by your supervising attorney. This may include, case evaluations, transfer memos, Motions for DNA testing, evidence Matrix, post-conviction petition or research memos.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS***
January, 22 2016 11:30-1:30pm Room 103
Topics covered: Case Assignments/overview of syllabus/discussion regarding texts individually selected.
DUE: JANUARY 20\textsuperscript{TH} Sign up for YOUR BOOK on TWEN look for sign up sheet

2. February 19, 2016 11:30-1:30pm Room 103

\textbf{Topics covered:} Updates on case work, Discussion regarding chosen book: report to class what subject matter and causes of wrongful conviction is covered or explained.
\textbf{Reading Required:} chosen book; sign up for presentation.

3. March 25, 2016 11:30-1:30pm Room 103

\textbf{Topics covered:} first half of class will present on their chosen texts.

4. April 22, 2016 11:30-1:30pm Room 103

\textbf{Topics covered:} 2nd half of class will present on chosen text

\textbf{Requirements:} Approximately 10 minute presentation, utilizing visual aids (power point, poster, handouts) to explain the wrongful conviction contained in the chosen/assigned book and the cause of wrongful conviction. Include updates on status of the case and any reforms in that state or national to remedy the cause of wrongful conviction.

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*There is usually a Spring IIP Fundraiser in Springfield. Date TBA.

**The annual Innocence Network Conference is held April 8-10, 2016 in San Antonio, TX. There are usually funds for travel from the Dean’s office if you inquire and a student rate for the conference.

*** We are trying to plan a spring event at SIU with an exoneree. We will need your assistance and attendance at the event. Date TBA.
POLICIES

Visual and Audio Recording. Students may record (visual or audio) of any class instruction for personal use only. Students are not authorized to distribute, share or publicize any recording made of any class instruction. Further all materials regarding clients, potential clients of the Innocence Project are subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct are students are not authorized to make any visual or audio recordings without the express consent of the Illinois Innocence Project. Additionally, any visual or audio recording created during case work is not to be retained, recorded, or kept in any fashion after the completion of the externship. Faculty will not be recording the class sessions without notice to you.

Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

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**WC BOOK LIST FOR SIU**

**SPRING 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>General subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption</td>
<td>Jennifer Thompson-Cannino &amp; Ronald Cotton</td>
<td>eyewitness identification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victims of Justice, Revisited</td>
<td>Frisbe &amp; Garrett</td>
<td>false confession, police misconduct</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Spite of the System*</td>
<td>Gary Gauger w/ Julie Von Bergen</td>
<td>False confession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journey Toward Justice</td>
<td>Dennis Fritz</td>
<td>Snitches, prosecutor misconduct; DNA Companion to “The Innocence Man” by John Grisham.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloodsworth: The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA</td>
<td>Tim Junkin</td>
<td>DNA exonerations; eyewitness id</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting Life: An Innocent Man's 25-Year Journey from Prison to Peace</td>
<td>Michael Morton</td>
<td>Prosecutor misconduct, snitch, DNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>It Happened to Audrey</td>
<td>Audrey Edmonds</td>
<td>Shaken Baby Syndrome, junk science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devil’s Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three</td>
<td>Mara Leavitt</td>
<td>Junk science, prosecutor misconduct; false confession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Way Home</td>
<td>Laura Caldwell</td>
<td>False confession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stolen Years: Stories of the Wrongfully Convicted</td>
<td>Reuven Fenton</td>
<td>misc. causes- covers 10 exonerees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter</td>
<td>James S. Hirsch</td>
<td>eyewitness Id. misconduct- police; recantations</td>
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*This book is short, so you must supplement with another false confession book.*