

LAW 491.3 INTENSIVE CLINICAL LAW SEMINAR

LAW 497.3 LEGAL ETHICS CLINICAL SEMINAR

1/2(2S-1R)

LAW 492.12 INTENSIVE CLINICAL LAW PRACTICUM

1/2(12C)

(THIS IS AN APPLICATION COURSE)

OFFERED IN 2019 Fall term AND 2020 Winter term – Buhler

NOTE: Entry into the intensive clinical law program is by selection by the course instructor. Students who wish to be considered are asked to send an email to Professor Sarah Buhler, at sarah.buhler@usask.ca outlining the reasons for their interest in the course and describing any relevant experience. Students may also wish to attach their cv or resume. Students should also indicate whether they prefer to participate in the fall or winter term. The deadline for submission of the email application is June 28th, 2019. Applicants will be informed by June 30 of their acceptance in the program. PLEASE NOTE: Starting in Fall 2019, 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.

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 and the course instructor. 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 in a poverty law context, 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, communitybased 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, grapple with 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 Legal Ethics Clinical Seminar explores the norms, values, and rules that govern lawyers when they confront moral or ethical problems in practice, with focus on the clinical law context. Issues including choice of client, withdrawal, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and ethics in advocacy will be explored. Throughout we will ponder the question: what, fundamentally, is the role of the lawyer? Second, the seminar will

examine the structure and regulation of the legal profession. Topics of study will include admission, discipline, competence, and other regulatory issues. Throughout, students will approach the issues and topics through the lens of their clinical experiences at CLASSIC.

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 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 board 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 two or more required text books.

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 paper or a minor 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.

Prerequisites: Completion of first year law.