Absent exceptional circumstances, Domestic Violence Clinic students are required to attend all classes. If you must miss a class, notify your supervising attorney before the scheduled class. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., from January 18, 2023 through April 19, 2023.

Student Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

1. serve the public and understand the importance of continuing to serve the public when in practice in order to enhance the capacity of law and legal institutions to seek justice,

2. acquire an understanding of the laws under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act,

3. be able to effectively research domestic violence issues,

4. acquire an understanding of relevant facts and information necessary to effectively represent domestic violence victims,

5. learn to communicate effectively in order to develop a rapport and mutual trust with the client, while maintaining the nature and bounds of a lawyer's role, and

6. learn and appreciate the various characteristics of domestic violence and its impact on individuals, families, and society at large.

7. gain knowledge regarding the effectiveness of the adversarial system's approach to ensuring equitable access to justice.

“Field trips”
Part of the time you will be expending in this class to obtain academic credit for the course will involve spending time in academic activities outside of the law school. These off-campus activities are classified by the University as “field trips.” Each student will be required to sign an acknowledgment letter from the Clinic Director and SIUC/Legal Clinic forms for Field Trip Participation and Assumption of Risk at the beginning of the semester prior to engaging in any off-campus activities. The clinic faculty will be conducting an orientation on the Field Trip Policy at the beginning of the semester.

Court Observation
During the semester, each student must observe the civil and criminal court process at work. Attend an order of protection hearing and domestic battery trial or sentencing
hearing. After attending the hearings, prepare a paper no more than two pages in length (double-spaced) describing what you observed. Include in your paper an assessment of what impact, if any, the hearing seemed to have on the victim and the person accused of committing the crime. In the event no domestic battery hearings are scheduled during this time, you may attend a hearing on another crime against persons case (aggravated battery, sexual assault, etc.). The paper is due on April 4, 2023.

Class schedule:

Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Introduction to the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Introduction to Domestic Violence: Why Doesn’t She Just Leave?
   Assignment: Read the Student Handbook and other provided materials.

Wednesday, February 1, 2023
The IDVA and Orders of Protection, Part I
   Assignment: Read the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, 750 ILCS 60 et. seq.
   Review Order of Protection forms (Petition, Emergency Order of Protection, Plenary Order of Protection)

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
The IDVA and Orders of Protection, Part II

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Characteristics of a Domestic Violence Victim
   Common Traits of an Abuser

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Civil No Contact Orders, Stalking No Contact Orders, Bond Conditions
   When are Protective Orders appropriate?

Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Presentation: The Role of Victim Advocates in Law Enforcement Agencies
   Presenters: Susie Toliver, Victim Advocate, Carbondale Police Department
             Teresa Bastien, Victim Advocate, Jackson County Sheriff’s Dept.
   Assignment: Read 750 ILCS 60/227 (advocate confidentiality) and
              325 ILCS 5/1 through 5/4.02 (mandated reporting)

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Tour of a local shelter - The Women’s Center
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Spring break, No class

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Tour of Jackson County jail
The Impact of Growing Up With Family Violence

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Domestic Abuse of the Elderly

Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Services for victims:
Automated Victim Notification (AVN), Compensation for crime victims, Rights of victims in Illinois, Victims’ Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA), Safe Homes Act

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Presentation: Police Perspective, Policies and Procedures Regarding Domestic Violence Calls

Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Prosecution of Domestic Battery Cases
Domestic violence and criminal law, victim and witness statements

***A grade of Incomplete is not an option in this class for the Spring 2023 semester. If minimum requirements to pass the class are not met, you will receive a failing grade.***