

CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC APPLICATION

Instructions: Students who wish to enroll in the Civil Rights Clinic during the spring semester of the 2019 academic year, must complete this application, attach the requested documents, and submit them via *email* to Faculty Assistant, Cindy Derrick (*cderrick@law.virginia.edu*), *no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, September 19th*. Applications received after this date will be placed on a waiting list, and these students will only be contacted if openings arise. Students interested in the Civil Rights Clinic should contact *Adeola Ogunkeyede at adeola@justice4all.org* with questions.

Name: _____ ID #: _____

Current address: _____

Current city, state, zip: _____

Current cell phone number: _____

Current email address: _____

Please include via email the following all in ONE document (inclusive of this application):

- (1) A current resume;
- (2) Brief answers, of no more than (2) two pages, to the below questions. We are looking for students that are passionate about civil rights as well as racial, economic and social justice, so please use your responses to advocate as fiercely for yourself as an applicant, as you would for your clients and their communities. Please be aware that your written answers will be assessed for substance as well as form:
 - (a) Please discuss your interest in the Civil Rights Clinic, including any personal, professional and/or academic experiences or goals prompting your application and/or any specific issue related to the criminalization of poverty that interests you and why? (E.g.: policing in low-wealth communities, criminal justice debt, bail reform, intersection of racial and economic justice, prison conditions, re-entry barriers etc.)
 - (b) Please list any special skills and/or relevant coursework, and explain how you think they might enhance your work in the Clinic. (E.g.: community organizing or education; conducting investigations, journalistic or other writing training/experience; and/or technical or data analysis skills etc.)

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Clinic students will work on cases that have potential to provide real and concrete relief and legal support to people and communities that have been harmed by the criminalization of poverty and other forms of discrimination or deprivation of rights. While there has been for some time a robust national conversation regarding the intersection of race and poverty and the resultant inequities in communities of color across systems from criminal justice to housing, education, and healthcare, even more exciting is the local conversation about these issues happening in Charlottesville and across Virginia. The Clinic will capitalize on the work of the Legal Aid Justice Center's Civil Rights & Racial Justice Program, by tapping into the legal and organizing networks already working to address these inequities at the local and state levels, and expanding that work in ways that will have a national as well as generational impact.

Clinic students will provide direct representation to individual and/or organizational clients as well as participate in impact advocacy, including: complex litigation in federal court, legal support for community education and organizing, administrative advocacy, and legislative and policy advocacy. The Clinic will meet as a group ***every Friday from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm*** at LAJC's office (1000 Preston Avenue, Suite A). Weekly sessions will incorporate substantive overview of the areas of law and legal issues related to challenging the criminalization of poverty, case/campaign rounds, and small group work with supervisors. Individual or team-based supervision on clinic work will be provided throughout the week, including via video and/or phone conferencing with supervisors. Topics for the seminar portion could include professional responsibility for public interest lawyers; civil rights litigation under section 1983; community lawyering; skills-based sessions on client interviewing, drafting and litigating Freedom of Information Act requests or discovery in complex civil litigation; and hot topics drawn from current national efforts to decriminalize poverty in communities of color, such as challenges to debtors' prison, police misconduct, wealth-based pretrial detention, criminalization of mental health needs, and discriminatory use of criminal background checks.

You will be spending considerable time outside of the classroom for things like client meetings, court observation, court file retrieval, community advocacy/outreach, meetings with your supervisor to review drafts and final versions of written work. Some work may require occasional, same-day travel to other areas of Virginia.

Certification: I hereby certify by my signature below that I have read the above course description; understand that, if accepted for the clinic, I must be enrolled during the spring 2019 semester; and, most importantly, that once enrolled in the clinic, ***I may not drop the course.***

1. Space in the clinic is limited, and not all applicants are guaranteed acceptance to the clinic.

Applicants will be notified of their status no later than ***Friday, September 28th.***

2. In addition to the classroom component, students will participate in active client representation and/or community campaigns. Because all clinic work will constitute actual legal representation, it is expected to be completed in an attentive and timely manner and with professional quality. There will be periods during which a significant time commitment will be required including outside of traditional business hours.

3. I understand that I will receive five (5) credits for the clinic all of which will be graded.

Signature: _____ ***Date:*** _____