Please read this carefully as it provides you with UPDATED AND IMPORTANT information regarding the criteria for application to and acceptance into either the clinical or externship program as well as an overview of other experiential opportunities.

**PATHWAYS TO THE PROFESSION**

By now you should have received an email from Ms. Yff regarding registration. Once again, you have important educational and professional decisions to make as you select courses. As I have advised in the past, I recommend that your schedule reflect a balance between doctrinal and theoretical (bar-tested and otherwise) courses and the practical application of the knowledge garnered in these courses within an experiential framework. I encourage you to consult the Pathways to Profession (https://law.fiu.edu/academics/pathways/) pages which can assist in your decision-making.

**EXPERIENTIAL MATTERS**

The Faculty defines experiential courses to mean “a clinical course, externship placement, trial advocacy or appellate advocacy course.” Hands-on learning permits students to develop practical skills and ethical judgment, to explore potential career paths, to reflect on their professional identity, and to observe how the justice system functions. Experiential Learning credit hour guidelines provide that “No student may enroll in more than twenty (20) credit hours of experiential courses, with a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours in trial advocacy courses, twelve (12) credit hours of clinical courses, or twelve (12) credit hours of externship placements.” (Academic Policy and Regulation Section 3A Subsection 704 (b)

**CLINICS**

The Legal Clinic (https://law.fiu.edu/academics/learning/clinical-program/) allows students to represent clients in litigation and transactional work under the close supervision of the experienced clinical faculty. The description of the Legal Clinic, along
with any criteria for student selection and participation, is attached. Application submission deadline: June 8, 2015 (rolling acceptance after the initial deadline until clinics are full)

EXTERNSHIPS

Externships (https://law.fiu.edu/academics/learning/externships/) allow students to work in a range of non-profit law offices, governmental agencies, judicial chambers and corporate offices. The description of the Legal Externship Program, along with any criteria for student selection and participation is attached. Application submission deadline: June 8, 2015 (rolling acceptance depending on placement)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Trial Advocacy (https://law.fiu.edu/academics/trialad/) is an intensive course of study that teaches the legal mechanics and human dynamics of trying a lawsuit.

Participation as a member of the Appellate Advocacy Team (https://law.fiu.edu/academics/learning/boa/appellate-advocacy/) emphasizes the development of brief-writing and oral advocacy skills.

Pro bono programs (https://law.fiu.edu/pro-bono/) offer opportunities to learn about a lawyer’s role in providing access to justice by assisting in providing legal services to the poor, disadvantaged, and other individuals or groups unable to secure legal assistance to address critical problems.

ACADEMIC ADVISING IS AVAILABLE

Members of the faculty and administration are always happy to sit down and assist you with developing a sound career and academic plan. Please reach out!!!

Dean Mason
Interim Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Education, Experiential Learning and Engagement
Clinic Descriptions

DEATH PENALTY CLINIC
(4 graded credits)

This course will involve students working on actual death penalty cases under the direct supervision of a clinical professor and a lawyer representing a client with a capital case. Students will assist in investigations, interviewing clients and witnesses, gathering documents, legal research, drafting pleadings and also assist with strategic decisions and in developing integrated theories of defense. The emphasis will be on making a case for life. Students will have acquired a basic understanding of the many ways in which "death is different." They will have obtained knowledge of the basic components of death penalty litigation and the many additional skills necessary to represent a client. They will have mastered the theories of defense and mitigation and understand the critical importance of integrating the first and second phases of a capital case. Students will have an appreciation of the many issues, techniques and priorities unique to death penalty litigation and the many differences between non-capital and capital cases. They will also come away having acquired many basic litigation skills such as legal writing, research, fact investigation and integrating themes.

Time Commitment: 14 hrs a week (minimum196hr for the semester) which includes case work, supervision and the seminar.

Faculty: Professor Stephen Harper

Certification: Not Required

Prerequisite: 45 Credits, and Death Penalty Course

Pre or Co-requisite: Professional Responsibility
Carlos A. Costa Immigration,  
Immigrant Children & Human Rights Clinic

Students will be responsible for a set of cases involving clients with immigration and human rights issues. These cases will involve students representing clients before the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice (Immigration Court/Board of Immigration Appeals), and Florida State Courts. The set of cases will involve asylum related relief, cancelation of removal, other affirmative and defensive immigration applications, and special immigrant juvenile matters. Human rights issues always involve advocating for clients who are victims of abuses by a Nation-State. Students will interview and prepare clients, prepare documentary evidence and witnesses, draft briefs and motions, conduct examinations during hearings, and file appeals when necessary. You will have the opportunity to represent persons under the supervision and with the guidance of seasoned attorneys.

**Time Commitment:** 20 hours a week (minimum of 280hrs for the semester) (not including supervision and the seminar)

**Faculty:** Professor Juan Carlos Gomez, Visiting Clinical Professor Mary Gundrum and Adjunct Jordan Dollar

**Certification:** Not Required except for State Court

**Prerequisite:** 45 Credits (48 for CLI – State Court Appearance)

**Pre or Co-requisite:** Professional Responsibility, Evidence and Immigration Law

Students must have access to a car and be willing to submit to a background check, which is required to gain access to the detention center.
The Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic is a legal services delivery model designed to improve legal client/patient outcomes by addressing social determinants of health (poverty, education and employment, income, housing, legal status, personal and family stability, etc.) Under the MLP Clinic, supervised students-lawyers will provide legal assistance to underserved, low-income households in association with the NHELP Project and other community partners. Students will work directly with the FIU College of Medicine’s Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP, the Miami VA HealthCare System, Access to Justice for Domestic Violence Victims, and the Liberty City Advocates Initiative. Through direct client work and the companion seminar, law students will learn how to counsel their clients about complex issues involving health care planning, public benefits, immigration, family and education law matters, estate planning and other legal issues as needed to stabilize a client’s situation and improve overall health. Law students will develop key transactional and lawyering skills including interviewing, critical thinking, document drafting, case management, interdisciplinary collaboration, timekeeping, navigating complicated ethical dilemmas, and mental capacity assessment. Law students will meet with patients on-site at the medical clinic and in their homes and work in a collaborative team environment.

**Time Commitment:** 14 hours a week (minimum 196hr for the semester) including case and policy work, supervision and the seminar.

**Faculty:** Dean Michelle Mason and Supervising Attorneys Natalie Castellanos and Mariano Corcilli

**Certification:** Not Required

**Prerequisite:** 45 Credits

**Pre or Co-requisite:** Professional Responsibility and ONE (1) of the following courses (Administrative Law, Health Law, Disability Law or Immigration Law)
The FIU College of Law Small Business Clinic (“SBC”) is the law school’s transactional clinic offered for 4 graded credits. The SBC provides basic corporate legal assistance to for-profit small businesses, entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations that cannot afford to pay market rates for legal services. The purpose of the SBC is to give students hands-on experience handling transactional legal problems while providing assistance to small business owners in the greater Miami area. The SBC provides an opportunity for these businesses to implement legal protections and business structures available within our legal system and to obtain guidance in complying with a variety of legal requirements.

Among the services the SBC offers are: entity formation, contract review and preparation, review and drafting of commercial real estate documents, preparation of trademark and copyright applications, and preparation of tax exempt applications for 501(c)(3) status. The SBC represents clients only on business transactions and does not work on litigation matters.

The SBC provides FIU Law students with the unique opportunity to acquire skills, training and practical experience in working with business clients. These experiences which include counseling real businesses, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizational clients, help students bridge the gap between law school and the practice of law in a transactional legal environment.

**Time Commitment:** 14 hours a week (minimum of 196hr for the semester) which includes case work, supervision and the seminar.

**Faculty:** Adjunct Professors John Little and Shahrzad Emami

**Certification:** Not Required

**Prerequisite:** 45 credit hours

**Pre or Co-requisite:** Professional Responsibility and Business Organization