Bankruptcy Externship
Course 270

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Summer 2016

Syllabus

This is a new course for 2016.

Bankruptcy Externship (Law 270) (1 credit)

In January 2016, Adjunct Professor Craig B. Young and Jeffrey M. Sherman, Esquire, members of the Bankruptcy Bar in Northern Virginia, in conjunction with the Office of the United States Trustee, began a Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic to help individual consumers prepare for filing voluntary petitions and the other papers needed to start a bankruptcy case. These are individual consumers who cannot otherwise afford to pay for an attorney to help them prepare the necessary papers.

Through the externship, students will participate in the clinic by conducting the initial interviews of the individual consumers to identify for the attorneys the help the individuals need. This is an opportunity for students to have direct client contact and observe counseling by experienced bankruptcy lawyers.

Course Schedule: The course will meet in the Office of the United States Trustee at 115 South Union Street, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314 on the 2nd and 4th Friday of May, June and July between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The first clinic for the Summer Session will be May 27, 2016.

Course Prerequisites: Students must have previously taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive permission to participate from Professor Young. Special permission will be granted to students who have not taken Bankruptcy Law but have clerked for or otherwise worked for a bankruptcy lawyer or a bankruptcy judge.

Credit and Grading: Students completing the externship will receive one out-of-class credit and the course will be graded “CR/NC.”
Writing Requirement: There is a writing component for this externship. (1) Following the Friday clinics, each student will send by email to Professor Young a brief report on their experience with the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic using the format below. (2) At the end of the semester (before the end of the exam period), each student will email to Professor Young a memorandum discussing their experience with the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic including, specifically, what they learned or otherwise gained from the experience. The memorandum shall not be more than two pages.

Format for Weekly Report:

Student Name:
Date of Clinic:
Number of individuals interviewed:

Briefly (one sentence if possible) describe the problem(s) faced by each individual you interviewed:

Briefly describe your interaction with the volunteer attorneys: