

Notre Dame Law School

Experiential Opportunities – Clinics and Externships

In-House Clinics

All clinics are 5-credit offerings through which students engage in “first chair” law practice under the close supervision of a full-time clinical faculty member. All clinics include classroom training in addition to client representation and regular, structured supervision meetings with clinical faculty. The Intellectual Property & Entrepreneurship Clinic is located in Biolchini Hall. All other clinics are located in the Clinical Law Center at 725 Howard Street, three blocks south of campus.

Community Development Clinic (Professor Jim Kelly). The Community Development Clinic provides transactional legal services to nonprofits and small business. Students advise, prepare documents, and represent clients in a range of matters including the formation of corporations, partnerships, and LLCs; applications for 501(c)(3) tax exemption; legal obligations and best practices for running non-profits and businesses; drafting and reviewing contracts; real property transactions; and regulatory compliance obligations.

Economic Justice Clinic (Professor Judy Fox). The Economic Justice Clinic represents low-income clients in civil litigation involving mortgage foreclosures, fraud, predatory lending, land contract scams, foreclosure rescue scams, landlord-tenant, and debt collection. Additionally, the Clinic works with local community agencies to provide consumer education to targeted populations.

Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic (Professor Jodi Clifford). The IP and Entrepreneurship Clinic advises and represents local businesses and entrepreneurs with a variety of intellectual property issues. Clinic students counsel clients on protection and licensing of intellectual property, as well as preparing, filing and prosecuting patent and trademark applications. Students obtain a limited recognition to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Mediation Clinic (Professor Michael Jenuwine). The Mediation Clinic provides mediation services to individuals litigating civil disputes in the courts of St. Joseph and surrounding counties. Students begin with classroom training in mediation skills sufficient to be placed on the Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education Registry of Approved Court Mediators for domestic relations cases. Students then serve as mediators in both civil and domestic relations matters referred by local courts, including child custody, support, parenting time, landlord-tenant disputes, contract disputes, and other matters.

Tax Clinic (Professor Patrick Thomas). The Tax Clinic represents low income taxpayers in controversies with the Internal Revenue Service and litigation in the United States Tax Court. Students interview and counsel clients, conduct factual investigations, determine remedies for clients, negotiate with the IRS, and appear in Tax Court proceedings. Students also conduct educational programs for low income and English-as-a-Second-Language communities.

Externship Programs

All NDLS externship courses include law practice opportunities coupled with classroom work. More detailed information about externship programs may be found on the Law School web site under Academics/Clinics, Externships, and Skills Courses.

Appalachia Externship (Professor Robert Jones) (1 credit) Up to six students per semester spend their spring break week or fall break week in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky volunteering with a low-income legal services provider and other attorneys addressing the legal needs of this impoverished region.

Corporate Counsel Externship (Adjunct Professors Jay Lewis or Michael Hays) (3-4 credits) Students work 8-12 hours per week in a corporate counsel office in the Michiana region. Placement sites include private companies of varying sizes, a local medical center, and the ND General Counsel.

Intercollegiate Athletics Externship (Professor Ed Edmonds) (3 credits) Students work with the Athletics Department on a variety of legal issues related to athletics including reviewing contracts; assisting in the creation and revision of departmental policy; researching legal issues; researching compliance issues; drafting, reviewing, and revising compliance education materials; and auditing eligibility- and other compliance-related forms.

Lawyering Practice Externship (Professor Robert Jones) (3-4 credits) Students work 8-12 hours per week in nearly any non-profit, governmental, judicial, or corporate counsel setting in the South Bend area or the region. Students have worked in locations from Indianapolis to Chicago, including southern Michigan.

London Internship (Nicholas Brill) (1-2 credits). Students studying in London may work in a variety of law offices for credit.

National Immigrant Justice Center Externship (Adjunct Professor Lisa Koop) (3 credits) Students represent low-income immigration clients from northern Indiana under the supervision of an experienced National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) immigration attorney. Case types include asylum, U-Visa, and other immigration matters before the federal immigration agency and immigration court.

ND Law in Chicago (Professor Robert Jones) (10 credits) Students perform 32 hour-per-week externships in nearly any non-profit, governmental, judicial, or corporate counsel setting in the Chicago area.

ND Law in DC (Dean Nell Newton & Adjunct Professor John Lloyd) (10 credits; Spring semester only). Students perform 32 hour-per-week externships in legal settings related to the federal government. Placements may include federal administrative agencies, federal executive offices, congressional offices and committees, non-profit organizations, or federal courts headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Public Defender Externship (Professor Gerry Bradley) (2 credits) Students work one half day per week handling misdemeanor cases under the supervision of multiple local public defenders. With student practice certifications, externs conduct arraignment hearings and make court appearances in both adult court and juvenile court.

Seventh Circuit Practice Externship (Adjunct Professor Robert Palmer) (3 credits) Selected members of the Moot Court Board represent habeas corpus petitioners before the 7th Circuit by court appointment. Working under the supervision of an experienced appellate practitioner, students draft opening and reply briefs and conduct oral argument before the 7th Circuit. Students in this externship participate in the Lawyering Practice Externship seminar.

Summer Externship (Faculty)(1 co-curricular credit) Students participating in volunteer summer internships in non-profit, governmental, judicial, or corporate counsel settings may earn one co-curricular credit under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.

Externship Placements by Subject Area

The majority of the externship placement sites listed below have either hosted Notre Dame law students or have indicated a willingness to host them. A few other sites that have active externship programs are included. Students are encouraged to think of these listings as just a starting point. Students are welcome to work with the externship faculty to find other non-profit, governmental, judicial, and corporate counsel placements.

Bankruptcy Law

Washington, D.C:

Department of Justice, U.S. Trustee Program (Bankruptcy Court)

Child Law

Local:

Public Defender Externship Course (2 credits). 1/2 day per week with local public defender. Court appearances. Some placements in Juvenile Justice Center.

St. Joseph County Prosecutor (3-4 credits)(LPE course). 8-12 hours per week. Court appearances. Some placements in Juvenile Justice Center.

St. Joseph Probate Court / Juvenile Justice Center (3-4 credits) (LPE course). Extern for Judge James Fox and magistrates.

Indiana Legal Services (3-4 credits)(LPE course).

Chicago:

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (Semester-away Chicago program)

Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (Semester-away Chicago program)

Cook County Office of the Public Guardian – Juvenile Division (Semester-away Chicago program)

Cook County State's Attorney (Full Chicago program or 3-4 credit LPE course).
Placements include juvenile division. Court appearances.
Cook County Public Defender (Semester-away Chicago program or 3-4 credit LPE course). Placements include juvenile division. Court appearances.
Family Defense Center (Semester-away Chicago program)
James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy (Semester-away Chicago program)
Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Civil Rights

Local:

City of South Bend Law Department (Human Rights Commission)
(3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Semester-away Chicago program)
Chicago Lawyers' Committee, Office for Civil Rights Under Law (Semester-away Chicago program)
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) (Semester-away Chicago program)
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) (Semester-away Chicago program)
US Department of Education Civil Rights Division (Sem-away Chicago program)
US Department of Health & Human Services Office of Civil Rights (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Any federal agency working on civil rights issues.
Civil rights non-profits

Community Development

Local:

City of South Bend Law Department (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

The Law Project (Economic & Affordable Hous'g Development) (Semester-away Chicago)
Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund (Semester-away Chicago program)
City of Chicago Law Department (Semester-away Chicago program)
Community Activism Law Alliance (Semester-away Chicago program)
Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority (Semester-away Chicago program)

Constitutional Law

Washington, D.C:

The Constitution Project

Consumer Protection

Chicago:

Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Corporate Counsel

Local:

AM General (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

NIBCO (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

St. Joseph Health System (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Thor Industries, Inc. (3-4 credits) (CCE course)

University of Notre Dame General Counsel's Office (3-4 credits) (CCE course)

Whirlpool Corporation (Benton Harbor, MI)(3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Chicago:

Abbvie (Pharmaceuticals) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Enlivant (Assisted Care Facilities) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund (Semester-away Chicago program)

City of Chicago Law Department (Semester-away Chicago program)

Gas Technology Institute (GTI) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Levy Restaurants (Semester-away Chicago program)

Merieux Nutrisciences Corporation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority (Semester-away Chicago program)

Criminal Law

Local:

7th Circuit Practice (3 credits)(LPE course). Appointed habeas corpus cases. Briefing and oral argument before 7th Circuit. Participants chosen through Moot Court Board.

Public Defender Externship (2 credits). 1/2 day per week with local public defender. Court appearances.

St. Joseph County Prosecutor (3-4 credits)(LPE course). Juvenile, Traffic & Misdemeanor, SVU. Court appearances.

Cass County Prosecutor (3-4 credits)(LPE course) Varying subjects. Court appearances.

Elkhart County Prosecutor (3-4 credits)(LPE) Varying subjects. Court appearances.

Marion County Prosecutor (3-4 credits)(LPE). Varying subjects. Court appearances.

US Attorney's Office (3-4 credits)(LPE course). Court appearances.

Chicago:

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) – Juvenile Justice Reform (Semester-away Chicago program)

Cook County State's Attorney (Full Chicago program or 3-4 credit LPE course). Felony trials, misdemeanors, criminal appeals, juvenile, other. Court

appearances.

Cook County Public Defender (Semester-away Chicago or 3-4 credit LPE course).

Felony trials, misdemeanors, criminal appeals, juvenile, other.

Court appearances.

Federal Defender Program (Semester-away Chicago program). Court appearances.

US Attorney's Office (Semester-away Chicago program or 3-4 credit LPE course). Varying subjects. Court appearances.

Washington, D.C:

Public Defender Service – Parole Division

U.S. Attorney's Office – D.C.

Disability Law

Local:

Indiana Legal Services (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago (Semester-away Chicago program)

Center for Disability and Elder Law (Semester-away Chicago program)

Cook County Office of the Public Guardian – Adult Guardianship Division
(Semester-away Chicago program)

Equip for Equality (Semester-away Chicago program and LPE course)

Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission (Semester-away Chicago program)

Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Domestic Violence

Local:

Indiana Legal Services (3-4 credit)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)(Court appearances)

Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy (Semester-away Chicago program)

Education Law

Chicago:

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) (Sem-away Chicago)

Chicago Board of Education (Semester-away Chicago program)

US Department of Education Civil Rights Division (Semester-away Chicago program)

Energy Law

Chicago:

Environmental Law & Policy Center (Semester-away Chicago program)

Gas Technology Institute (Semester-away Chicago program)

Illinois Commerce Commission (Semester-away Chicago program)
Natural Resources Defense Council NRDC (Semester-away Chicago program)

Environmental Law

Chicago:

Alliance for the Great Lakes (Semester-away Chicago program)
Environmental Law and Policy Center (Semester-away Chicago program)
Illinois Attorney General Environmental Enforcement Division (Semester-away Chicago program)
Natural Resources Defense Council (Semester-away Chicago program)
US Environmental Protection Agency (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Department of Justice, Environmental & Natural Resources Division
Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement Division
US Environmental Protection Agency
National environmental non-profits with D.C: offices

Estate Planning

Local:

University of Notre Dame Office of Gift Planning (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Family Law

Local:

Indiana Legal Services (3-4 credits)(LPE course)
Juvenile Justice Center (Options include Public Defender Externship, St. Joseph County Prosecutor through the LPE course, or working for the St. Joseph Probate Court judge and magistrates through LPE course)

Chicago:

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)
Chicago Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)
Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)
Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Financial Regulation

Local:

1st Source Bank (3-4 credits)(CCE course)
Teachers Credit Union (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Chicago:

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) (Semester-away Chicago program)
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (Semester-away Chicago program)
Securities and Exchange Commission (3-4 credits)(LPE course)(No full semester option)

Washington, D.C:

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
Any federal agency with financial regulatory authority

Food & Beverage Law

Chicago:

Levy Restaurants (Semester-away Chicago program)

Health Care

Local:

St. Joseph Health System (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Chicago:

American Dental Association (Semester-away Chicago program)
Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (Semester-away Chicago program)
Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Semester-away Chicago program)
Rush Medical Center General Counsel (Semester-away Chicago program)
US Department of Health & Human Services General Counsel (Semester-away Chicago program)
Illinois Department of Public Health (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

American Health Policy Institute
US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Housing

Local:

Indiana Legal Services (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) (Sem-away Chicago)
Cabrini Green Legal Aid (Semester-away Chicago program)
Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Legal Assistance Foundation (Sem-away Chicago)
Chicago Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)
Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund (Semester-away Chicago program)
Latino United Community Housing Assn. Law Project (Semester-away Chicago program)
The Law Project (Semester-away Chicago program)
Lawyers Committee for Better Housing (Semester-away Chicago program)
Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD
Any federal agency dealing with housing policy

Immigration

Local:

National Immigrant Justice Center Externship (3 cr)(First chair representation of clients in asylum, U-Visa, and other immigration cases under Adjunct Prof. Lisa Koop)

Chicago:

Centro Romero (Semester-away Chicago program)
Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)
National Immigrant Justice Center (Semester-away Chicago program)
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Department of Homeland Security
Department of Justice, Office of Immigration Litigation
US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
NGOs working on federal immigration policy

Intellectual Property

Chicago:

Abbvie (Pharmaceuticals) (Semester-away Chicago program)
National Association of Realtors (Semester-away Chicago program)
Rush Medical Center General Counsel (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
US Copyright Office

International Affairs

Washington, D.C:

US Agency for International Development

Judicial

Local:

LaPorte Superior Court (3-4 credits)(LPE course)
St. Joseph Circuit Court (3-4 credits)(LPE course)
St. Joseph Superior Court (3-4 credits)(LPE course)
St. Joseph Probate Court (3-4 credits)(LPE course)
US District Court for the Northern District of Indiana (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Regional:

Indiana Supreme Court (3-4 credits)(LPE course)
Indiana Court of Appeals (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Cook County Circuit Court (Semester-away Chicago or 3-4 credits LPE course)
Illinois Appellate Court (Semester-away Chicago program)
US District Court, N. District of IL (Semester-away Chicago program or 3-4 credits LPE)
US Immigration Court (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
US District Court for the District of Columbia
US Tax Court

Labor and Employment

Local:

City of South Bend Law Department (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (Semester-away Chicago program)
Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)
Levy Restaurants (Semester-away Chicago program)
National Labor Relations Board (Semester-away Chicago program)
US Department of Labor (DOL) (Semester-away Chicago program)
Working Hands Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
US Department of Labor (DOL)

Law Reform

Chicago:

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) (Fair and affordable housing, community development, public education, gov't accountability) (Sem-away Chicago)
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice (Criminal justice, Judicial and lawyer ethics, Immigration court reform, Family law) (Semester-away Chicago program)
Family Defense Center (Child protection) (Semester-away Chicago program)
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C:

Dozens of non-profits working on a range of legal issues

Legislative

Washington, D.C.:

Senate and Congressional staffs, including:

Senator Joe Donnelly (IN)

Senator Orrin Hatch (UT)

Congressman Peter Rothfus (PA)

Congressman Don Young (AK)

Senate and House Committees, including:

Senate Judiciary Committee

Local Government

Local:

City of South Bend Law Department (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

South Bend Common Council (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

City of Chicago Law Department (Semester-away Chicago program)

City of Evanston Law Department (Semester-away Chicago program)

Chicago Park District (Semester-away Chicago program)

Low Income Legal Services

Local:

Indiana Legal Services (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

***Appalachia Externship* (1 credit, Fall or Spring Break, Prestonburg, Kentucky)**

Chicago:

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (Semester-away Chicago program)

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (Semester-away Chicago program)

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (Semester-away Chicago program)

Chicago Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)

Coalition for the Homeless (Semester-away Chicago program)

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)

Legal Assistance Foundation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (Semester-away Chicago program)

SSI Homeless Outreach Project (Semester-away Chicago program)

Working Hands Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)

Mediation

Chicago:

Center for Conflict Resolution (Semester-away Chicago program)

Military Law

Chicago:

U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General (Great Lakes) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Non-Profit Law

Chicago:

The Law Project (Economic & Affordable Housing Development) (Sem-away Chicago)

Public Interest

Chicago:

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (Sem-away Chicago program)

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago (Semester-away Chicago program)

Community Activism Law Alliance (Semester-away Chicago program)

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic (Semester-away Chicago program)

Environmental Law & Policy Center (Semester-away Chicago program)

Equip for Equality (Semester-away Chicago program)

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago (Semester-away Chicago program)

National Immigrant Justice Center (Semester-away Chicago program)

The Law Project

Public Utilities Regulation

Chicago:

Environmental Law & Policy Center (Semester-away Chicago program)

Illinois Commerce Commission (Semester-away Chicago program)

Sports Law

Local:

NDLS Intercollegiate Athletics Externship (2 credits) (Placement in the NCAA compliance office of the Notre Dame Athletic Department)

Chicago:

Levy Restaurants (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C.:

National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) (Legislative affairs office)

State Government

Regional:

Indiana Attorney General's Office (Indianapolis) (3-4 credits)(LPE course)

Chicago:

Illinois Attorney General's Office (Semester-away Chicago program)

Tax Law

Chicago:

Center for Economic Progress (Low Income Taxpayer Clinic) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Chicago Office of the Inspector General (Semester-away Chicago program)

US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Washington, D.C.:

US Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

US Tax Court

Transactional Law

Local:

1st Source Bank (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

AM General (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Bradley Company (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Lippert Components, Inc. (3-4 credits) (CCE course)

NIBCO (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

St. Joseph Health System (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Teachers Credit Union (3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Thor Industries, Inc. (3-4 credits) (CCE course)

Union Station Technology Center (3-4 credits) (CCE course)

University of Notre Dame General Counsel's Office (3-4 credits) (CCE course)

University of Notre Dame Office of Gift Planning (3-4 credits) (LPE course)

Whirlpool Corporation (Benton Harbor, MI)(3-4 credits)(CCE course)

Chicago:

Abbvie (Pharmaceuticals) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Enlivant (Assisted Care Facilities) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund (Semester-away Chicago program)

City of Chicago Law Department (Semester-away Chicago program)

Gas Technology Institute (GTI) (Semester-away Chicago program)

Levy Restaurants (Semester-away Chicago program)

Merieux Nutrisciences Corporation (Semester-away Chicago program)

Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority (Semester-away Chicago program)

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