



Clinical Education at Northwestern University School of Law

Leadership in Education, Justice, and Legal Reform

THE BLUHM LEGAL CLINIC





“What I learned working in the clinic — on the case of a man who was convicted based in large part on a coerced confession and the case of two neglected and abused children — cannot be taught in a traditional law school classroom.”

— Anthony Hill, class of 2001

“I was immersed in the day-to-day legal work of the office of the prosecutor during an internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the summer of 2001. I did legal research on comparative international criminal law and prepared urgent motions for trial. In one case I helped indict a rock star who composed and played songs on a Rwandan radio station that were said to incite genocide.”

— Becky Trent, class of 2003

From the Clinic Director



The clinical program at Northwestern is one of the most diverse and comprehensive among the country's law schools and consistently ranks in the *U.S. News & World Report* top 10. It leads the way in teaching the law in action, giving students strong litigation and negotiation skills and direct experience with representing clients and reforming laws and legal institutions.

Clinical education at Northwestern dates back to the Law School's beginnings. An innovative program that Dean John Henry Wigmore developed in 1910 with the Chicago Legal Aid Society evolved into the Legal Clinic, which opened its doors in 1969 with only two staff attorneys. Today in the Bluhm Legal Clinic, 16 clinical professors combine classroom instruction with hands-on experience for more than 120 students each year.

Our innovative simulation-based curriculum, including the Program on Advocacy and Professionalism, consistently ranks among the top 5 programs of its kind in *U.S. News & World Report*. The Program on Negotiations and Mediations, which ranks in the top 10, gives students the skills they need to negotiate and communicate effectively, solve problems, prepare briefs, examine witnesses, present evidence, and argue cases.

After learning these skills, students gain real-world training working in public interest organizations, businesses, judges' chambers, and criminal and defense law offices through our extensive externship program. Students also work with clinical faculty and staff to represent clients as well as challenge the fairness of our legal institutions and propose solutions for reform. The clinic's centers are nationally recognized for their direct involvement in legal reform.

- The Children and Family Justice Center is a local and national leader in juvenile court reform and in issues and initiatives affecting children and families in crisis.
- The Small Business Opportunity Center provides inexpensive legal services to entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations.
- The Center for International Human Rights conducts academic and practical work in support of international human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- The Center on Wrongful Convictions pushes the criminal justice system to take claims of innocence seriously and creates awareness about systemic shortcomings in the system.

The Bluhm Legal Clinic is flourishing and ever adapting to the needs of our students, the legal community, and the general public. As we move forward, assistant director Steve Drizin and I intend to build on a solid 30-year foundation to strengthen our already excellent centers and programs.

Thomas F. Geraghty
Associate Dean for Clinical Education
Director, Bluhm Legal Clinic
Professor of Law

Simulation-Based Teaching

Today's complex, competitive legal and business worlds require lawyers to possess communication, presentation, and teamwork skills above and beyond the traditional legal analysis and reasoning skills taught at every good law school. The simulation aspect of clinical education at Northwestern is designed to prepare students for all aspects of the litigation process, from brief writing to delivery of opening and closing arguments.

Fred Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy

The Fred Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy was established in 1999 to conduct research and teach groundbreaking and technologically advanced trial strategy. Named in honor of an innovative leader in litigation and trial strategies, the center focuses on technology-driven changes in the craft rather than on changes in the law.

Combining faculty lectures and demonstrations with student "on-your-feet" exercises, courses cover the ins and outs of using technology in each stage of litigation: discovery, case management, and trial. Students focus on high-tech courtroom presentations, preparing arguments and witness examinations using computers.

Each year the center presents a national conference on innovative trial and trial management strategies. The conference is attended by practitioners, judges, and general counsels as well as consultants, educators, and litigation management specialists.

Program on Advocacy and Professionalism

In the Program on Advocacy and Professionalism, part of the Bartlit Center, students learn the skills of pretrial investigation, interviewing, counseling, discovery, and motion practice. They also learn trial skills such as examining witnesses, introducing evidence, presenting and challenging expert witness testimony, delivering opening statements and closing arguments, and selecting juries.

Professors Steven Lubet and Robert P. Burns, nationally renowned legal ethics experts, lead a team of experienced practitioners and judges who make up the adjunct faculty. Students take their courses on evidence, trial advocacy, and ethics simultaneously. The unique combination of courses reinforces the notion that skilled advocates must possess substantive knowledge, technical skills, and high ethical standards.

In trial practice courses students prepare and try two complete cases: a bench trial in the state trial court and a jury trial in federal district court. A course in business litigation brings law and business students together in teams to create "legal departments" or to role-play clients and client representatives.

Students in the legal ethics course participate in simulated interviews, counseling sessions, negotiations, and trial exercises that present central issues in professional responsibility. Several students defend and prosecute mock cases against attorneys, while others act as judges deliberating on the case and presenting opinions.





Program on Negotiations and Mediations

Lawyers spend a great deal of their time in negotiations with clients and other lawyers and colleagues. The transactional attorney negotiates to get the deal done, and the litigator resolves a vast majority of cases through settlement, negotiations, and, increasingly, mediation. Led by Lynn Cohn (in photo above), Northwestern's Program on Negotiations and Mediations is designed to teach students effective negotiation and mediation theory and skills through a series of courses and workshops.

In the Negotiation Workshop law students collaborate with Kellogg students, attorneys in the Chicago area, and students from other law schools in actual negotiation proceedings. For example, Northwestern students participate in an online negotiation with Duke University law students. Working in teams or one-on-one, students cover a wide range of situations, including the purchase of real estate and the settlement of lawsuits, neighborhood disputes, campus disputes, personal services contracts, intrafamily disputes, and labor disputes. The workshop also teaches the specific skills needed to negotiate across cultural boundaries.

In the Mediation Process and Advocacy Workshop students focus on the process from two perspectives, that of the mediator and that of an advocate considering whether mediation is appropriate for a particular dispute. The Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), a Chicago-based nonprofit organization, conducts a portion of the skills training in the course, and students who successfully complete the training and meet all of CCR's certification requirements can become certified and conduct actual mediations on behalf of CCR. These students can also enroll in the Mediation Practicum, which combines their mediation experience with study of mediation theory.

Client Representation and Legal Reform

At the Bluhm Legal Clinic students learn to scrutinize the quality of justice by representing impoverished clients. Working in teams supervised by faculty and staff attorneys, students prepare juvenile justice, domestic violence, immigration and asylum, and criminal cases.

Not only do students fine-tune their skills as advocates, they often effect change in the law and legal institutions. For instance, the Children and Family Justice Center redesigned the mental health evaluations and clinical services information systems for the Juvenile Court of Cook County. The Center on Wrongful Convictions drafted a DNA testing bill that is now law in Illinois and is used as a model for the nation. Center for International Human Rights research on how the proposed Free Trade Agreement of the Americas would affect human rights has implications for the entire hemisphere. Cases and projects such as these generate excitement and commitment that extend into students' professional lives beyond law school.

Children and Family Justice Center

Founded in 1992 by Bernardine Dohrn, the Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC) in just a decade has become the most comprehensive clinical law program and child advocacy project in the country. Bridging legal systems, agencies, and categories that classify, criminalize, and label children, the CFJC provides legal assistance for the whole spectrum of child, adolescent, and family needs. It is an interdisciplinary training center for law and social work students, lawyers, and scholars. Eight clinical faculty members supervise students who are engaged in the daily legal representation of juveniles in courts.

Serving as a catalyst for reform of the Juvenile Court of Cook County (the world's first juvenile court), the CFJC has worked to improve the administration of justice for children by educating judges and court personnel. Challenging inequitable policies and outcomes, the center promotes realistic strategies to address school punishment and exclusion, harsh and unfair criminal sentencing laws for delinquent youth, the legal needs of girls, and human rights for children and to mobilize neighborhoods for youth development and accountability.



"We found that we could not represent kids in court without representing their multiple interests. We show the courts and school administrators and community groups the reasons that make this kid a whole person instead of being defined by the one act he or she did in a 30-second period."

— Bernardine Dohrn (center in above photo), founder and director, Children and Family Justice Center; clinical associate professor of law

CFJC faculty, staff, and students have questioned whether children can understand Miranda warnings and have urged that interrogations of children be videotaped. They have created a Children's Pro Bono Project with attorneys from 12 area law firms and have developed Community Panels for Youth, a program that helps young nonviolent offenders take responsibility for their actions while remaining in the community and avoiding the courts and detention.

Small Business Opportunity Center

"Businesses that contact us get good legal advice for almost nothing. We help a great variety of people, and they're so grateful. The students and I enjoy the human interest side of the assignments as much as the legal side."

— Thomas Morsch, Hochberg Family Director, Small Business Opportunity Center; clinical associate professor of law

The Small Business Opportunity Center (SBOC) grew out of the initiative of several Northwestern law students who approached Dean David Van Zandt in 1998 about starting a business-oriented clinical program at the school. The center is one of the first programs to provide hands-on training for law and business students who want to be transactional lawyers or executives of start-up companies. Essential to the SBOC's operation is the close relationship of the Law School with Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. The two schools offer a joint JD-MBA that is perhaps the best integrated program of its kind in the country and the only one that can be completed in three years.

Under the supervision of clinical faculty and staff, law and business students work together in the SBOC to represent small start-up companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations. They provide clients with affordable legal advice on matters such as incorporation, trademark registration, copyright protection, zoning requirements, and commercial licenses. The program now includes the seminar Entrepreneurship Law and Practice, the course Financing the Entrepreneurial Venture, and several externships or practica at area law firms and businesses.

The SBOC's current roster of about 60 clients runs the gamut from the "mom-and-pop" type (a daycare center, a van service, music lessons) to high-tech e-commerce enterprises. Although its principal purpose is to train students for leadership positions in law and business, the SBOC also provides a valuable service to the community by helping many nonprofit organizations and other clients who could not afford legal assistance.



CIHR director Douglass Cassel (rear) participates in public hearings held at the Law School for a tribunal of opinion on military bombings in Colombia.

Center for International Human Rights

"In the last three decades international human rights law has come of age. The legal skills of our students and volunteer attorneys are making valuable contributions to the defense of basic human rights around the world."

— Douglass Cassel, founder and director, Center for International Human Rights; clinical associate professor of law

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR), founded in 1998 by Douglass Cassel, defends human dignity throughout the world while enabling students to test and refine their academic learning in real cases. Stressing a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach, the center provides legal assistance to the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the U.S. Department of State, foreign governments, and nongovernmental organizations.

Faculty, staff, and students, as well as volunteer lawyers, visiting fellows, and interns, carry out research, public and professional education, technical assistance, and advocacy of pressing international issues. The center has addressed,

"When I first began this line of work, I thought the idea of an innocent person on death row was ridiculous. This past decade has taught me there are far more wrongfully convicted defendants than anyone would have imagined."

— Lawrence C. Marshall, founder and legal director, Center on Wrongful Convictions; professor of law

among other matters, the role of the International Criminal Court, international terrorism, U.S. death penalty laws, truth commissions, economic rights, NATO's humanitarian intervention, and political asylum cases. Students have investigated cases and had summer internships in Guatemala and Indonesia and at the U.N. Human Rights Centre in Geneva.

Each year the center organizes seminars, lectures, and conferences for lawyers and the public on topics ranging from reparations for Holocaust survivors to the human rights responsibilities of multinational corporations. The center plays a vital role in the Law School's expanding international program, which previously had concentrated on private international law.



More than 30 men and women who had been wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death told their stories at the National Conference on Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty, held at the Law School in 1998.

Center on Wrongful Convictions

More than any other clinical program of its kind, the Center on Wrongful Convictions (CWC) is making an impact on the way legislators in the United States view wrongful convictions and the death penalty. Building on the momentum of the international publicity garnered by the National Conference on Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty, which was held at the Law School in 1998, professor Lawrence C. Marshall founded the Center on Wrongful Convictions in 1998.

Under the supervision of Marshall and executive director Rob Warden, clinical faculty, staff, and students work to identify and rectify wrongful convictions and other serious miscarriages of justice. Individually or in teams, clinical faculty, staff, and students have worked on the cases of nine innocent men who were removed from death row in Illinois since 1987. In addition to representing imprisoned clients with claims of innocence, students develop initiatives to raise public awareness of the prevalence, causes, and social costs of wrongful convictions and to promote substantive reform of the criminal justice system.

The center was the driving force behind Gov. George H. Ryan's decision to suspend executions in Illinois as well as the current nationwide movement to reform the criminal justice system. Focusing its energies on convictions based on single eyewitness identifications, coerced confessions, jailhouse snitches, and accomplice testimony, faculty and students have proposed several possible reforms, including mandatory DNA testing, videotaping of confessions, and funding for the defense of indigent clients.

Externships

Combined with classroom work, externships give second- and third-year law students the opportunity to gain on-the-job training while earning class credit. They work 10 to 15 hours a week under the close supervision of lawyers, judges, entrepreneurs, corporate counsels, government officials, and public interest professionals. They also attend a weekly seminar for which they complete readings about their field, keep a journal, or write a paper linking their practice experience to theoretical questions. Students bring back to the classroom valuable firsthand experience and a heightened level of confidence about appearing before judges, writing briefs or opinions, preparing cases, and working with clients. Externships are available in the following areas:

Judicial: Students placed as law clerks with a U.S. district court judge or magistrate work on preparing research memoranda and drafting opinions.

Public interest: Students working at a public interest legal organization represent clients in civil matters.

Criminal law: Students work with either prosecution or defense lawyers in the federal or state criminal justice system, including the U.S. State's Attorney's Office, Federal Defender's Office, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and Cook County Public Defender's Office.

Corporate counsel: During the summer before their third year, students placed in general counsel offices of businesses will devote one day a week to the corporate law department. While externs can be called upon to do legal research, the goal is to become involved in the life of the law department by attending meetings, observing negotiations, and gaining an understanding of how law is practiced in a business setting.

Entrepreneurship: Students placed with start-up companies or entrepreneurs are introduced to the legal problems that may be encountered when starting up or operating a business, such as choice of entity, venture capital arrangements, selection of name and trademark, franchise agreements and operating contracts, and licensing requirements.

Mediation: Students can become certified mediators and conduct mediations under faculty supervision after completing mediation skills training from the Center for Conflict Resolution.



From the Dean

From Dean John Henry Wigmore's program with the Chicago Legal Aid Society in 1910 to today's Bluhm Legal Clinic centers, Northwestern has a history of teaching strong litigation and negotiation skills and giving students the opportunity to represent clients in the real world and generate legal reform. The future lawyers studying at Northwestern play a vital role in continuing this noble tradition.

In 2002 a group of students approached me and the faculty about a plan for inspiring a commitment to public service in all of our students regardless of what career path they may choose. The public service strategy they designed begins with one-week, student-led service/adventure projects for admitted students during the summer before their first year. To reinforce the commitment to public service, students will have the opportunity to complete a community service project during orientation. Finally, we are aiming to have all law students complete before graduation a number of hours of pro bono law or community service not related to law.

It is important that all of our graduates, regardless of what field or specialty they ultimately choose, understand the importance of contributing their time and services to the community. By graduation, Northwestern law students will have had a variety of experiences enabling them to make sound and ethical judgments and, equally important, will understand the limits of law and the ways lawyers can and must contribute beyond the boundaries of the profession.

David E. Van Zandt

Dean, Northwestern University School of Law

Professor of Law



Northwestern University President Henry S. Bienen (left) and Dean David E. Van Zandt (center) honor Neil G. Bluhm at the ceremony naming the Bluhm Legal Clinic.



Thomas F. Geraghty, *Director*
Steven A. Drizin, *Assistant Director*
312-503-8576
fax 312-503-8977

Northwestern University
School of Law
357 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-3069
www.law.northwestern.edu

Children and Family Justice Center

CFJC is a holistic children's law center, a clinical teaching program, and a research and policy center engaged with a major urban court, the Juvenile Court of Cook County.

Bernardine Dohrn, *Director*
Adrienne Drell, *Communications*
Director

E. Toni Curtis, *Coordinator*
Sarah Jablonski, *Program Assistant*
312-503-0396
fax 312-503-0953
TTY 312-503-4472

Center for International Human Rights

CIHR conducts academic and practical work in support of internationally recognized human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Douglass Cassel, *Director*
312-503-2224
fax 312-503-5950
d-cassel@law.northwestern.edu

Center on Wrongful Convictions

CWC is dedicated to identifying and rectifying wrongful convictions and other serious miscarriages of justice. The center has three components: representation, research, and public education.

Lawrence C. Marshall, *Legal Director*
Rob Warden, *Executive Director*
Jennifer Linzer, *Assistant Director*
312-503-2391
fax 312-503-0529
cwc@law.northwestern.edu

Small Business Opportunity Center

SBOC is a student-based clinical program providing affordable legal assistance to entrepreneurs, start-ups, and not-for-profit organizations.

Thomas H. Morsch, *Hochberg Family*
Director
Caitlin J. Cameron, *Clinical Attorney*
Paula Wells, *Program Assistant*
312-503-0321
fax 312-503-8977
small-business@law.northwestern.edu

Fred Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy

The Bartlit Center teaches innovative and technologically advanced trial strategy.

Steven Lubet, *Director*
312-503-6605
fax 312-503-5950
s-lubet@law.northwestern.edu



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Northwestern University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer.
©2002 Northwestern University. All rights reserved. Produced by University Relations.
10-02/10M/MG-GD/9409



Bluhm Legal Clinic
Northwestern University School of Law
357 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-3069

www.law.northwestern.edu