Clinic Information Packet – Fall 2016

Want to learn while doing? Want to help a client with a legal matter? Apply for a clinic! Attached are descriptions of currently anticipated Fall 2016 semester SUNY Buffalo Clinical Legal Education Program course offerings, including each Clinic’s class meeting time. Please review this carefully as some Clinics have prerequisites or co-requisites. All interested students should apply for a SUNY Buffalo Legal Clinic via the online application. *Please note that practicum and externships applications proceed though a similar but separate process. Please see the Registrar’s website for further details.

Applicants should be aware that all enrolled clinic students are considered members of the SUNY Buffalo Clinical Legal Education Program Law Practice, and will be admitted to practice under a practice order. Accordingly, enrolling in a SUNY Buffalo clinic requires students to agree to abide by law firm policies and procedures, including appropriate conflicts checks and confidentiality commitments that may go beyond matters in the particular clinic in which the student enrolls. This will be a substantial commitment both for the semester(s) in which the student is in a clinic, and thereafter.

Because of the intensity of the experience, students are strongly discouraged from enrolling in more than one experiential course in a semester (i.e. a clinic, practicum, or externship). Permission will be granted in very limited cases only after a meeting with Professor Kim Diana Connolly.

Questions regarding the clinical program? Email Professor Kim Diana Connolly, kimconno@buffalo.edu.

Application Instructions

To apply for a clinic, please

1. Complete the online application. You must list your first and second choices for a Clinic. You may list a third choice if you wish.

2. Submit the online application by providing your electronic signature.

3. If additional material is required for the application, submit this information to law-clinic@buffalo.edu.

4. Submit your online application by Monday, 21 March 2016 at 5:00 PM.

5. You will be notified by email of whether or not you have been selected for a clinic. Based on the selection process of the clinic(s) to which you are applying, the timing of these notifications differ.

6. If you accept a placement in a clinic, you will be part of the clinical law firm. Your professors therefore plan around your presence in the clinic. Accordingly, you agree to stay enrolled absent extraordinary circumstances, and may not withdraw without consulting your professor and the Director of Clinical Legal Education.

7. Enrolled students must complete other necessary forms (for the court and the law firm) for registration. Your registration will not be approved until you submit all required paperwork, and your approval will be rescinded if you do not submit all paperwork within the required deadlines.

Clinics are popular, so acceptance to a Clinic is not guaranteed. We recommend that you register for a full schedule in case there is not room for you in a clinic. If you are approved for a clinic and submit all the required paperwork, we will help you adjust your schedule.

NOTICE TO JD/MSW STUDENTS: All JD/MSW students should consult with Vice Dean for Student Affairs, Melinda Saran, regarding their choice of Clinic, or Law and Social Work Clinic placement, for their JD/MSW Advanced year.
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Introducing SUNY Buffalo Law’s New Clinical Professors!

Nicole Hallett has extensive experience with low-income and immigrant communities in New York and Connecticut on workers’ rights, immigration, civil rights, and consumer issues. She is broadly interested in how law either promotes or impedes collective action and power-building in subordinated communities. In her practice, she specializes in creative lawyering through complex litigation and multi-pronged advocacy. Prior to joining the clinical faculty at SUNY Buffalo, Professor Hallett co-taught the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic at Yale Law School. She and her students litigated and settled a civil rights lawsuit against the East Haven Police Department for racial profiling, won bond hearings for long-term immigration detainees in Massachusetts in a class action lawsuit, obtained immigration relief for clients in removal proceedings, represented United We Dream on their national legislative campaign for the Dream Act, supported grassroots labor organizing in the nail salon, restaurant, and domestic industries, litigated a state habeas petition under Padilla v. Kentucky, and advised the National Domestic Worker Alliance on their campaign to pass the Connecticut Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. In January, she took a team of students to Dilley, Texas, where she and her students represented Central American asylum seekers in detention on the Southern border. Prior to teaching at Yale, Professor Hallett was a staff attorney at the Urban Justice Center in New York City, where she won $1.8 million in stolen wages for her clients and defended worker centers and community organizations from lawsuits filed in retaliation for exercising their First Amendment rights. She also co-taught the Community Development and Economic Justice Clinic at NYU School of Law. For more background on Professor Hallett’s work and advocacy, please see Sarah Maslin Nir, “The Price of Nice Nails,” New York Times, May 7, 2015, http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/nyregion/at-nail-salons-in-nyc-manicurists-are-underpaid-and-unprotected.html, and Sharon Lerner, The Uphill Battle to Enforce Domestic Workers’ Rights, The Nation, June 12, 2012, http://www.thenation.com/article/168353/uphill-battle-enforce-domestic-workers-rights#.

Jonathan Manes has worked for nearly a decade as a public interest lawyer litigating cutting edge transparency and civil liberties issues. His academic research focuses on the problem of regulating government authority in contexts where secrecy is the norm. Professor Manes started his legal career at the American Civil Liberties Union’s National Security Project where he litigated cases on hot button issues including targeted killings and indefinite military detention, and also focused on issues related to national security whistleblowers and laws on material support for terrorism. He next worked as a litigator in Newark, New Jersey where he was a John J. Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest and Constitutional Law at Gibbons P.C. There, he litigated pro bono civil rights lawsuits on issues including NYPD surveillance of Muslim communities, the public’s right to record police officers, marriage equality, prison conditions, and various immigrants’ rights matters. Immediately before coming to SUNY Buffalo, Professor Manes was a clinical teaching fellow at Yale Law School, where he co-supervised the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic. His students in the clinic represented groups like the ACLU, Human Rights Watch, IP-Watch, ProPublica, and the Calyx Institute in transparency lawsuits regarding NSA, FBI, and NYPD surveillance, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, prison conditions at high-security federal facilities, and trade negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He also co-supervised students in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic, engaging in full-spectrum advocacy on behalf of Vietnam-era Veterans who received bad-paper discharges as a result of undiagnosed and untreated PTSD. Professor Manes also helped to launch the Collaboration for Research Integrity and Transparency, an interdisciplinary center whose goals is to enhance the transparency and quality of the scientific research base for pharmaceuticals and other medical products.
Judith Olin has been an activist in the field of violence against women and children since the 1980’s. Professor Olin’s wide range of experience includes representing indigent victims of domestic violence obtain orders of protection, divorces and custodial rights. Along with members of the Advocacy Committee of the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence, she successfully advocated for the creation of a specialized Domestic Violence Bureau in the Erie County District Attorney’s office in the early 1990’s. Professor Olin went on to become one of the first two prosecutors in the City of Buffalo’s Domestic Violence Court which she followed with a stint as a sex crimes and child abuse prosecutor. She initiated the first “victim-less” domestic violence prosecutions in criminal cases in Erie County, and brought justice to hundreds of victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse. She directed Erie County’s Child Advocacy Center where she led the County’s Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team in which she helped to shepherd in important policy changes on behalf of victims of child abuse, such as videotaping of child forensic interviews. Professor Olin’s teaching experience includes time spent as a Clinical Instructor at the University of Michigan’s Child Advocacy Law Clinic. As an Adjunct Instructor at SUNY Buffalo School of Law, she designed and taught a course on Child Abuse and Neglect that became an integral part of the Family Law curriculum. She has won numerous awards including the “You Make A Difference” award from the U.S. Attorney, WDNY, and the “Advocate For Change” award from the It Happened To Alexa Foundation.
ANIMAL LAW PRO BONO PROJECT

Professor Kim Diana Connolly

Fall Semester – 3/4 Credits

“Humanity’s true moral test, its fundamental test...consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals.” Milan Kundera

In Fall 2016, the Animal Law Pro Bono Project will be offered as a three or four-credit clinic (based on student request). Students in the clinic will focus on state and local policy regarding animal welfare issues related to Western New York. Student Lawyers will be working on issues such as local government laws related to the protection of companion animals and community/feral cats. This work will involve presentations to municipal councils, and work with municipal attorneys to amend local law, under the supervision of Professor Connolly. Additional projects will be taken on based on students who enroll in the clinic.

There will be weekly group classes, some involving all clinic students on campus. There will also be separate team meetings (that will be scheduled around other obligations) with the instructor to address current client matters, devoted to instruction in substantive law and vital legal skills, as well as project reviews, strategy making, problem resolution, and work assignments. Students often want to schedule additional working meetings on their own throughout the semester. Active participation in these meetings, and in occasional client and stakeholder meetings that may take place off-site during the day and in the evening, is expected of each student enrolled in the Clinic.

Please apply online for this clinic. Following your online application, you will be required to submit the following additional materials for this clinic: Statement of Interest, Transcript and Resume. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission to this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic

Professor Jonathan Manes
Fall Semester - (4 credits)

Students in the Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic will engage in a broad range of litigation and other advocacy to defend individual rights and to enforce the public’s right of access to information on issues involving national security, veterans, law enforcement, technology & privacy, and public health. The clinic will represent a variety of clients including individuals; investigative journalists and news organizations; grassroots community groups; and regional or national advocacy organizations.

The clinic will engage primarily in direct client representation in both state and federal court litigation. Students may also engage in non-litigation advocacy—e.g. regulatory interventions, legislative proposals, amicus briefs, media advocacy—in order to achieve clients’ objectives.

The clinic’s docket of cases is currently under construction, but potential matters include

- Representing individual veterans, grassroots organizations, or national veterans’ advocacy organizations on cases that address systemic obstacles that veterans face accessing benefits, healthcare, and other services, or upgrading discharges.
- Representing an investigative journalist or news organization on litigation to obtain access to information on national security issues or other matters of significant public concern.
- Representing public interest organizations seeking information about novel law enforcement technologies.
- Litigating tech privacy issues, such as law enforcement access to digital information or challenging gag orders imposed upon recipients of law enforcement disclosure orders.
- Engaging in litigation or other efforts to obtain open access to scientific data about pharmaceutical drugs or other regulated products on behalf of medical researchers or public health organizations.

Students in the clinic will have the opportunity to work on all aspects of litigation on cutting edge legal issues involving free speech, privacy, access to information, and 21st century governance broadly speaking. Students in the clinic are likely to get hands-on experience interviewing clients, developing facts and researching legal theories for new litigation; drafting complaints and other pleadings; drafting substantial briefs and related documents in support of trial-level motion practice or appeals. Students are also likely to have significant opportunities to perform “on their feet” in a variety of settings, from settlement negotiations to court appearances on trial-level motions or appeals. If you are looking for real experience handling complex civil litigation on cutting-edge issues—and if you don’t mind intense work on behalf of clients—this may well be the clinic for you.

Please apply online for this clinic. Following your online application, you will be required to submit the following additional materials for this clinic: Statement of Interest, Transcript and Resume. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission to this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
COMMUNITY JUSTICE CLINIC

Professor Nicole Hallett

Fall Semester - (4 credits)

The Community Justice Clinic represents low-income residents of Buffalo on issues relating to workers’ rights, consumer justice, immigration, civil rights and government benefits. It is primarily a litigation clinic, although students will also have the opportunity to engage in community education and policy work as well.

The clinic strives to be responsive to the needs of low-income communities and supportive of grassroots organizing movements. For instance, projects for the fall may include assisting with the implementation of the Obama Administration’s deferred action program for certain undocumented immigrants, among other timely projects. The clinic may also represent community organizations on campaigns or litigation related to the clinic’s issues areas. Litigation includes a mix of individual representation and “impact” litigation.

Students will work in teams and will be responsible for all aspects of their cases, including interviewing clients, drafting complaints, engaging in discovery, taking depositions, drafting briefs, and arguing in court. The clinic is a four-credit, semester-long course. Students are strongly encouraged, though not required, to stay in the clinic more than one semester. Advanced students have the option of taking the clinic for two or four credits.

Students in the clinic will also, through readings, simulations, and clinic classes, study and practice lawyering skills, legal ethics, and substantive law. The coursework will also explore alternative models of lawyering, such as law and organizing.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CLINIC

Professor Kim Diana Connolly
Fall Semester – 3/4 Credits

“Our population and our use of the finite resources of planet Earth are growing exponentially, along with our technical ability to change the environment for good or ill.” Stephen Hawking

In Fall 2016, the Clinic will focus on state, national, and international environmental policy issues that have direct impact on Western New York as well as national and international implications. Student Lawyers will be working on issues such as legal aspects on the first North American transboundary designation of a wetland of international importance. Under the supervision of Professor Connolly, Student Lawyers will coordinate directly with a bi-national task force and perform legal research regarding Canadian and US Federal Law as well as state, provincial, and local requirements. Student lawyers will also work on environmental justice and equity issues in the city of Buffalo, and waterfront development matters including climate change in Western NY. Student Lawyers will leave the clinic with experience in applied research, client interviewing and counseling, advocacy, fact investigation, drafting, teamwork, interdisciplinary coordination, and other profession-ready skills.

There will be weekly group classes and separate meetings (that will be scheduled around other obligations) with the instructor to address case matters, devoted to project reviews, strategy making, problem resolution, and work assignments. Students often want to schedule additional working meetings on their own throughout the semester. Active participation in these meetings, and in client and stakeholder meetings that may take place off-site and in the evening in a limited number of cases, is expected of each student enrolled in the Clinic.

Please apply online for this clinic. Following your online application, you will be required to submit the following additional materials for this clinic: Statement of Interest, Transcript and Resume. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
FAMILY VIOLENCE AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS CLINIC

Professor Judith G. Olin
Fall Semester-4 Credits

In the U.S., one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some sort of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime. Erie County has high rates of domestic violence and child abuse, with the highest number of intimate partner homicides in New York outside of New York City.

Students are invited to join the fight towards attaining justice and safety for victims of intimate partner violence. Students will gain a holistic understanding of the complex set of laws and courts that govern family violence practice in New York State and Erie County. All students will get a student practice order and will be authorized to make court appearances on behalf of victims of family violence to secure orders of protection and related relief against their abusers. Student attorneys may have the opportunity to conduct client and witness interviews, negotiate with opposing counsel, and argue before Judges and Court Attorney Referees. Students will develop case theories, investigate facts, draft and argue motions, and in some cases, may take a case to trial.

Students will deliver family violence related legal education to advocacy coalitions in Western New York. Students will gain firsthand knowledge about the multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse cases through observation of child abuse forensic interviews. Students will work with experts and learn about the latest legislative reform in the field of family violence. Students may meet with local legislators and have the opportunity to participate in statewide legislator education awareness days in Albany.

Students will be trained in safety planning by local experts. They will learn the special interpersonal skills needed to work with victims of family violence, and gain an understanding of unique ethical issues common to this field.

There will be weekly classes on campus. There will also be separate meetings with the instructor to address case matters, usually on a weekly basis, scheduled around other obligations. Students should arrange their schedule to allow for court appearances and off-campus meetings with clients and community partners.

Students in the Family or Criminal Law Concentrations may take this clinic as part of their program. Students in the JD/MSW Program may take this Clinic as their field placement. Pre-requisite or co-requisite: Domestic Violence Law. Useful background courses for the Clinic include Family Law, Evidence, Children and the Law, Trial Technique.

Please apply online for this clinic. Following your online application, you will be required to submit the following additional materials for this clinic: Statement of Interest, Transcript and Resume. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission to this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
IMMIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

Professor Anjana Malhotra

Fall Semester – 4 Credits

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic will represent individual and organizational clients in immigration, labor, discrimination practices, human rights, and other matters in both immigration and human rights proceedings. All students will be assigned to at least one litigation and one non-litigation matter, and have the opportunity to explore multiple practice areas.

Working under the close supervision of experienced clinical faculty, students will provide scarce pro bono legal resources to defend immigrants who have been targeted by aggressive federal and local law enforcement initiatives. Students will focus on plaintiffs who have grounds for relief or asylum, among other things. The clinic’s non-litigation advocacy work is equally important. Students will also have a project representing grassroots organizations, as regional, national and international NGOs in regulatory and legislative reform efforts. This clinic is an ideal way to engage in impactful advocacy, including promoting international human rights advocacy, economic rights, media advocacy, strategic planning, direct litigation and other matters.

The IHRC seminar will meet weekly and is centered on a practice- and theoretical-oriented examination of advocacy on behalf of immigrants, workers and social movements, and an extended analysis of community and social justice lawyering. It will also include a skills seminar component run jointly with clinical faculty. This is a four-credit semester long clinic, with a preference that students enroll the following semester.

Please apply online for this clinic. Following your online application, you will be required to submit the following additional materials for this clinic: Statement of Interest, Transcript and Resume. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission to this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
LAW & SOCIAL WORK CLINIC

Vice Dean Melinda Saran

Fall Semester – 3 Credits

The Law and Social Work Clinic serves students in the University’s dual program in law and social work. The four-year JD/MSW program includes a two-semester field service placement in the second year of study. This clinic enables JD/MSW students to gain experience in working where the practice of law and social work intersect and diverge. It helps them to develop skills in both areas while understanding their professional role as it applies to each.

Students in the clinic work in legal service agencies, social service agencies, prosecutor offices, or in therapeutic courts such as drug and domestic violence courts. These placements have included the Law Guardian Unit of the Legal Aid Society; Family Court; Legal Services for the Elderly; Journey’s End Refugee Services; and the Buffalo City Courts’ Therapeutic Courts. **Students must remain in the same placement for both the fall and spring semesters, and complete a total of 480 hours of placement and colloquium time to meet the School of Social Work’s Field Placement requirement.**

In each semester of their placement, students also participate in a one-credit JD/MSW colloquium, where they discuss some of the issues and concerns of being a dual professional.

Some JD/MSW students meet their field service requirement through other SUNY Buffalo Law School clinics.

**Admission for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only and limited to JD/MSW students only.**