Attached are descriptions of the currently anticipated Spring 2016 semester clinic offerings through the SUNY Buffalo Clinical Legal Education Program, 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 applications are run through a similar but separate process. Please see the Registrar’s website for more details. Also, please note that some aspects of the clinical program are in flux and changes may be made to this schedule.

Applicants should be aware that all enrolled clinic students are considered members of the SUNY Buffalo Clinical Legal Education Program Law Practice, and most 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. There will also be a mandatory on-line training as well as an in-person meeting of all students enrolled in a clinical course shortly after drop-add ends during the shared open hour; clinic students should plan work, externship and other obligations around that meeting.

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 should be directed to Professor Kim Diana Connolly, kimconno@buffalo.edu.

**Application Instructions**

The steps for applying for a Clinic are:

1. Complete the online application. List your first and second choices for a Clinic. You may list additional choices 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. **Online applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2015.**
5. All applicants will be notified of whether or not they have been selected for a clinic. Based on the selection process of the clinic(s) to which you are apply, the timing of these notifications differ among clinics.
6. If you are accepted, you will see administrators in the clinical law office (room 507) to complete other necessary forms 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.

Acceptance to a Clinic is not guaranteed so 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, you may drop a course during the drop/add period.

**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.

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

The Animal Law Pro Bono Project is offered as a three or four-credit clinic (based on student request). Students enrolled in the clinic work hard on legal issues related to animal welfare issues in Western New York and beyond. Student Lawyers perform actual lawyering to protect community and feral cats, retired race horses, puppies in puppy mills, and animal advocates facing harassment. Student Lawyers will leave the clinic with experience in advocacy in various fora, including in courts, with local and state governments, applied research, working with interdisciplinary professionals, client interviewing and counseling, fact investigation, drafting, teamwork, ethics and professionalism, and other profession-ready skills.

There will be weekly group classes with all clinic students on campus Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. 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 for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS CLINIC

Spring Semester - 4 Credits
Professor Christopher Moellering

Interested in getting out of the classroom and into the courtroom? Want to use your skills, knowledge and passion to help end an epidemic which affects 1 in 4 American women?

Student Attorneys in the Domestic Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic work on diverse, exciting projects and develop real litigation skills, while helping vulnerable and underserved populations. In Family Court, Student Attorneys will advocate for victims of domestic abuse, helping them to secure orders of protection and other relief against their abusers. The Clinic also works with survivors of human trafficking in Criminal Court to vacate convictions, and has provided assistance with identity changes in State Supreme Court to victims of violence. Student Attorneys will “first chair” client and witness interviews, bargain with opposing counsel and other adversaries, and argue before judges and Court Attorney Referees. Students will do pre-trial discovery, develop case theories, collect evidence, draft motions and subpoenas, and, in some circumstances, take a case to trial.

Students also develop effective community outreach techniques to fight intimate partner violence, and work with experts to plan and implement local and state-level legislative advocacy. The outreach projects will be designed to educate groups within the community about issues of gender-based violence, including teen dating violence. Finally, students will sample a variety of current topics in women’s rights to give them a flavor of the larger field of study, as well as improve their presentation skills.

There will be weekly classes on campus. The classes will focus on analysis of statutory and case law, as well as the development of practical lawyering skills. 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.

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. Useful background courses for this Clinic include: Domestic Violence Law, Family Law, Evidence, Trial Technique/Team, New York Practice, and Children and the Law.

Following your online application, you will be required to submit the following additional materials for this clinic: Statement of Interest, Resume, and Transcript. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
"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 Spring 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 climate change issues impacting the Great Lakes. 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.
HEALTH JUSTICE LAW & POLICY CLINIC
Fall Semester - 4 Credits
Professor Danielle Pelfrey Duryea

The Health Justice Law & Policy Clinic (HJC) offers students opportunities to work with individual and organizational clients and community partners in the context of a medical-legal partnership.

Medical-legal partnerships bring lawyers and front-line health care providers together to address civil legal barriers to patient health in the medical setting. For example, if poor rental housing conditions such as mold or rat infestation are exacerbating a child's asthma condition, then medication won't effectively control the child's asthma attacks; rather, the asthma needs to be “treated” with a legal intervention to enforce landlord compliance with housing conditions laws.

The HJC also works collaboratively with local health and advocacy partners to support good health at the population level through changes to statutes, regulations, and policies. Current community partners include: the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Neighborhood Legal Services, Volunteer Lawyers Project, and Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York.

HJC students develop skills transferrable to virtually any legal practice setting, including:

- How to advocate for individuals both informally and in negotiations, courtroom and/or administrative settings;
- How to build client-centered attorney-client relationships;
- How to interview and counsel effectively;
- How to work with and within the context of a large corporation or not-for-profit;
- How to collaborate with other professionals to advance client goals and improve client outcomes;
- How to communicate with non-lawyers about legal issues and rights;
- How to conceptualize and advocate for systems change based on an understanding of how particular laws, regulations and/or policies affect individual lives; and
- How to work with community partners to advance positive change.

At the same time, we think broadly about how U.S. legal, healthcare, and social service systems support – or fail to support – good health and quality of life across the lifespan. As part of this broader conversation, we learn about population-level health disparities, discuss whether such disparities constitute injustice, and consider how and why lawyers can contribute to alleviating health disparities.

To prepare for client representation and project work, HJC students will attend weekly classes on campus each Tuesday & Thursday from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Some seminar classes will convene all enrolled clinic students across the law school. In other Tuesday seminar classes, students will meet separately with the HJC instructor to discuss topics specific to our practice, including social determinants of health and racial/ethnic, gender and other population health disparities.

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

Spring Semester - 4 Credits
Professor Anjana Malhotra

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 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, Resume and Transcript. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
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; the Juvenile Crimes Unit of the Erie County District Attorney’s Office; Family Court; and the City of Tonawanda Drug Court 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 clinics, such as the Domestic Violence and International Women’s Rights Clinic or the Affordable Housing and Community Development Clinic.

Admission for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
Mediation is becoming an extensively utilized dispute resolution tool as Federal and State Courts establish mediation referral programs and as clients are increasingly hiring private sector mediators to avoid costly court battles and to maximize results. It is vital that new lawyers are cognizant of what mediation is all about, whether they want to possibly make mediation part of their future law practices, or simply know enough to effectively advise and assist their clients at mediation sessions. The best way to understand mediation is to actually be in the mediator’s chair with real parties.

The Mediation Clinic is a three-credit course that allows students to hone their mediation skills to an advanced level by mediating disputes with actual parties in disputes. The Mediation Theory and Practice course (3 credits), offered in the fall, is a pre-requisite (or, at professor’s discretion, evidence of having recently taken a similar course in another venue). To allow for maximum personal attention and skill development, the class size is limited to six students. Students will observe and conduct mediations of family law, small claims, community and/or other disputes referred by local courts and/or other community mediation resources. The students will be supervised and, periodically, videotaped to maximize their skill development and understanding of the process. The course will also involve observations of various alternative dispute resolution processes both in and out of court, centering primarily on mediation. We will meet weekly as a class, during which students will conduct mediation role-plays, work on skill building, mediate real cases at Small Claims Court and/or share experiences and discuss the issues arising in their mediations and other course experiences. Ongoing journal entries will be emailed to the professor containing reflections on each of the student’s mediations, ADR observations, assigned articles and videos and other experiences in the course. One weekend day early in the semester will be utilized as a further mediation skills training day.

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, Resume and Transcript. Please submit these documents to law-clinic@buffalo.edu. Admission for this clinic is by permission of the instructor only.
Veterans are the one of the most challenged populations in our country. The issues they face – homelessness, substance abuse, eviction, loss of child custody – are the issues faced by any threatened community. Our brief is simple: we represent veterans. We keep veterans in their homes. We find them a path to treatment programs. We guide them through bankruptcy. If you want to help us, please consider this clinic. You do not need knowledge of the military; you do need initiative, trustworthiness, and discipline.

For this clinic is not for the faint of heart. You will work. Hard. You will represent veterans in civil matters, such as child custody hearings, discharge upgrades, foreclosures proceedings, and bankruptcy. You will conduct client interviews, investigate cases, bargain with opposing counsel, and argue before judges and court-appointed referees. This is real, hands-on litigation. If you have an interest in becoming a trial advocate; if you enjoy being held to a high standard of professionalism; if you want to learn how to do the job the right way; and if you want to help the unfortunate, this clinic may be for you. If you want a course that does not challenge you, do not apply.

There will be weekly classes on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. These classes will focus on analysis of work for veterans, as well as the development of practical lawyering skills. You must have your own transportation: you will need to travel frequently within the Buffalo area, including to the offices of community partners, the VA Hospital, court, and other settings. Most of your time will be spent away from campus, in court or with clients.

Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: Evidence (can be taken prior to taking the Clinic or concurrently)

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