

JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGAL CLINIC
Fall, 2025 SYLLABUS

Faculty: Joanna Wells
Phone: (618) 713-7827 (cell)
Email: jwells@siu.edu

Office hours: fluctuate based on court commitments, but we will meet individually once a week during the semester at a time we mutually select.

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.

We will meet in Room 103.

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

Class Sessions for Fall, 2025

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025

Court Day. Professor Wells has all day court and will not be in class.
No assignment. Meet in Room 103 with clinic student assistant Rachel Rodawald. She will give you important information and forms that you will need for this class. Please give her your attention and respect, as she speaks for Professor Wells

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Meet in person in Room 103. We will discuss necessary forms, procedures and the critically important concept of client confidentiality. You may 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 briefly 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 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 26:** SIU-C Participant Agreement and Assumption of Risk Form, Assumption of Risk Form and signed acknowledgment letter.

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

No class. **Court day - in person at the Jackson County Courthouse, Murphysboro. Please plan to be in attendance as much of the day as your schedule allows. Court begins at 9, and will run well into the afternoon.

Thursday, August 29, 2024

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.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Law and the Role of Guardians Ad Litem and how to get started on your cases.

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

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Duties and Responsibilities of Attorneys for Minor Children - Is the Statutory Minimum Enough to Adequately Represent Your Clients?

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

Tuesday, Sept.9, 2025 **

**Court day.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

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

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

No class. Continue working on your cases.

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025

.What Factors Do Courts Use When Determining the Best Interest of a Child?

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

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

**Court day.

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Child Safety - Steps for One Framework for Critical Thinking and Analysis.

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

Tuesday, September 30, 2025**

Continue discussion of “Child Safety - Steps for One Framework for Critical Thinking and Analysis.”

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

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025

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

Assignment: Read pp. 80-91 of the handout “Childhood Trauma and Involvement in the Court Process and pp. 55-64 of the handout “Children Exposed to Domestic Violence.

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

**Court day.

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Children’s Right to Counsel

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

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025

Parents’ Right to Counsel in Illinois and Other States 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.”

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025

No class. Continue working on your cases.

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Variable Standards of Proof in Neglect/Abuse Cases- From Speed Bumps to High Jumps and What They Mean for Us and the Court Process.

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

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Special court setting for one of our cases. Starts at 9:30. Probably will go long.

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Court day.

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Mandated Reporters in Illinois - What does that mean, and who are they?

Assignment: 90 Illinois Admin Code Part 300, Section 300.30.

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

**Court day.

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Guest speaker. No assignment.

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Holiday. Veterans' Day.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025

Do-Over - Illinois' New Restoration of Parental Rights Law - What Do YOU Think?"

Assignment: Read 750 ILCS 50/14.5 and 705 ILCS 405/2-34.

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025

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

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

Last day of class. Student presentations.