

JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGAL CLINIC
Fall, 2024 SYLLABUS

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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, 2024

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 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.

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

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

No assignment. Meet in Room 103 with clinic student assistant and fellow classmate

Kathryn Petterson. Professor Wells has all day court that day and will not be at class.

Kathryn will give you important information and forms that you will

need for this class

moving forward. Please give her your attention and respect, as she speaks for Professor Wells.

Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024

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 27, 2024**

**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

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

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. Also, handouts will be given.

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

** Court day - Jackson County Circuit Court, Murphysboro, Illinois.
Court begins at 9,
and will run all day.

Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024

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.10, 2024 **

***Court day.*

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024

*** Court day.*

Thursday, September 26, 2024

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, October 1, 2024

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

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

*** There is one hearing set for this day, at 9 a.m. It is possible we*

will not be able to have class because of the anticipated length of this hearing.

Thursday, October 3, 2024

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, October 8, 2024 **

**Court day.

Thursday, October 10, 2024

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. 15, 2024**

** Court day.

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024

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. 22, 2024

Children's Right to Counsel

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

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024

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. 29, 2024**

** Court day

Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024

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, November 5, 2024

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

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

Thursday, November 7 2024

Guest speaker. No assignment.

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

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. 14, 2024

TBD

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024

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. 21 2024

Last day of class. Student presentations.

