

CIVIL PRACTICE LEGAL CLINIC

LAW 673 - SPRING 2026 SYLLABUS

Faculty:

Assistant Professor Dale Aschemann
Legal Clinic - Room 177
Class – Room 103
Office – Room 179
1150 Douglas Drive
Phone: 618-534-1764 (cell)
Office phone: 618-536-4423 (front desk); 618-453-8797 (Teams)

email: dale.aschemann@siu.edu

ATTACHMENTS: Please note that attachments to this syllabus are available on D2L.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday thru Friday, 8:00-11:00 am with afternoon availability when not in court or attending site visits. If you visit during office hours, please be equipped with a notebook and pen for notetaking purposes.

CLINIC STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION: See document contained in the Civil Practice Clinic Handbook regarding client interviewing.

CLINIC STUDENT TRAVEL: Students must complete and execute all documents necessary to comply with SIU's Field Trip Policy (<https://policies.siu.edu/policies/field-trip.php>). These documents can be reviewed in the Civil Practice Clinic Handbook and will be provided to you for completion. Please note that students are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy **prior to** undertaking **any** trip associated with the legal clinic.

LEGAL CLINIC STUDENTS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES. Should you have a compelling reason and need to miss class, please discuss this with Professor Aschemann before missing the class.

CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION: Monday 1:30-2:45 in Room 103.

SUGGESTION ON READING ASSIGNMENTS: Please consider reading the first two weeks of assignments at the beginning of the semester rather than waiting until they are assigned. Then, prior to each class review the reading materials before we have the class discussion on that topic. Those reading assignments cover the most basic legal issues you're likely to address in the clinic and you are likely to have clients with legal needs that are covered by these assignments. Finally, you are not expected to memorize the various statutes assigned. You are expected to have a familiarity with the contents of those statutes and the issues they address.

STAFF MEETINGS: Each class will begin with a staff meeting. During staff meetings, we will discuss case assignments, legal issues, scheduling, and we will devote time to law office practice topics and special projects. If you encounter any issues or problems (scheduling, difficult client, etc.), please share that during the staff meeting. This presents a good opportunity to share experiences with your classmates and discuss options to address the issue.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to take notes during class. You may do this with a computer. If computers are present in the classroom, they are **authorized exclusively for taking notes** during the current class. Emailing, internet searches, doing other classwork, etc. is prohibited.

This class involves interaction with clients. Please dress appropriately when in their presence.

When you attend a site visit, you are required to take interview notes regardless of whether you are conducting the interview. Sharing your notes with the interviewer can be a great assistance.

In advance of client meetings, it is a **best practice** to print and closely proof documents **the day before the meeting**. Time management and attention to detail are key skills in this clinic.

On or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday each week, please email your time sheets to Professor Aschemann and Linda. When you have a site visit on Friday afternoon, you may email your time sheet on the following Monday by 4:00 p.m. If you have not emailed your time sheets by the appropriate time, you are not entitled to credit for the time contained in the tardy timesheet. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

HOURS REQUIRED:

The Clinic is graded on a modified Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale (S+, S, U). To complete the course for 3 academic credits according to ABA Rule 310, students must complete **127.5** class/clinic hours. We will spend one 75-minute block of time together each week. The classroom portion, in concert with the time spent on assigned reading for class, accounts for one credit hour (42.5 hours). You do not need to record the time related to the doctrinal class or reading assignments. **You do, however, need to maintain a time sheet for the remaining 85 hours (2 credit hours) of clinic work. Excluding finals week, we will meet over the course of 14 weeks. With that in mind, students should expect to turn in a timesheet reflecting slightly more than 6 hours per week (85 divided by 14 equals 6.07 hours per week).** The time recorded should be any time spent on clinic matters unrelated to the doctrinal class and reading. This would include, **but is not limited to**, client interviews of any kind, drafting, travel to and from site visits, the site visits themselves, discussion of client matters with clinic staff, and any preparation time including proofing documents and making copies.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: [Please also see Clinic Missions and Goals for Students and Mission Statement located in Civil Practice Clinic Handbook (tab 2).]

1. To provide basic skills training and professionalism training to law students who are engaged in the supervised practice of law serving persons 60 years of age and older or Veterans of any age in a 13-county area of Southern Illinois.
2. To provide instruction in substantive areas of the law which are commonly encountered in serving older clients in rural communities.
3. To expose law students to the practice and the concept of service to the indigent elderly so that they develop an appreciation for the need for pro bono legal activities after they are out of school and in practice.
4. To provide basic legal services with special attention to the legal needs of the most frail and needy elderly and elderly minorities who are traditionally deprived of the services of an attorney due to socioeconomic factors, including poverty and isolation.
5. Professional identify, bias, cross-cultural competency, and anti-racism:
From: DEI Learning Objectives - Diversity Equity Inclusion - Library Guides at Manhattanville College (libguides.com)

Students will be able to:

- interpret how external factors influence identity, and the intersection of one's multiple identities.
- identify and critically reflect upon the various aspects of one's identity.
- apply one's self-awareness of their biases to enact strategies to respond to unconscious and conscious biases.
- practice skills including self-care strategies for experiences of bias, active listening, empathy and effective allyship.
- engage non-dominant perspectives with respect and empathy
- implement strategies to achieve equity

Week 1 – January 12 - Orientation; Introduction to office procedures, forms (intake, retainer agreement, etc.), practice management software, and common legal instruments.

Orientation and Introduction entails the following:

- [] Read the Legal Clinic Student Handbook.
- [] Turn in the documents for working in Clinic, in file folder, to Linda Clendenin, if you have not yet done so.
- [] Turn in your class/work schedule to Linda Clendenin if you have not yet done so.
- [] Introduction to CARET and SharePoint.
- [] Schedule CARET/merge training with Linda Clendenin.

Week 2 – January 19 – Holiday – MLK Day We will schedule a make-up class for Week 2.

Week 3 – January 26 - Introduction to Wills and Durable Powers of Attorney

- [] **Reading Assignment:** 755 ILCS 5/1-2 through 755 ILCS 5/2-1 (Definitions and Rules of descent and distribution); 755 ILCS 5/4-1 through 5/4-15 (Wills); 5/5-1 through 5/5-3 (Place of Probate); 5/6-1 through 5/6-21 (Probate of Will); 755 ILCS 30/1 (Designation of beneficiary); 765 ILCS 1005 (Joint Tenancy Act). Please pay particular attention to 755 ILCS 5/2-1 pertaining to Rules of descent and distribution.
- [] Introduction to Wills (in class)

Week 4 – February 2 – Class 2 continued: Will problem and Advance Directives/Durable Powers of Attorney

- [] **Reading Assignment:** Review Durable Power of Attorney statutes 45/1-45/4-12. Pay close attention to: 45/2-3, 45/4-4, 45/3-4.
- [] Discussion of Durable Powers of Attorney (in class).

Week 5 – February 9 – Introduction to legal descriptions, Types of Real Property Ownership, and Transfer on Death Instruments

- [] **Reading Assignment:** 755 ILCS 27/1 Real Property Transfer on Death Instrument Statute

Week 6 – February 16 – Guardianships (adult); OSG training

- [] **Reading Assignment:** Illinois Probate Act section on Guardianship, 755 ILCS 11a-1 thru 11a-12 (Adult Guardianships); 755 ILCS 5/11a-14.1 (Residential Placement) through 755 ILCS 5/11a-18 (Duties of the estate guardian). 755 ILCS 5/12-1 through 5/12-8 (Bonds). Please bring a copy of the guardianship information forms used for intake.
- [] In class we'll discuss adult guardianships generally. Discussion will entail types of guardianships and their scope. Discussion of Office of State Guardian and undertake OSG training.

Week 7 – February 23 – Class 6 continued and Guardianships (minor)

- [] **Reading Assignment:** Illinois Probate Act section on Guardianship of Minors, 755 ILCS 5/11-1 thru 755 ILCS 5/11-18. Please return with the guardianship information forms and please bring the applicable statute sections to class.
- [] In class we'll discuss minor guardianships generally. Discussion of procedure and pleadings related to guardianships.

Week 8 – March 2 – Health Care Surrogate Act; IDPH forms POLSTS, Living Wills, Mental Health Preference Declaration

- [] **Reading Assignment:** Reading materials to be provided.

March 9 – Spring Break – NO CLASS

Week 9 – March 16 - Medical Aid in Dying

- [] **Reading Assignment:** 410 ILCS 22 *et seq.*

Week 10 – March 23 – Introduction to Veterans Benefits

- [] **Reading Assignment:** Handout to be provided.

Week 11 – March 30 – Public Guardian and Administrator/Office of State Guardian

[] **Reading Assignment:** Handout to be provided.

Week 12 – April 6 – Review of Estate Planning

Week 13 – April 13 – Class Presentations

Week 14 – April 20 – Class Presentations

SYLLABUS ATTACHMENT
SIU SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL – Spring 2026

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: We ask that you become familiar with **Emergency Preparedness @ SIU**. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the Emergency Preparedness @ SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.

DISABILITY POLICY. SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. The Office of Access and Accommodations, formerly Disability Support Services, coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval, please contact OAA immediately at 618-453-5738 or disabilityservices.siu.edu. You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to ensure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty. Please send approved accommodations to your faculty through the DSS online portal.

SALUKI CARES and COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS). The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students, and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-2461, or siucares@siu.edu, [https://salukicares.siu.edu/](https://salukicares.siu.edu). Associate Dean Shelia Simon ssimon@siu.edu or (618) 536-8321 is available at the Simmons Law School to help students access university resources. Additionally, counseling services are available through CAPS ([Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) / Student Health Services / SIU](#)). A counselor is at the law school every Wednesday from noon until 4:30pm in Room 268 for drop-in appointments.

SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://safe.siu.edu>

Syllabus Attachment

Spring 2026

MISSION STATEMENT FOR SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SIU embraces a unique tradition of access and opportunity, inclusive excellence, innovation in research and creativity, and outstanding teaching focused on nurturing student success. As a nationally ranked public research university and regional economic catalyst, we create and exchange knowledge to shape future leaders, improve our communities, and transform lives.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Semester Classes Begin:01/12/2026
Last day to add full-term course (without Dean's signature):01/16/2026
Last day to withdraw from the University with a full refund:01/23/2026
Last day to drop a full-term course for a credit/refund:01/23/2026
Last day to drop a full-term course (W grade, no refund):03/27/2026
Final examinations:05/04/2026-05/08/2026

Note: Please verify the above dates with the Registrar calendar and find more detailed information on deadlines at <http://registrar.siu.edu/calendars>. For add/drop dates that apply to shorter-than-full-term courses, please look at the Schedule of Classes search results at <http://registrar.siu.edu/schedclass/index.php>

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS:

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday 01/19/2026
Spring Break 03/07/26 - 03/15/26

DIVERSITY: Southern Illinois University Carbondale's goal is to provide a welcoming campus where all of our students, faculty and staff can study and work in a respectful, positive environment free from racism and intimidation. For more information visit: <http://diversity.siu.edu>.

OFFICE FOR ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS: SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Office for Access and Accommodations coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact OAA immediately at (618) 453-5738 or <https://access.siu.edu>. You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to ensure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty.

MILITARY COMMUNITY: There are complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student, and military and veteran related developments can complicate academic life. If you are a member of the military community and in need of accommodations please visit Veterans Services at <http://veterans.siu.edu/>.

STUDENT MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER: The Student Multicultural Resource Center serves as a catalyst for inclusion, diversity and innovation. As the Center continues its work, we are here to ensure that you think, grow and succeed. We encourage you to stop by the Center, located in the Student Services Building Room 140, to see the resources available and discover ways you can get involved on the campus. Visit us at <https://smrc.siu.edu/>.

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PREGNANCY: Title IX makes it clear that students who are pregnant or have a related condition may contact the Title IX Coordinator to request accommodations or to report any allegations of discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator may be contacted at: *Nick Wortman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 0135 Woody Hall, 900 S. Normal Avenue, Mail Code 6520, Carbondale, IL 62901, (618) 453-6667, equity@siu.edu*.

SIU COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): Mental health counseling services are available by calling CAPS at (618) 453-5371. CAPS offers confidential same-day services and ongoing counseling. For after hours crisis care, students are encouraged to call 988, 911, or present to their nearest emergency room.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY (Undergraduate Only): Students who officially register for a session must officially withdraw from that registration in a timely manner to avoid being charged as well as receiving a failing grade for those classes. An official withdrawal must be initiated by the student, or on behalf of the student through the academic unit, and be processed by the Registrar's office. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from SIUC visit: <https://registrar.siu.edu/students/withdraw.php>.

SIUC'S EARLY WARNING INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EWIP): Students enrolled in courses participating in SIUC's Early Warning Intervention Program might be contacted by University staff during a semester. More information can be found at the University Core Curriculum's Overview webpage: <https://corecurriculum.siu.edu/for-faculty/>.

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CATALOGS:

catalog.siu.edu

gradcatalog.siu.edu - Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please refer to the graduate catalog.

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Tutoring: <https://clss.siu.edu/>

Math Labs: <http://math.siu.edu/courses/course-help.php>

WRITING CENTER: <http://write.siu.edu/>

PLAGIARISM: See the Student Conduct Code: <http://srr.siu.edu/student-conduct-code/>

INCOMPLETE POLICY (Undergraduate Only): <http://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.php>

REPEAT POLICY: <http://registrar.siu.edu/students/repeatclasses.php>

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS: <https://libcal.lib.siu.edu/hours/>

ADVISEMENT: <http://advisement.siu.edu/>

SIU ONLINE: <https://online.siu.edu/>