

JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGAL CLINIC
Spring, 2024 SYLLABUS

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Office hours: students will be assigned specific meet times

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. **Classes will meet in person. 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.**

In addition, you will be assigned specific cases and will be expected to be in court on the dates that your cases are set, unless your class schedule or work commitments conflict. Court attendance is a crucial part of this clinic class, and almost all students say that attendance in court offers some of the most valuable experiences of the course. If you are eligible to obtain your 711 license, I highly encourage to do so to enable you to participate more fully in the court process.

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

Of special note: *Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency*

Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Class Sessions for Spring, 2024

1. Tuesday, January 1, 2024

I will answer questions, discuss forms, procedures and the critically important concept of client confidentiality. Sometime within the first week of class, you should receive the names of the cases that the clinic will assign to you. You should begin to review your files as soon as possible.

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, submit the following to my mailbox by January 31:** SIU-C Participant Agreement and Assumption of Risk Form, Assumption of Risk Form and signed acknowledgment letter.

Discussion of case responsibilities, how to begin and clinic expectations. Cases should be assigned.

Assignment: None.

2. Thursday, January 18, 2024

An 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, and 705 ILCS § 405/2-1 through 405/2-13.

3. **Tuesday, January 23 2024**

NO CLASS. Instead, we have all-day court on one of our cases. You should try to attend at least part of the day, as your schedule allows. This case also is set for hearing on Monday, January 22, Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25. You may attend all of part of court on these days as well.

4. **Thursday, January 25, 2024**

NO CLASS, as court hearing set for that day. If the hearing is not held, I will let students know to attend class in person.

5. **Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

NO CLASS. Court day.

Assignment: Continue to read through your assigned cases and begin to make collateral contacts.

6. **Thursday, Feb. 1, 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

7. **Tuesday, February 6, 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.

8. **Thursday, February 8, 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).

9. **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

NO CLASS. Court day.

10. Thursday, February 15, 2024

Children, Domestic Violence and Trauma Both Before, During and After the Court Process.

Assignment: Read pp. 80-91 of the handout “Children Exposed to Domestic Violence” and be prepared to discuss.

11. Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Child Safety - Steps for Critical Thinking and Analysis

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

12. Thursday, February 22, 2024

Child Safety - Steps for Critical Thinking and Analysis - continued

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

13. Tuesday, February 27, 2024

NO CLASS. Court day.

14. Thursday, February 29, 2024

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

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

15. Tuesday, March 5, 2024

NO CLASS. Court day.

16. Thursday, March 7, 2024

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

Assignment: 90 Illinois Admin Code Part 300, Section 300.30

19. **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Children's Right to Counsel - Its Genesis and Progression

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

20. **Thursday, March 21, 2024**

DCFS Rules and Regulations - Do They Impact a GAL's Duties and Responsibilities?

Assignment: Read 89 Illinois Admin. Code Part 300.

21. **Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

NO CLASS. Court day.

22. **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

Illinois' Restoration of Parental Rights Law - Applications and Implications

Assignment: Read 750 ILCS § 50/14.5 and 705 ILCS § 405/2-34. Research any cases citing this statute since its enactment.

23. **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

Guest speaker.

24. **Thursday, April 4, 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.
See for comparison the Model Act for Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Custody Proceedings, as adopted in January 2009 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

25. **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

NO CLASS. Court day.

26. **Thursday, April 11, 2024**

Student Presentations.

27. **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

NO CLASS. Court day.

28. **Thursday, April 18, 2024**

Student presentations.

** Be aware that the syllabus is subject to change due to emergency court hearings, changes in the court docket, availability of speakers and opportunities for field trips.

*** **IMPORTANT:** If you cannot be in class, you are expected to notify me by text, email or phone call *before class if at all possible*.