



JOHN F. KENNEDY UNIVERSITY

An affiliate of the National University System

COLLEGE OF LAW ON-CAMPUS CLINICAL PROGRAMS:



program requirements and applications

ELDER LAW CLINIC
(Professor Pamela Zimba)

HOUSING ADVOCACY CLINIC
(Professor Ora Prochovnick)

NOTE: for information, policies and forms used in the INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (off-campus placements) see LAW 625 materials posted on the College of Law webpage (myjfku)

JFKU SCHOOL OF LAW ON-CAMPUS CLINICAL PROGRAMS

General Information

Eligible students are encouraged to consider one or more of these clinical programs as part of their educational experience. You will learn valuable lessons about the practice of law from experienced attorneys serving as mentors. In addition, you will be providing much needed services to low-income populations for whom legal representation is often unavailable. Finally, you will be making important contacts in the legal community, which can be most helpful upon graduation when you are establishing your career. Academic credit is offered for each program, and you will also receive credit toward the Public Interest Law Certificate and/or Children, Families and the Law Certificate. Additionally, participation in an on-campus clinic will fulfill the JFKU service-learning requirement

THE CLINICS offered by JFKU College of Law are on-campus clinics supervised by law faculty with significant experience in their fields. These settings provide an outstanding educational experience with professor/practitioners and provide students with the opportunity to represent clients directly and to make court appearances on their behalf. Significant classroom components supplement the practical experience.

We currently offer two campus-based clinics: the Elder Law Clinic and the Housing Advocacy Clinic.

In addition, we offer internship opportunities in off-campus placements. See LAW 625 on the College of Law webpage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PROFESSOR ORA PROCHOVNICK, Director of Clinical and Public Interest Law Programs at (925) 969-3356 oprochovnick@jfk.edu.

Program Descriptions

ELDER LAW CLINIC

Students participating in the Elder Law Clinic will provide free legal assistance to low income elders dealing with a multitude of legal issues and daily problems related to aging and incapacity. Certified law students will develop skills and expertise in estate planning, drafting simple wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives, and client interviewing, and may appear in court on behalf of clients seeking restraining orders. The Clinic also offers public presentations that can help seniors and families with legal issues related to aging.

Students participate in a weekly skill development seminar that includes the topics of ethical and capacity issues, government benefits, estate planning, elder abuse, as well as document drafting and client interviewing workshops.

HOUSING ADVOCACY CLINIC

The Housing Advocacy Clinic is an innovative collaborative effort between JFKU College of Law and Northern California's largest legal aid provider, Bay Area Legal Aid. Participating students have the opportunity to work in the on-campus clinical offices, providing direct representation to low-income clients facing imminent threats, including a loss of their housing through eviction, housing repair problems, privacy violations, utility shutoffs and lockouts, security deposit disputes and other housing related matters.

The Clinic represents defendants in Superior Court unlawful detainer actions, provides assistance to clients in Rent Board proceedings, advocates on behalf of tenants with habitability defects and in fair housing matters, and provides counseling via telephone to Bay Area Legal Aid clients, and face-to-face at the Tenants Union and Project Homeless Connect. Since contested evictions are very active cases which move faster than other types of civil litigation, the Clinic provides an opportunity to (1) handle cases from beginning to end, including interviewing, investigation, drafting pleadings, discovery, and motion and trial practice; and (2) to have an immediate impact on one of the most important issues in a tenant's life: the need for safe, habitable and stable housing.

Students participate in a weekly seminar that will cover doctrinal material to learn the applicable state, federal and local rules governing landlord-tenant relationships, document drafting and client interviewing workshops and ethical discussions related to law office procedures and the representation of low-income clients.

Application & Selection Process

Students must formally enroll in any of the Clinics on an academic credit basis. Students will earn three units of academic credit per semester for the HAC and ELC. A tuition waiver is available for students wishing to enroll in the clinical program who do not need the units to fulfill their academic credit requirement for graduation.

Student interns will be certified to appear in court under the supervision of the Clinical Director. As such, per California State Bar requirements, students either must be currently enrolled in Civil Procedure and Evidence or have successfully completed each of those courses. For the Elder Law Clinic prior completion of Wills and Trusts, and for the Housing Advocacy Clinic prior completion of Real Property, is useful and encouraged but not required. Additionally, candidates must be in good academic standing with an overall grade point average of at least 73.00.

The College of Law takes particular care in the selection of students who wish to enroll in all of our clinical programs. As functioning law offices responsible to clients, the courts and the community at large, we have very high expectations of students. Because of limits on enrollment, otherwise qualified students may not have the opportunity to participate in the work of one of the clinics.

The JFKU Clinical Program screens applications and makes the final selection based on several criteria including: timeliness of application, overall academic standing and achievement, reputation for trustworthiness, reliability and responsibility, ability to work effectively and collegially within a law office setting, ability to respond promptly and diligently to demanding work responsibilities, awareness of professional ethics applicable to legal interns working within a law practice, commitment to public service, ability to work in the clinic consistently during the entire semester, and an overall commitment to the goals of the program.

Applications for the clinic program must be submitted electronically to:

**Professor Ora Prochovnick, Director of Clinical and Public Interest Law Programs,
oprochovnick@jku.edu.**

**For either Fall (ELC or HAC) or Spring (HAC only) Semester enrollment, to receive priority consideration, applications must be submitted by
May 15th of the preceding academic year.**

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT IN CLINICAL PROGRAMS

I am interested in enrolling in the JFKU College of Law Clinical Program as follows: (you may choose more than one - if checking the box for more than one clinic, please indicate the priorities for your clinic and semester preferences, by notating 1st choice, 2nd choice, etc.)

Elder Law Clinic for the following semester:

Fall _____

Housing Advocacy Clinic for the following semester:

Fall _____ Spring _____

I would like this clinic participation to serve as fulfillment of the JFKU Service Learning requirement []

Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Phone (day): _____

Language(s) other than English: _____

Class/Year: 2L ____ 3L ____ 4L ____

Program: Full-time ____ Part-time ____

Anticipated graduation date: _____

GPA: _____

COURSEWORK:

(List semester and year enrolled in the following courses and the name of the instructor; concurrent enrollment may be permitted for some programs.) **NOTE:** These listed courses are not all required for each clinic, see descriptions for individual clinical program requirements.

Civil Procedure:

Evidence:

Real Property:

Wills and Trusts:

1. Attach an essay of any length, which explains your interest in the particular clinical program(s) and how you meet the selection criteria.
2. Attach a writing sample from one of your courses here at JFKU or from a prior clinical or internship experience.
3. Attach a resume or list your legal work experiences, positions or placements, paid or volunteer, including dates, type of work performed, name of employer and contact person and phone number; highlight work relevant to the clinic program(s), e.g. elder law, housing issues, family law, and low-income populations, etc. as appropriate.

Verification

I verify that the information submitted in this application and its attachments is accurate, that I am in good academic standing and have not received any disciplinary sanctions while enrolled at JFKU College of Law. I also understand that my academic file will be reviewed as part of this application process. Further, I give permission to release my academic transcript to appropriate faculty to assist them in the selection process.

signature

date