

Law 499.6 (s. 20) INTENSIVE CRIMINAL LAW SEMINAR
499.9 (s. 22) INTENSIVE CRIMINAL PRACTICUM

2(4S-2R)
2(9C)

Law

OFFERED IN THE WINTER TERM ONLY

(2017-2018 Pfefferle, Watson)

NOTE: Entry into the intensive criminal law program is by selection by the course instructors. Students who wish to be considered are asked to send an email to Brian Pfefferle, at brian@pfefferlelaw.com outlining the reasons for their interest in the course and describing any relevant experience. Students should also attach their cv or resume. The deadline for submission of the email application is FRIDAY JULY 21, 2016. Applicants will be informed by July 28, 2017 of their acceptance in the program.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Both Criminal Procedure and Evidence I are prerequisites (to be completed by December 2017)

This is a 15-credit one-semester (13 week) clinical course including practicum and academic seminar.

Calendar description: The Criminal Practicum and Seminar is designed to provide real world practical exposure to the practice of criminal law. The students will be placed in the office of a criminal lawyer for nine weeks at 32 hours per week (Monday to Thursday) where the students will become intimately involved in the practice of criminal law. The practicum placements will be supplemented with a series of lectures during the first two weeks of term and then with a weekly seminar (Fridays) with the course instructors and students will be required to complete one major paper, one minor paper and weekly reflective journals. The instructors also hope that the students will also be placed for one four day week with a Judge of a criminal court. The practicum encourages reflection by the student about the practice of criminal law and will provide an opportunity for advanced research in the form of two papers.

Learning Objectives: Students will be exposed to a wide variety of criminal practice issues from the defence of criminal accused to the running of a criminal law practice. The students will be encouraged to reflect upon what they observe and will also learn about several advanced criminal law, ethical, evidence, trial advocacy and criminal procedure issues. *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms* legal rights and procedural issues will also be discussed in depth. The course will be designed so as to represent a culmination of all that a criminal lawyer needs to know and will build on the student's substantive knowledge in the discipline. While entitled the "intensive criminal practicum" the courses will result in students being exposed to many areas of the law which in practice will tend to blur together. This will involve those subjects above listed and a myriad of other issues including insurance law, property law and other areas which will arise as a result of the various criminal matters to which the student is exposed during their placements with the supervising lawyers and Judges. Nonetheless the placements will be with Criminal

lawyers and students should be continually involved in that area of the law rather than be exposed to all areas of the law as generally envisaged in an articling process.

The Externship (Lawyer) Placements

Students will be placed from about January 8 to March 9, inclusive, with hand selected lawyers in the community. (This year we may also be able to provide up to 2 students an opportunity to be placed in Prince Albert) They are expected to be in the placement Monday to Thursday work hours, which are assumed to be 8:00 or 9:00 AM to 4:00 or 5:00 PM. The students are then to be at the Friday seminar with the instructors. The instructors will hand select the supervising lawyers and law firms and will be in regular contact with them. It is expected that the lawyers will engage with the students on several fronts. This is not an early “articles” process but rather is intended to encourage reflection on what criminal practice involves and how it should best be done. There are almost no “criminal articles” in the private criminal bar in Saskatoon and these placements are not intended to compete in any way with the articling process. Students require an assigned supervisor with whom they can report to with work related questions and concerns. The instructors will develop feedback forms for completion by the supervising lawyers and by the students at various stages throughout the placements and after they are completed, to continually gauge the success and worth of the experiential learning opportunities to which the students are exposed.

The instructor will have regular contact with both the supervisor and the student. The students are not lawyers or junior counsel and are not expected to be providing legal advice in any way to the placement or to clients of the placement. The student is required to attend, be professionally dressed, and to understand the work environment within which they will be expected to act professionally.

Student Evaluation: The program will be open to 10 students per year. The seminar will constitute six credits of course work. Students will be required to complete the Intensive Criminal Seminar which will involve one major paper (50% of six credits) and one minor paper (25% of six credits) and weekly journals and seminar participation (25% of six credits) and all will be marked by the instructors. The practicum will be worth 9 credits of course work. Together then, the complete program will be the equivalent of 15 credits or one semester’s worth of work.