

Legal Clinic – Free Speech

Information Packet

A clinic enabling students to defend free speech rights through all aspects of litigation.

Supervising Professor:

J. Michael Connolly

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Course & Credit Available:

Law 136: This is a year-long letter graded course providing two (2) in-class credits in the fall and in the spring semester (for a total of four credits).



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Overview

The Legal Clinic – Free Speech provides students with the opportunity to engage in *pro bono* legal representation of free speech claims under the First Amendment. Clinic students work closely with experienced attorneys to identify cases of interest, research legal issues, and draft motions and briefs. In addition to working with attorneys on cases, students accepted into the clinic will receive weekly classroom instruction on procedural and substantive issues relevant to their cases, federal and state court decisions, and relevant developments in First Amendment law.

Students will be selected to participate in the clinic through an application process prior to class registration. To be eligible, students must submit a 500-word statement of interest, resume, and law school transcript. Preference will be given to students who have completed Constitutional Law I. There are no prerequisites.

Educational Objectives of the Legal Clinic – Free Speech

The Legal Clinic – Free Speech 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. Students must complete one academic year of legal education to be eligible to apply for the clinic.

2. Students must participate in the clinic for one full-academic year.
3. Application and permission of Professor Connolly is required for registration in the clinic. Applications for the clinic will be solicited in March or April each year. Students will be notified, via the student listservs, of the application deadline each year.
4. This is a year-long letter graded course providing two in-class credits in each of the fall and the spring semesters. If selected to participate, students must enroll in the clinic for the fall and spring semesters of the upcoming academic year.
5. No compensation may be received for work performed in the clinic.
6. Students will work under the supervision of Professor Connolly and the clinic staff.
7. The clinic has a weekly classroom component that students will be required to attend. Classes will be devoted in part to ensuring that students gain a basic understanding of the various areas of law and practice skills relevant to the current work of the clinic.
8. Students may be required to attend off-site clinic activities or educational opportunities, with travel to and from such activities at the student's own expense.
9. Letter grades will be awarded based on class participation, class deliverables (if any), and quality of work product (including, as relevant, accuracy efficiency, thoroughness, and professionalism).