Entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property Clinic

The Entrepreneurship & Intellectual Property Clinic Experience

The EIP Clinic provides students with experiential, hands-on training in all aspects of legal practice related to qualifying for-profit, nonprofit, entrepreneurial, social enterprise and start-up entities, and to intellectual property. Under the supervision of EIP Clinic faculty, student attorneys provide clients with a broad spectrum of legal advice and services ranging from forming an entity, to meeting with clients, to drafting a wide variety of documents, to filing with government authorities, to negotiating with adverse parties, to conducting educational workshops, and generally serving in the role of an attorney in a full-service private practice law firm providing similar services to business clients.

Entrepreneurship & Intellectual Property Clinic Objectives

The EIP Clinic seeks to provide a realistic law firm experience including the type and quality of legal work, client management, protocol, and firm responsibilities. Accordingly, the operations of the clinic are similar to that of a law firm and student attorneys are bound by professional rules of responsibility as if they are practicing in a law firm.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of commitment is required of me?

Students must attend the two-hour seminar on Wednesdays from 3-5pm, and each student enrolled in the Clinic is expected to work on client matters for a minimum of 21 (for 6 credits) or 28 (for 8 credits) hours per week. The class seminar counts toward the weekly hours requirement.

I don't have a technical background. Can I still enroll in the EIP Clinic?

Yes, although it is helpful to have technological experience for intellectual property-related matters, the EIP Clinic serves clients whose needs do not always require a technical degree. Students will work on matters assisting entrepreneurs and entities with general transactional matters. Additionally, students have opportunities to work on trademark and copyright projects. You do not have to be knowledgeable about IP to be in the EIP Clinic.

I am a law student; how will I be able to counsel entrepreneurs and corporations with their legal issues?

In addition to the weekly seminar, you will receive substantial and ongoing training in how to provide the services that the EIP Clinic clients routinely need. The EIP Clinic work is conducted in the Clinic Suite and the EIP Clinic faculty is readily available to answer questions, provide guidance, and attend meetings.
Clinic Clients

Nonprofit Organizations

Clients range in size and type, from small, new nonprofits to large, well-known nonprofits with established operations and donor base.

In order to qualify to be an EIP Clinic client, nonprofit entities generally must be organized for a charitable purpose and have at least a minimum of three board members. Nonprofit organizations of various types and size may apply.

Services range from entity formation, application for tax-exempt status, establishment of required compliance, intellectual property matters such as trademark or copyright protections, and drafting and review of various transactional agreements.

For-Profit Entities

The Clinic also represents for-profit organizations including small start-ups, entrepreneurial programs and social enterprise organizations.

In order to qualify to be an EIP Clinic client, for-profit entities must be one of the following:

1. An entity or group which arises or develops from or is connected with a school or program within Washington University.
2. A start-up or entrepreneurial for-profit within the community with less than $50,000 in annual gross revenue.
3. A for-profit entity with more than $50,000 but less than $150,000 in annual gross revenue that provides a charitable service, benefits the community in which it exists, or is a social enterprise organization.

Services range from entity formation, corporate governance, legal compliance, intellectual property matters such as patent review, trademark or copyright protections, and drafting and review of various transactional agreements.

For more EIP Clinic information, contact:

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