Legal Clinics

University of San Diego
School of Law
Goals of USD Clinical Program

• Provide high quality training in fundamental skills and values of law practice in a realistic professional context

• Serve particular segments of the low-income population of San Diego County

• Provide focus and development of expertise and skill development in particular practice areas
By the Numbers...

• Number of cases closed in 2012: 688

• Average number of cases that were open at any given time: 300

• Number of phone calls in 2012: 15,816

• Number of student interns trained: 148

• Number of hours logged by student interns in 2012 in Client Services: 20,060.45

(If we were billing time at $150/hour, a typical rate that a law firm might bill out for a law clerk, our firm would have earned $3,009,067.50!)
CLINICS OFFERED*

Appellate
Civil
Criminal
Education and Disability
Entrepreneurship
Federal Tax
Immigration
Land Use
Small Claims
State Income Tax (CA)
State Sales & Use Tax (CA)
Veterans

* * Check the course schedules for availability.
Office Information

USD Legal Clinics Office:
Barcelona 305
(Alcala West)

Office Phone:
619-260-7470
Course Information

- Upper division students (1L summer OK)
- Six interns per professor/attorney
- Weekly class/case rounds
- Course credit hours:
  - Spring/Fall: A little more than four hours per unit - per week
  - Summer: A little more than eight hours per unit - per week
- Please check the course schedule for each semester’s offerings.
Application Information

Applications are available online at:

http://www.sandiego.edu/law/academics/c clinical_education/application_procedure.php

Required information:
• Completed Application form
• Resume
• Unofficial transcript

Registration questions?
Email Margaret Dalton at mdalton@sandiego.edu
Appellate Clinic
Michael Devitt, Esq. – lead professor
Candace Carroll & David Schlesinger

- **Cases:** Appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- **Activities:** This is a year-long clinic in which two teams of students will handle an appeal from start to finish.
- **Requirements:** Civil Procedure, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and Criminal Procedure.

*This course is open only to third or fourth-year law students.*
Civil Clinic
Allen Snyder, Esq.
Allen Gruber, Esq.

• **Cases:**
  • Consumer issues, general litigation in Superior Court

• **Activities:**
  • Represent clients in civil matters, including counseling, negotiating, trial representation, drafting documents

• **Requirements:**
  • Civil Procedure and Evidence (concurrent is ok)
Students are placed with the Public Defender and the District Attorney’s office.

Call 619-260-2345 for application information and deadlines.
Education & Disability Clinic
Margaret Dalton, Esq.

- **Cases**: Litigation Clinic - Cases focus on education and disability rights, including special education, discipline & expulsions; Section 504; Regional Center; Conservatorships

- **Activities**: Interview, counsel & advise, mediations, administrative hearings, Probate Court

- **Requirements**: None
- **Helpful**: Special Education and the Law
Entrepreneurship Clinic
Donna Matias, Esq.

• **Cases:** “Transactional” matters for individuals & small businesses; trademark & copyright
• **Activities:** Interview, research, counsel, draft papers
• **Requirements:** None
  Preferred: Corporations & Tax I
Federal Tax Clinic
Richard Carpenter, Esq.

- **Cases**: Disputes with the IRS

- **Activities**: Interview & Counsel Clients, Represent at IRS, Tax Court, community outreach

- **Requirement**: Tax I
  (priority for students with a high grade in the class)
About the Federal Tax Clinic

- Provides FREE legal services to qualified low-income taxpayers who have disputes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

- WE ARE NOT PART OF THE IRS
Immigration Clinic
Sandra Wagner, Esq.
Peggy Kane, Esq.

• **Cases:**
  Asylum, deportation, naturalization, DACA

• **Activities:**
  • Interview & Counsel clients
  • Represent clients before the USCIS

• **Requirements:** None
Land Use Clinic
Susan Quinn, Esq.

- **Placement Clinic**

- **Cases**: Permits, zoning, variances

- **Activities**: Intern with agencies to learn how the system works

- **Requirements**: None
Small Claims Clinic
Franco Simone, Esq.

- **Cases**: Small Claims cases

- **Activities**: Interview, counsel, assist in preparation, create trial plan; represent defendants on appeal

- **Requirements**: None
State Income Tax Clinic
Craig Shaltes, Esq.

- **Cases:** Disputes with the CA FTB over tax owed.
  (A joint effort with CA State Board of Equalization)

- **Activities:** Interview & Counsel Clients, Negotiate with the FTB; Represent clients at oral hearings before the BOE.

- **Requirements:** None
State Sales & Use Tax Clinic
Michael Larkin, Esq.

- **Cases**: Appeals Conferences and Appeals before the Board of Equalization.
  (A joint effort with CA State Board of Equalization)

- **Activities**:
  Interview & Counsel Clients, Prepare legal arguments for Appeals Conferences; appear at BOE oral hearings.

- **Requirements**: None
Veterans Clinic
Robert Muth, Esq.

• **Cases:**
  • Cases focus on veterans and military family members who have disputes with for-profit educational institutions and predatory lenders and over the use of Post 9/11 GI Bill funds and related loans.

• **Activities:**
  • Advise clients; Draft documents; Represent clients in negotiations, arbitrations and litigation.

• **Requirements**: None
Certification

• Required for: Civil and Criminal Clinics

• Under State Bar Rules, allows supervised students to appear for clients in state courts

• Procedures:
  • Obtain forms from Registrar’s Office
  • Obtain signature of supervising attorney, write check
  • Return completed forms and check to Registrar
  • Certification sent to supervising attorney with copy for student
  • Takes about three weeks, can be renewed
Law Clerks 2013
“Never to reject, for any consideration personal to himself or herself, the cause of the defenseless or the oppressed.”

*California Business & Professions Code section 6068(h)*
Questions?