

JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGAL CLINIC
Fall, 2020 SYLLABUS

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Office hours: fluctuate each week

Course objectives: See Clinic Missions and Goals for Students, Mission Statement and Program Goals and Objectives located in the Juvenile Justice Clinic Handbook.

Clinic Student Assessment and Evaluations: See documents contained in the Juvenile Justice Clinic Handbook.

LEGAL CLINIC STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES. Should you need to miss a class, discuss this with Professor Wells *before* missing the class, if possible. **Although this class provides opportunity for you to work your own cases and to experience practice-oriented learning, the class also requires you to carefully read the material assigned and to be prepared to *discuss* it in class.**

****Read the Juvenile Justice Clinic Handbook prior to the first class.**

Class Sessions for Fall, 2020

Monday, August 17, 2020

Introduction to the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Overview of Juvenile Neglect and Abuse Law and the Role of Guardians Ad Litem.

Assignment: Read portions of Article I of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1987, 705 ILCS 405/1-1 through 405/1-8 and 405/1-17.

Assignment: Read the Student Handbook for the Juvenile Justice Clinic.

Meet on Zoom for introduction to the course and Clinic. We will discuss necessary forms, procedures and the critically important concept of client confidentiality. You also will receive the names of the cases that the clinic will assign to you. You should begin to review your files as soon as possible after assignment to you.

We also will discuss the SIU-C Field Trip Policy. Some of the time you will spend in this class will involve academic activities outside of the law school. The University classifies these off-campus activities as field trips. Each clinic student must sign an acknowledgment letter from

the Clinic Director as well as SIU-C/Legal Clinic forms for Field Trip Participation and Assumption of Risk. You must complete these forms prior to engaging in *any* off-campus activities.

***Therefore, please submit the following by August 31:** SIU-C Participant Agreement and Assumption of Risk Form, Assumption of Risk Form and signed acknowledgment letter from John Erbes, Clinic Director.

Monday, August 24, 2020

Fundamentals of Neglect, Abuse and Dependency Cases

Assignment: Read portions of Article II of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1987, 705 ILCS ' 405/2-1 through 405/2-13.

Monday, August 31, 2020

Duties and Responsibilities of Attorneys for Minor Children - Is the Statutory Minimum Enough to Adequately Represent Your Clients? How a Juvenile Case Proceeds Through the Court System and the Duties and Role of the GAL before and at Adjudication, Disposition and Permanency Hearings.

Assignment: Read Illinois Supreme Court Rule 907 and 705 ILCS 405/2-17

Assignment: Read 705 ILCS 405/2-14 through 2/23, and 405/2-28 and 405/28.1

Monday, September 7, 2020

HOLIDAY. NO CLASS.

Monday, September 14, 2020

What Factors Do Courts Use When Determining the Best Interest of a Child? Child Safety - Steps for One Framework for Critical Thinking and Analysis

Assignment: Review 705 ILCS 405/1-3(4.05)(a-j).

Assignment: Read the Forward and Preface and pp. 1-19 of “Child Safety-a Guide for Judges and Attorneys.”

Monday, September 21, 2020

Continue discussion of prior week’s material.

Monday, September 28, 2020

Effects of Domestic Violence on Children, and Just What IS Domestic Violence?
Children, Domestic Violence and Trauma Both Before and After the Court Process.

Assignment: Read pp. 55-64 of the handout “Children Exposed to Domestic Violence.”

Assignment: Read pp. 80-91 of the handout “Children Exposed to Domestic Violence”
and “Childhood Trauma and Involvement in the Court Process.”

Monday, October 5, 2020

What About the Parents? Parents’ Right to Counsel and a Perspective from a Former
Parents’ Attorney.

Assignment: Review 705 ILCS 405/1-2 through 405/1-5. Read the handout “Life After
Lassiter: an Overview of State Court Right-to-Counsel Decisions.
to-Counsel Decisions.” Additional handouts may be assigned.

Monday, October 12, 2020

Children’s Right to Counsel

Assignment: Read *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967).

Monday, October 19, 2020

No assignment. Guest speaker planned.

Monday, October 26, 2020

No assignment. NO CLASS.

Monday, November 2, 2020

Parents’ Rights to Appointed Counsel in Illinois and Other States. Material in class.

Monday, November 9, 2020

Variable Standards of Proof in Neglect/Abuse Cases- From Speed Bumps to High Jumps.

The ABA Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Proceedings - Is this the future? How might it affect you and your clients?

Assignment: Read 705 ILCS 405/2-9, 2/18, 2-22 and 2-29.

Assignment: The ABA Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Proceedings, as adopted in August 2011.

Monday, November 16, 2020

Last day of class. Student Presentations. Wrap up.