



CLINICAL TRAINING

LAW STUDENTS AT VIRGINIA enjoy an array of clinics and courses that offer a wide range of practical training options. Virginia's 20 clinics, many of which offer contact with clients, build experience with real-world problems. Students also advance their skills through courses in public speaking, trial advocacy and professional responsibility, as well as extracurricular moot court and mock trial competitions. CLINICS DESCRIBED ON THE BACK



DEAN RAZAVI '10 and **ELLEN VALENTINE '10** racked up their first win at the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before graduating from law school. The students, both enrolled in the Law School's Appellate Litigation Clinic at the time, were assigned to help an inmate who appealed his 15-year sentence on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel. The 4th Circuit sided with the students and the case was remanded to the district court for resentencing.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to work on a real case. It gave us such a huge sense of responsibility," Valentine said. "Making sure I finished the brief while also juggling my other classes, pro bono projects and various other commitments made me realize the balancing act that practicing attorneys are faced with everyday."



PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE PROGRAM Virginia's Principles and Practice Program, a curricular innovation that is the first of its kind in the country, is designed to give students the opportunity to apply legal theory in real-life situations. The program teams law professors with practitioners, judges and other distinguished professionals to teach courses. The program melds the insights of theory with those of contemporary practice, giving students a more sophisticated and useful understanding of a field than either perspective can yield on its own.

TRIAL ADVOCACY COLLEGE The Trial Advocacy College is an intensive eight-day experience offered annually between the fall and spring terms. Third-year students are enrolled with participants from the nation's best litigation units in an intensive practice program with a faculty comprised of some of the best trial lawyers and outstanding judges in the country. This selective program supplements the 14 sections of trial advocacy offered each academic year.



THE SUPREME COURT LITIGATION CLINIC has won three out of four cases before the U.S. Supreme Court since it began in 2006. Professor **JIM RYAN** will argue a fifth case, *Kevin Abbott v. United States of America*, in fall 2010. The case centers on federal firearms laws that allow additional charges with mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain crimes involving guns. "The opportunity to work on this case has been illuminating for me," said **CASEY LEE '10**. "I've learned a lot from it and hopefully we'll get a good result."

CLINICS Under the supervision of an attorney, students perform the lawyer functions associated with their cases, including client and witness interviews, factual development, legal research, preparation of pleadings and negotiation. Students with third-year practice certification may also be responsible for courtroom advocacy.

ADVOCACY FOR THE ELDERLY

Students represent elderly clients in negotiations, administrative hearings and court proceedings on a variety of legal matters, including basic wills and powers of attorney, guardianships, consumer issues, Medicaid and Medicare benefits, nursing home and long-term care, elder abuse and neglect, and advance medical directives.

APPELLATE LITIGATION

Students brief and argue one or more appeals before a federal appeals court.

CAPITAL POST-CONVICTION

The clinic focuses on cases assigned to the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center. Students work on appeals, petitions for certiorari and post-conviction issues, and may also work on habeas petitions at the state and federal level.

CHILD ADVOCACY

Students represent children involved in legal issues in the areas of education, foster care and social services, mental health and developmental disabilities, and delinquency.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Students represent defendants in criminal cases in local courts. They develop a working familiarity with grand jury proceedings, indictments, immunity grants, pretrial motions, pretrial discovery, plea bargaining, motions and objections during trial, evidentiary issues, post-trial motions, sentencing and protecting the record for appeal.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Cases may include wrongful-discharge actions, unemployment compensation claims, employment discrimination charges and other claims arising out of the employment relationship.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND CONSERVATION

Students represent and counsel environmental nonprofits, citizens' groups and community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment of the mid-Atlantic region and other parts of the country.

FAMILY ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Students help low-income families resolve child custody, visitation and financial support issues using alternative dispute resolution techniques.

FAMILY RESOURCE

Students advocate on behalf of low-income families who experience legal problems related to welfare reform and public benefits programs.

FIRST AMENDMENT LAW

In conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, students in this clinic undertake projects in First Amendment subject areas.

HOUSING LAW

Students handle eviction cases, rent escrow cases, grievance hearings and other enforcement of residents' rights.

IMMIGRATION LAW

Students may work with clients to appeal denials of applications for status and special categorization or procedures.

INNOCENCE PROJECT

Students investigate potential wrongful convictions of Virginia inmates through interviewing potential clients and witnesses and searching and reviewing pertinent case files and records.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Students gain firsthand experience in human rights advocacy under the supervision

of international human rights lawyers.

MENTAL HEALTH LAW

Students represent mentally ill or mentally disabled clients in negotiations, administrative hearings and court proceedings on legal matters involving Social Security, Medicaid, disability benefits, medical care and more.

NONPROFIT CLINIC

Students advise and work directly with local nonprofit organizations on matters such as initial formation, establishing tax-exempt status, ongoing legal compliance and good corporate governance.

PATENT AND LICENSING CLINICS I AND II

These clinics train students in patent drafting as well as the negotiation and drafting of patent and software license agreements.

PROSECUTION

Students undertake a prosecutor's duties, including exercising discretion in the decision to prosecute, interacting with law enforcement personnel, dealing with victims and witnesses, and establishing relationships with defense counsel.

SUPREME COURT LITIGATION

Working in teams, students handle actual U.S. Supreme Court cases, from seeking review to briefing on the merits.



DEIRDRE ENRIGHT '92 represented death-penalty inmates in Mississippi and Virginia before joining the Law School's Innocence Clinic.

"This is sort of the dream class if you're a law student because it involves great issues for research that are topical — DNA, new techniques in DNA, new testing, eyewitness ID, jailhouse informants, poor lawyering, poor prosecuting — it's all these great cutting-edge issues," Enright said.



CLINICAL TRAINING
www.law.virginia.edu/clinics
 CONTACT
 Professor Richard Balnave
 (434) 924-7582
 rdb@virginia.edu

