

JUVENILE INNOCENCE & FAIR SENTENCING CLINIC

WHY THE JIFS CLINIC?

- 1. You will be on the front lines fighting mass incarceration.** People talk about mass incarceration as if it only happens to other people - it doesn't. It's happening to our clients, and you can do something about it. Mass incarceration *of youth* is California's special problem: nearly 10,000 youth are serving long adult sentences in California prisons. **The JIFS Clinic is the *only* clinic, *anywhere in this country*, that is specifically designed to address this terrible social problem.**
- 2. You are the one who represents your clients: in court, in parole hearings, in prisons.** In the JIFS Clinic, you are a ***certified law student***, which means you are the one who functions as a lawyer, under the supervision of faculty and staff attorneys. You can't get this experience sitting in a classroom.
- 3. You will write as if your life depended on it,** because your client's life and freedom depend on it. JIFS Clinic students write petitions, memoranda, motions, discovery requests, commutation letters – and then they argue them in court.
- 4. You will deal with real live clients, who count on you for their freedom.** In a few short years, will be an attorney with your own clients. Here's where you get the experience to represent *real* clients, and learn how to communicate with and counsel them effectively.
- 5. JIFS Clinic students get results.** 20 successful resentencing hearings; 12 commutations by the governor; 17 arguments in the Court of Appeal; 2 hard-won victories for wrongfully convicted clients, and **over 70** clients released from prison. These are victories that ***JIFS students*** achieved. That's why we are the only law school clinic working with the LA County DA's office Resentencing Unit to review and try to resentence every incarcerated youth from LA County.
- 6. You will get valuable courtroom and litigation skills, which are essential in job interviews.** JIFS students are in high demand in Public Defender offices and other jobs that require skilled, committed advocacy. The JIFS Clinic has placed over 75 students in public defense and public interest offices.

NOTE: Applications for the clinic will be available, starting **March 27, 2023** on 12Twenty. Applications are due in **April 5, 2023**. For more information, contact Prof. Chris Hawthorne at hawthorc@lls.edu.

See you on the front lines!