

# Legal Clinic – Practical Preparation of Patent Applications Information Packet

*A clinical program that provides students with the opportunity to work directly with an inventor on the drafting and filing of a patent application covering the invention.*

*The clinic operates in the Spring semester.*

## Supervising Professors:

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## Course & Credit Available:

Law 358: 2 credits. This is a letter graded course. The clinic awards 1 in-class and 1 out-of-class credit. This is a Writing Course (W) which may be counted toward the law school's upper-level writing requirement.



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## **Overview**

The Legal Clinic – Practical Preparation of Patent Applications is a course where students write actual patent applications which will be filed for inventors. The students will each be assigned an invention. Students should expect to write a patent application in computer, electrical or mechanical technology. The instructors will attempt to match inventions with the student's background, if possible. Students will work directly with the inventor(s) to draft a patent application covering the invention. Students will be instructed as to best practices with regard to meeting with the inventor(s) and drafting patent applications. The applications will be written in stages, including drawings, claims, and specification, with critique on each step in the process. Multiple drafts of the complete application will be written and critiqued until the application is ready for filing.

Prerequisites for this clinic are Patent Law I, Patent Law II, and Patent Writing Theory and Practice or equivalent experience. This Clinic has been approved for patent examiners by the Ethics Office of the Department of Commerce.

## **Educational Objectives of the Legal Clinic – Practical Preparation of Patent Applications**

The Legal Clinic – Practical Preparation of Patent Applications is designed to meet the objectives of the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions 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. There is no application process for the Clinic. All students who have completed one academic year of legal education and Patent Law I, Patent Law II, and Patent Writing Theory and Practice are welcome to register for the Clinic in the spring semester. Instructor approval can be obtained in lieu of one or more prerequisites for students with equivalent experience. Students who believe they have such experience should contact Professor Lazar to discuss this experience and receive professor permission to register for the clinic.
2. No compensation may be received for work performed in the Clinic.
3. Students will attend the classroom component of the course which will meet for two periods every other week. Syllabi from prior semesters are indicative of the content of the class sessions and can be found at <http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/schedule/archives>.
4. Students will work directly with the inventor(s) to draft a patent application covering the invention. The applications will be written in stages, including drawings, claims, and specification, with critiques given by the instructors on each step in the process. Students should expect to complete multiple drafts of the complete application and will receive critiques on each draft.