

JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGAL CLINIC
Fall, 2023 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, 2023

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023

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 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 31: SIU-C Participant Agreement and Assumption of Risk Form, Assumption of Risk Form and signed acknowledgment letter.

Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023

Fundamentals of Neglect, Abuse and Dependency Cases. Who are the “players” and what are their roles in the court process. What will your role be in the clinic?

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

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 **

**Court day – in person at the Jackson County Courthouse,
Murphysboro

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023

How to Get Started on Your Cases.

No assignment. I will give handouts in class.

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023

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. 12, 2023 **

**Court day.

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

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023

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, Sept. 19, 2023

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023

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, Sept. 26, 2023 **

**Court day.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023

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."

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023**

** Court day.

Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023

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, Oct. 10 2023

Children's Right to Counsel

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

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023

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.”

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023**

** Court day

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023

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

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

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023

Guest speaker. No assignment.

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

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.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

TBD

T

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 **

** Court day.

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023

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.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

***Court day.*

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022

Student-led questions and discussions about issues concerning your cases and court.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023

Student presentations.

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Student presentations.

Last day of class.

