Juvenile Law & Justice Clinic (JLJC)

Professor Mae Quinn is the director of the Juvenile Law and Justice Clinic (JLJC). JLJC seeks to respond to unmet legal needs and concerns of Missouri youth and their families. Over the last six years, student attorneys have engaged in law reform, public education, and juvenile policy initiatives, as well as provided direct representation to young people and youthful offenders in a variety of juvenile justice-related legal proceedings.

The clinic’s practice docket and project agenda for next year has not yet been finalized. But the clinic hopes to build on its past work and commitments, particularly in light of recent events in Ferguson, Missouri and emerging needs and system change opportunities presented by this moment.

Most recently we focused on three practice and policy areas:

Holistic Juvenile Court Representation and Reforms
Student attorneys have representing young people in delinquency and other matters in the St. Louis juvenile court systems. Consistent with our commitment to holistic representation, we have also advocated on behalf of young clients in school discipline, post-dispositional, and other legal proceedings. This work also led to various law and court reform projects and efforts.

Homeless and Aging Out Youth in Municipal Court
We held intake sessions at youth drop-in centers to provide legal assistance to homeless, former foster care, and at-risk youth. Our community-based intake work largely involved municipal court representation that sought to challenge “cash from kids” practices that fail to account for the needs of young people. Our work on this front has been covered by various news outlets, including The Washington Post, Australian Public Television, and the Huffington Post.

Post-Miller Implementation/Fighting JLWOP
In June 2012, the United States Supreme Court struck down mandatory juvenile life without parole sentences in Miller v. Alabama. Missouri is one of 28 states impacted by this ruling and our student attorneys have been part of a group of lawyers seeking to implement Miller in our jurisdiction. For instance, we currently have two habeas corpus petitions pending before the Missouri Supreme Court for individuals sentenced to die behind bars when only 15 years old. We have also worked on legislative efforts around ending JLWOP, with a bill pending this year influenced by our work.

Student Perspectives
“Classes were fun, collaborative, and increased my knowledge.”

“Right mix of permitting student independence but also providing a safety net.”

“Truly amazing. Professor Quinn teaches students to approach difficult legal issues in an extremely supportive and passionate manner.”

“[JLJC] was immensely helpful to both my personal and professional development.”

“Truly one of the most rewarding academic experiences I’ve had.”
### Prior policy, public education, and “public citizen lawyering” projects have included:

- Testifying before the Missouri Legislature
- Drafting and disseminating white papers and best practices documents relating to youth advocacy
- Presenting “know your rights” and other presentations to young people and allies
- Engaging law enforcement around policing practices targeting youth
- US Supreme Court Amicus brief work
- Media and other messaging campaigns about the rights of young people

### Litigation activities have included...

- Interviewing and counseling clients
- Serving as primary contact with clients, court, opposing counsel and others
- Investigating cases in the field, including locating witnesses and taking statements
- Drafting motions and memoranda of law
- Appearing in court on pre-trial matters such as detention and status hearings
- Negotiating with opposing counsel and probation staff
- Working with social services agencies to assist with clients’ legal and other needs
- Handling hearings and trials start to finish
- Appellate court representation and brief writing

### Basic Requirements...

- 6 credit commitment requiring an average of 21 hours a week.
- Mandatory weekly seminar meetings and weekly team supervision sessions.

### Rule 13 and Other Requirements...

- Rule 13 is preferred but in some circumstances may be waived:
- Students will also have to be screened and registered like all other child care workers in Missouri’s child safety system.

### No Mandatory Pre– or Co-Requisites...

However, student applicants who have or are taking one or more of the following courses may receive priority in the course:

- Evidence
- Pretrial or Trial
- Ethics curriculum course
- CJA I or CJA II

### Other info....

- Enrollment is by application and limited to 4-6 students each semester.
- The course is graded on a modified pass/fail basis.
- The text for the course is collected readings.
- There is no final exam.

### For more information, contact:

Mae Quinn
mquinn@wustl.edu
(314) 935-6088

http://law.wustl.edu/clinicaled/pages.aspx?id=9880