The Prosecution Law Clinic Experience

The Prosecution Law Clinic provides real life lawyering experience with the criminal prosecution system at the state trial level. The Clinic students’ primary experience will be to serve as Rule 13 certified attorneys with the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney’s Office. Students in the Prosecution Law Clinic have the opportunity to handle, or assist experienced prosecutors in handling, the prosecution of state-level crimes in the City of St. Louis while also gaining exposure to the legal and ethical problems that prosecutors face in practice.

The Clinic operates out of the City of St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office (in the Carnahan Courthouse in downtown St. Louis) and is co-directed by Jane Darst, First Assistant Circuit Attorney, and Rachel Smith, Chief Prosecutor in the Community Affairs Bureau. Students in the Prosecution Clinic will work on cases with other prosecutors in the Circuit Attorney’s Office, as assigned by the Clinic’s co-directors.

Typical Activities

Students in the Prosecution Law Clinic will use and develop the following lawyering skills: problem solving; legal analysis and reasoning; legal research; factual investigation; witness interviewing and preparation; oral and written communication; litigation; organization and management of legal work; and recognizing and resolving ethical dilemmas and the prosecutor’s special responsibilities.

For more information, contact:

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Requirements

Students must spend at least 21 hours per week on clinic-related matters for 6 credits; 24.5 hours per week for 7 credits; and 28 hours per week for 8 credits. They can expect to spend this time away from the law school at the courthouse.

Students will attend a weekly seminar from 4-6pm on Thursdays at the Circuit Attorney’s Office.

The Bottom Line

- Enrollment is limited to 4-8 students per semester.
- The course is graded on a modified pass/fail basis.
- There is no textbook for this course.
- There is no final exam for this course.
- This course can be taken for 6-8 credits (requiring from 21 to 25 hours of clinic work per semester, respectively).
- Court appearances will most often be in the beginning of the week.

Prerequisites

This Clinic is only open to 3Ls an second-semester 2Ls.

Students who have completed courses in evidence, pretrial, trial, professional responsibility, and criminal justice administration will be given preference.