

The Arts & Entertainment Advocacy Legal Clinic

Information Packet

A clinical program designed to teach students the legal and policy skills required for engaging with Congress, agencies, and courts on behalf of copyright owners.

Clinic Director and Supervising Professor:

Sandra Aistars

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Course & Credit Options:

Law 224: 3 credits. This is a letter-graded course providing two (2) in-class credits and one (1) out-of-class credit. This clinic offers Writing Course credit.



Updated November 2020

Overview

The Arts & Entertainment Advocacy Clinic allows students to develop substantive legal knowledge in copyright and related areas of law as well as practical skills in research, writing, and advocacy by counseling clients and preparing legal and policy documents on behalf of artists and creators. Students' work product will be submitted on behalf of non-profit organizations, individual artists and creators, small businesses, and the Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property (CPIP) in multiple institutional settings in which copyright law and policy are developed. Students may also have the opportunity to participate in specialized artist counseling sessions and to complete special projects at the invitation of the United States Copyright Office. Clinic work will vary depending on developments in Congress, the courts, and relevant agencies.

The Clinic Director will provide direct instruction and guidance throughout the semester. In addition, students will also meet with and learn from relevant government officials and experienced practitioners. Some classes may be scheduled as visits to law firms, creative businesses, agencies, Congress and/or the White House.

As a limited number of positions are available each semester, students will be selected to participate in The Arts & Entertainment Advocacy Clinic through an application process prior to class registration. Students must contribute a minimum of 180 hours of combined in-class and out-of-class hours to obtain credit.

Educational Objectives of The Arts & Entertainment Advocacy Legal Clinic

The clinic is designed to meet the objectives of the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar for professional skills training, live-client or other real life

experiences and study outside of the classroom. The teaching of “professional skills” involves teaching and evaluating law student performance on real cases or problems, with the goal of mastering basic lawyering skills, professional responsibility, substantive and procedural law and the theory of legal practice.

Student Requirements & Responsibilities

1. No compensation may be received for work performed during the program.
2. Preference will be given to applicants who have taken Copyright Law or Entertainment Law or who will be taking either course concurrently with the clinic.
3. Application to and permission of Professor Aistars is required for registration in the clinic. Applications for the clinic will be solicited before the opening of each semester’s registration period. Students will be notified, via the student listservs, of the date when applications may be submitted to Professor Aistars. Applications will require the student’s updated resume, an unofficial transcript, and a short (500 words or less) statement of interest setting forth the student’s goals for participation in the clinic and the student’s particular interest in advocacy on behalf of artists and creators. Interviews with applicants may be scheduled at the professor’s discretion. As space is limited students are encouraged to submit their application materials promptly once notified that applications are being collected. If accepted, the Records Office will enroll students in the course.
4. Students must contribute a minimum of 180 hours of combined in-class and out-of-class hours to obtain credit. Students will be required to track the time spent on clinic work.
5. Because the clinic has a classroom component, students must attend a once a week, two-hour course at the law school. Classes will be devoted in part to ensuring students gain a basic understanding of various areas of the law and practice skills relevant to the current work of the clinic. Topics may include: copyright law (in particular provisions relating to registering works, enforcing against online infringement, clearing rights and when to rely on fair use), right of publicity, client interviewing skills, the roles of and responsibilities of various federal agencies and Congress, and effective advocacy skills for various venues.
6. Because the clinic qualifies for a writing credit, students will be required to write and present to

the class short essays on “hot topics” in copyright law and practice throughout the semester. With the student’s permission suitable essays will be submitted for publication on various blogs or as opinion pieces to relevant publications.

7. Students may be required to attend off-site educational opportunities at the United States Copyright Office, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Congress, and with practitioners in Washington D.C. To the extent possible these visits will be scheduled to occur during normally scheduled classroom time. Travel to and from these visits is at the student’s own expense.
8. Students will work under the supervision of Professor Aistars, practitioners in the field, and/or staff members of CPIP.
9. Letter grades will be issued based on class participation, quality of written work product, accuracy, efficiency and thoroughness of documents prepared and/or advice delivered to clients of the clinic.