

AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law recognizes the importance of providing students with opportunities to apply the knowledge they receive in classroom to real-life situations. Over the course of study, students have the opportunity to enroll in clinical programs or practicums in mediation, the state legislature, veterans affairs, entrepreneurship and the wrongly convicted.

In addition to these clinical opportunities, students can participate in our extensive externship program. In this program, students work under the supervision of an attorney in a public law office, government agency, nonprofit organization, judge's chambers or in private practice conducting pro bono work.

Additional details about skills training opportunities at the School of Law are available at law.missouri.edu.

SKILLS TRAINING OFFERINGS

CLINICS AND PRACTICUMS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LEGAL CLINIC

The law school's Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic was launched in the fall of 2015 to provide clinical opportunities for students to work with small and start-up business clients. The clinic assists members of the university community and Mid-Missourians seeking to start businesses by providing supervised legal services involving entity planning and formation, governance issues, employee issues, intellectual property analysis, governmental regulations and contract drafting.

INNOCENCE CLINIC

In 2007, the University of Missouri System provided funding to launch a joint innocence program with the School of Law; the Midwest Innocence Project, a nonprofit organization based in Kansas City, Mo.; and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Students work with an experienced lawyer and clinical professor who serves as legal director for the Innocence Project, handling cases of possible innocence from six states with the opportunity to review case transcripts, gather documents and other evidence, search for witnesses and conduct interviews.

VETERANS CLINIC

Students in the Veterans Clinic help veterans and their families secure disability benefits. Student work is done at the Board of Veterans' Appeals level and before the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims. Students are supervised by an experienced attorney at each step, and have the opportunity to work in a law firm atmosphere within the law school serving real client needs. Law students interested in personal injury, civil litigation or administrative law benefit from the skills taught in this clinic.

FAMILY VIOLENCE CLINIC

In the newly reopened Family Violence Clinic, students represent indigent victims of domestic abuse and undertake social justice projects, often legislation, to advance the interests of abused women, children and families. Over the clinic's 25-year history, clinic students have appeared in 46 rural county courts obtaining civil protective orders for abuse victims. Generations of clinic students have been involved in filing clemency petitions for abuse victims in the governor's office and in litigating the petitions. Students have also lobbied for legislation affecting clemency and litigated cases under those laws.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PRACTICUM

In the newly launched practicum with the Missouri State Attorney General's Office (AGO), Mizzou Law students are provided with the opportunity to connect a variety of professional interests with a learning experience that combines classroom learning and hands-on experience. Unlike a clinic, which is conducted entirely within the law school, the practicum allows students to be supervised by lawyers at the AGO and taught by assistant attorneys general with adjunct faculty appointments at Mizzou Law. Students are able to perform real legal work that benefits the citizens of Missouri while giving them an unparalleled view into life as a government attorney.

EXTERNSHIPS

EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The School of Law's Externship Program offers students an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to bridge the gap between law school and the legal profession. Through this program, students apply the core concepts learned in law school courses to the challenges presented in the legal profession. Students work under the supervision of a lawyer or judge in a public law office, government agency or nonprofit organization, or for a lawyer in private practice conducting pro bono work.

The Externship Program allows students to enhance their legal research and writing skills, take part in and observe the practice of law, use concepts and skills learned in other law school courses, appear before courts and administrative agencies, understand the requirements of compliance with the rules of professional responsibility and consider the difficult human and ethical problems that face modern lawyers.

JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP

Students in the Judicial Externship Program serve as externs in the chambers of Missouri state and federal judges. As judicial externs, they conduct legal research, prepare draft opinions and other judicial documents, and perform other work as assigned by judges. In addition, students are encouraged to observe judicial arguments and other proceedings. In recent years, judicial externs have worked in the chambers of Missouri circuit judges, judges on the Missouri Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Missouri, and for United States district and magistrate judges.

SEMESTER-IN-PRACTICE EXTERNSHIP

The Semester-in-Practice Externship offers students an opportunity to be fully immersed in the practice of law in the final semester of their third year of law school. Participating students receive full-time practical experience for an entire semester at a private firm, corporation, nonprofit organization, legal services organization or government agency. Students gain hands-on experience working directly with a supervising attorney, applying the core concepts learned in law school courses to the challenges presented in the actual practice of law.

SOUTH AFRICA EXTERNSHIP

The South Africa externship offers students who enroll in the South Africa Study Abroad Program the opportunity to work with a local nonprofit or governmental agency, or other entity. Participating students apply the skills learned in the classroom to the challenges presented in the actual practice of law in a foreign jurisdiction. This opportunity is only available to students who are participating in the South Africa Study Abroad Program.

COMPETITIVE TEAMS

In their second and third years, students who compete on behalf of the School of Law on select competitive mock trial and arbitration teams receive academic credit for this work. The teams for which students can receive credit are: the Missouri Attorney General's Cup, Labor and Employment, Arbitration, Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial and National Trial Competition. Students may receive as many as three credits for participation in such competitions, with a limit of one credit per semester. Through the student-run Board of Advocates, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of other competitions, without academic credit.