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The Nations Largest Catholic University



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New Incarnation of DePaul University College of Law's Civil Litigation Clinic



The Civil Litigation & Health Law Clinic is an expansion of DePaul Law's acclaimed Civil Litigation Clinic. It brings a singularly unique approach to training law students interested in both litigation and health law by having them represent clients in both civil litigation claims and claims for Social Security disability benefit claims. Through the representation of clients and through classes dedicated to both the litigation process and substantive areas of civil and health law, students complete the clinic with the intellectual and practical skills that they can use in any civil litigation or health law environment.



Clinic Director David Rodriguez has a decade of experience in both corporate and public interest litigation, working at both Sidley Austin and Legal Aid Chicago. He shares DePaul's philosophy to cultivate in each student a desire to become a lifelong, independent learner, stating: "At the beginning of every semester, in the very first class, I focus first on emphasizing the importance of becoming a free and critical thinker with a heartfelt appreciation of the importance of assuming control over their own intellectual development."

"Preparation is the cornerstone of becoming a competent attorney."

Adjunct Professor Amy Marinacci, a supervisory attorney with Legal Aid Chicago since 2006, teaches the clinic course. She has a related philosophy focusing on the importance of preparation: "Preparation is the cornerstone of becoming a competent attorney. With preparation, a lawyer can present one's case in not only a competent way, but also a spontaneous and sincere way. At every opportunity, we impress this guiding principle on our clinic students."

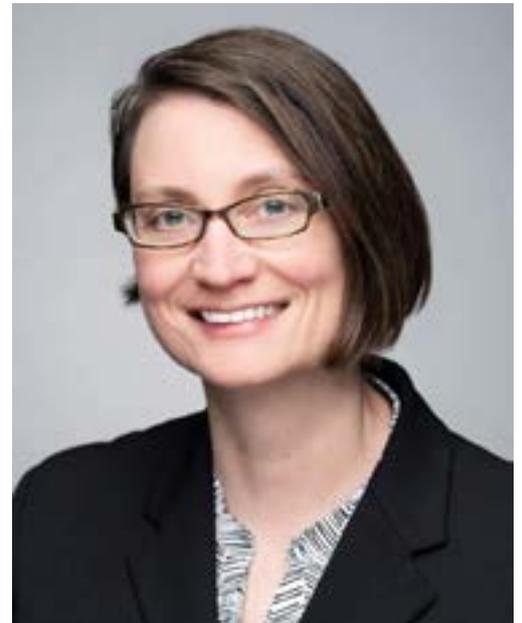
The Civil Litigation & Health Law Clinic is more than a course that teaches students how to represent clients in civil and health law matters. It is a place where students learn the importance of developing how they think about themselves and the world around them. By cultivating their abilities to think critically, the clinic prepares both future litigators and health law practitioners to solve problems and to anticipate and prevent future local and global problems like our current pandemic crisis.

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Introducing New Adjunct Professor Amy Marinacci

Adjunct Professor Amy Marinacci joins the DePaul College of Law from Legal Aid Chicago. Professor Marinacci chose to be a legal aid attorney as she has always enjoyed producing real, tangible results for people and serving communities in need. Due to the nature of the work, being a Legal Aid attorney is a good mix between acting partly as a lawyer and partly as a social worker, where she is able to use both analytical thinking as well as helping typically underserved people and communities navigate complicated administrations, such as the Illinois Department of Human Services as well as the Social Security Administration.

She has a long working history with Adjunct Professor David Rodriguez, whom she will be collaborating with during the Fall 2020 semester while teaching the Civil Litigation and Health Law Clinic.



...everyone has different strengths and skillsets that come naturally to them...

Professors Marinacci and Rodriguez met years ago when they both began at Legal Aid Chicago within a month of each other. While their personalities differ in some obvious ways, Professor Marinacci looks to use this as a teaching moment for their students. Even though one may approach their work from an analytical point of view and the other is more of a free-thinker, they are both incredibly successful in their work and she hopes the students gain an understanding that there is no one way to be a great advocate. The important lesson for her students is that everyone has different strengths and skillsets that come naturally to them, which also helps highlight the skill areas that need to be developed.

Welcome Professor Chastidy Burns!



DePaul College of Law is excited to introduce our newest adjunct professor, Chastidy Burns, who will be teaching the Public Interest Externship Seminar during the Fall 2020 semester.

The seminar will focus on providing students with the tools to develop effective relationships with their supervising attorneys, honing their skills in presenting themselves professionally and showcasing their unique skillsets by producing outstanding work. Professor Burns completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago and graduated with her law degree from DePaul College of Law. She has always had a passion for providing services to the community and has vast experience in volunteering throughout the Chicagoland area.

Professor Burns made the choice to return to DePaul as an adjunct professor as she had such a memorable experience during her studies and wanted

...make sure the students refine their career goals...

to help her students realize their potential in the same way those before had helped her reach her own. Navigating her first semester as a professor in our current virtual environment has posed its challenges, but she has found ways to engage her students in unique ways.

During her first class, Professor Burns began with an ice breaker, asking students to share fun facts about themselves to help the class interact on a more human and personal level, even if divided physically through technology. Her main goal in leading the Public Interest Externship Seminar is to make sure the students refine their career goals and gain an understanding of the importance real-world experience makes which will help them succeed as they begin to enter the job market in the future.

Introducing the New and Improved Externship Job Listing Site

In response to overwhelming feedback, DePaul College of Law migrated the Externship Job Listing site to a more user-friendly interface. The new system allows possible externship placements to easily submit their request for approval directly through the website. It also has a variety of search filters, so students may narrow down their search results, enabling them to find an externship which fits their needs in a more efficient and timely way. The new system allows recurring externship sites to remain listed indefinitely, unless their needs change, thereby limiting the need for placements which wish to be relisted each semester to manually request approval.

Please visit the new Externship Job Listing site here:

