Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University

Bankruptcy Externship
Course 270

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Fall 2016

Syllabus

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 the Northern Virginia Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic. The purpose of the Clinic to provide counseling and answer questions for individual consumers with bankruptcy questions or problems who cannot otherwise afford to hire an attorney. The Clinic is open to anyone and everyone.

Through the Antonin Scalia Law School Bankruptcy Externship, students will conduct the initial interviews of individual consumers to identify what help or assistance each individual need. Each individual will then meet with a volunteer bankruptcy attorney and the student to go over their questions or problems. This is an opportunity for students to have direct client contact and counseling along with 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 August, September, October and November between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The first Clinic for the students will be on August 26, 2016. Students will meet with Professor Young for a brief classroom introduction prior to that date

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 course will receive one out-of-class credit and the course will be graded “CR/NC.”
**Writing Requirement:** There are two writing components for this externship. (1) Following the Friday Clinics, each student will send to Professor Young by email 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 three 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: