

IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

Goal of Clinic

The Immigration Law Clinic provides a practical skills experience where students gain professional skills in client interviewing, identifying and resolving legal issues, providing legal advice, and developing and implementing a case plan for their clients. Clinic students interview and counsel clients, as well as prepare declarations, legal briefs and supporting exhibits in their representation of clients before the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration Court. Representative cases include VAWA, asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions, and family-based applications. The Clinic represents underserved non-citizens living below the poverty level.

Structure of Clinic

Under attorney supervision, each enrolled student will handle a variety of actual cases and will represent clients under the direct supervision of an immigration attorney. Casework will be complemented by a required weekly seminar. The Clinic is located on campus. Students will be certified by the California State Bar under the Practical Training of Law Students program. The Clinic is located in the McGeorge Community Legal Services building at 2925 34th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817, on the campus of McGeorge School of Law.

Prerequisites for Enrollment

To qualify for the Immigration Law Clinic a student must be an upper-division student in good standing. Priority is given to graduating students. Enrollment in the Immigration Class or successful completion of the Immigration Class is a prerequisite. Students must apply for certification under The State Bar of California's Practical Training of Law Students (PTLS) program. To be eligible for certification, a student must be enrolled in, or have successfully completed Evidence and Civil Procedure. Students must pay to the State Bar the student registration fee and certified law student fee.

Professor

Blake Nordahl, Clinical Professor of Law, is a California State Bar Certified Specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law. After law school, Professor Nordahl was accepted into the U.S. Attorney General's Honors Program where he was a judicial law clerk and attorney advisory the Immigration Court in San Diego. He then opened his own solo practice firm where he represented clients in a variety of Immigration matters. Since joining McGeorge Professor Nordahl has served as the chair of the California State Bar Advisory Law Commission for Immigration and Nationality Law and a liaison between the Sacramento U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office and the Board of Immigration Lawyers Association. Contact: bnordahl@pacific.edu.

Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment

This is a one-semester clinic for three graded units, which includes a weekly seminar. In addition, law students will engage in client representation and counseling for a total commitment of 150 hours. **Enrollment for two semesters is strongly encouraged.** Enrollment in the Immigration Clinic is limited to twelve students.

Why This Clinic is Valuable

The Clinic represents non-citizens who otherwise would be unable to obtain legal representation. The Clinic provides in-depth practical training where students have an opportunity to work closely with real clients and develop their lawyering skills. Students work on cases at each stage from the initial consultation to final resolution.