

JIFS Information Sheet

What is the JIFS Clinic?

The Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing (JIFS) Clinic is a year-long, eleven-unit course which is comprised of a five-unit substantive course and a six-unit (312 hour) clinical program.

In the clinic, students will represent persons who were convicted of offenses committed when they were juveniles. Many of the cases involve convictions for homicides. Students will have the chance to: appear and argue in court, conduct investigations, meet with incarcerated clients, conduct evidentiary or resentencing hearings in court, represent clients at parole hearings, research and write habeas and amicus briefs, and (possibly) conduct oral arguments in the court of appeal.

Students who graduate from the JIFS Clinic are often in high demand at public defender offices and other firms and organizations that require a high degree of professionalism and commitment.

Course work will include methodology of criminal investigation and gathering of mitigation evidence, causes of wrongful convictions, state and federal appellate and habeas processes, and specialized procedures for seeking resentencing in the superior court for juvenile lifers (*Miller* and Senate Bill 9), *Franklin* mitigation hearings, and Youth Offender Parole Hearings (Senate Bill 260).

Am I eligible?

Prerequisites for enrollment are:

- Criminal Law, Civil Procedure and Evidence (can be taken concurrently in the fall semester).
- Criminal Procedure and Appellate Advocacy are *strongly recommended*, but not required.
- Students must be eligible to be California Bar certified and in good academic standing.
- Prior academic performance will be considered; however, great weight will be given to those students who can demonstrate a commitment to the issues we deal with in the clinic, as well as to those who have experience in a related field.

How do I participate in the clinic?

- In addition to completing an application with a resume, students must interview with Professor Hawthorne in order to be considered for the class. Note: there is a *mandatory* two-day orientation one week before the official school year begins.
- Applications for the clinic will be available in the spring semester, online at <http://lls.edu/academics/centersprograms/centerforjuvenilelawpolicy/apply/>, and at the CJLP office on the second floor of Founder's Hall. Applications **are due on March 28, 2018**. For more information, contact Prof. Chris Hawthorne at hawthorc@lls.edu.

What else do I need to Know?

All aspects of the students' involvement are personally supervised by clinical professors. The substantive component is graded, while the clinical component is ungraded. Currently, class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 AM to 12 PM in the fall semester, and on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 12 PM in the Spring semester. Students will also be required to attend a weekly supervision meeting with the clinical professor. Students should expect the JIFS Clinic to be a *major* commitment, but a very rewarding one.

See you on the front lines!