

INTENSIVE 15 CREDIT CLINICAL LAW PROGRAM AT CLASSIC

LAW 491.3 CLINICAL LAW SEMINAR (3 cu) 1&2(2S-1R)

OR

LAW 497.3 LEGAL ETHICS CLINICAL SEMINAR (3cu) 1&2(2S-1R)

AND

LAW 492.12 CLINICAL LAW PRACTICUM (12 cu) 1&2(12C)

(THIS PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED IN BOTH FALL 2023 & WINTER 2024 TERMS – Buhler)

This is an application-based 15 credit full term program. See note below for important information.

NOTE: The 15-credit Intensive Clinical Law program, offered in partnership with Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC), will be offered in both the fall and winter terms.

Entry into the intensive clinical law program is by selection by the course instructor and CLASSIC. Interested students should send an email to Professor Sarah Buhler, at sarah.buhler@usask.ca by June 27, 2023 to express their interest. Emails to Professor Buhler should include the student's cv, unofficial transcript (if available), and a brief explanation about why they are interested in participating in the program, and identifying whether they have a preference for the fall or winter term. There will be an interview process to select students, and students will be informed of their acceptance into the program as soon as possible. Students should enroll for regular law school classes and be prepared to drop these classes if they are accepted into the program.

PLEASE NOTE: Students can fulfill their Legal Ethics and Professionalism requirement by enrolling in the Legal Ethics Clinical Seminar along with the Intensive Clinical Law Practicum. Students who have already fulfilled their Legal Ethics and Professionalism requirement can enroll in the Intensive Clinical Law Seminar alongside the Intensive Clinical Practicum. Students can also fulfill their seminar and major research paper requirements through the program.

Calendar Description: This is a 15-credit one-semester (13 week) intensive clinical law program including practicum and academic seminar. Students enrolled in Intensive Clinical Law will be placed at Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC) where they will take on the role of legal advocates under the supervision of the clinic's supervising lawyers. CLASSIC and the Clinical law program have received national and international recognition for excellence. Students will assume carriage of client files in a wide variety of substantive law areas. They will be engaged in all aspects of legal practice, including client interviewing and counselling, file management, legal research, the preparation of legal documents, letters and memoranda, and representing clients in administrative law hearings and provincial court trials. Students may also take on one or more "systemic initiative" projects that may include public legal education sessions in the community, community-based projects or law reform campaigns.

Through their clinic work, students will engage critically with legal problems in the complicated social contexts in which they arise, build relationships with clients and learn about the

communities of their clients, develop professional identities, work through ethical issues, and develop lawyering skills. Through structured and critical reflection during the seminar, students will analyze and synthesize the various components of their experiences and reflect on larger issues relating to professional responsibility, the legal system, and the limits and possibilities of legal practice in situations of social injustice.

The practicum will be graded on a pass-fail basis and the seminar will be graded on a percentage grade basis. The practicum and seminar will provide extensive exposure to criminal, civil and administrative law procedure, evidence law, trial advocacy, negotiation, legal research and writing, and professional responsibility. Specific areas of practice that students will be exposed to include: criminal law, human rights law, immigration and refugee law, housing law, social assistance law, employment law, prison law, wills and estates, and more.

Purpose and Emphasis: The course is based on a model of experiential education, where students learn through experience, hands-on mentorship, and critical reflection on experience. The course is centred on students' clinical experience at CLASSIC, where they will assume carriage of client files in a broad variety of legal areas. Students are supervised on every step of their legal work at CLASSIC. In addition to substantive legal work, students may also have the opportunity to be involved in law reform initiatives, community based projects and public legal education. Students will gain the tools to reflect critically upon their practice and their identities as future lawyers, and gain insights into the legal system from "the ground up". Students will be expected to be at CLASSIC from Monday to Thursday each week, and will attend a clinical law seminar on Friday mornings.

Course materials: Seminar materials consist of a set of articles which will be made available electronically, and possibly a textbook.

Teaching and Assessment: The 12 credit unit clinical practicum will be assessed on a pass-fail basis. The seminar will be graded on a percentage grade basis. Students can choose to write a major research paper or a minor research paper and another assignment; and there is a participation component. A detailed letter of evaluation and explanation can be provided to the student by the course instructor to be used for the purposes of job applications, etc.

15-credit course: Students will receive 15 credits for this course (12 clinical credits plus 3 seminar credits).

Selection of students: The course is open to second and third year students, but preference will be given to third year students, and to students who have demonstrated an interest in or commitment to community service and/ or pro bono work. As noted above, the selection process involves students emailing Prof. Buhler at sarah.buhler@usask.ca expressing their interest by June 27, 2023. Students will be selected following an interview process and will be informed in July, or as soon as possible, of their acceptance into the program.

Prerequisites: *Completion of first year law*