

## **ELDER & HEALTH LAW CLINIC**

### **Goal of Clinic**

The Elder & Health Law Clinic provides students with civil practice skills in a growing area of area of legal specialization. Students will learn complicated substantive state and federal law, as well as engage in a high level of ethical competence. Many cases involve an interdisciplinary approach to lawyering. In furtherance of this, students engage in joint classes with UC Davis Medical students to explore common areas of practice. Students also interact with Adult Protective Services Social workers to staff cases and otherwise provide legal representation for the “whole” client.

### **Structure of Clinic**

Under attorney supervision, students interview and counsel clients, conduct factual investigation and legal research, develop case theories and strategies, manage case files, draft documents, engage in civil discovery and depositions, negotiate, and present or defend cases in superior court and before administrative agencies. Students also have the opportunity to represent and counsel clients in transactional matters concerning planning for death, incapacity and a variety of other issues. Students join UCD Medical, Nursing, and Social Work students in interdisciplinary classes addressing legal and ethical issues common to both professions

Priority cases include: Elder Financial Abuse Litigation; Probate and Probate Litigation; Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and Income Security Issues; Medicare, MediCal, In-Home Supportive Services and Health Access Issues; Substitute Decision-Making such as Powers of Attorney, Advance Health Care Directives, Trusts; Debtor-Creditor, Consumer Protection; and Wills, Trusts, and Small Estate Planning

### **Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment**

This is a one-semester clinic for three graded units, which includes a weekly clinic instructional meeting. In addition, law students will engage in client representation and counseling for a total of 150 hours. **Students are encouraged to enroll for two semesters to fulfill their experiential learning requirement and to gain additional skills and work on cases with more complexity.** Enrollment in the Elder & Health Law Clinic is limited to ten students. The Clinic is located in the McGeorge Community Legal Services building at 2925 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95817, on the campus of McGeorge School of Law.

### **Prerequisites for Enrollment & Fees**

Concurrent or prior enrollment in the Elder Law and Social Policy course, **or equivalent course work or experience is required.** 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**

Melissa Brown, Clinical Professor of Law and the co-author of *Advising the Elderly and Disabled Client*, is the supervising attorney. She has decades of private practice experience in a small firm representing elderly, injured and disabled clients, which includes legislative and appellate advocacy. Staff attorney Lacey Mickleburgh provides additional student supervision and support. Contact information: [mbrown1@pacific.edu](mailto:mbrown1@pacific.edu); [lmickleburgh@pacific.edu](mailto:lmickleburgh@pacific.edu).

### **Why This Clinic is Valuable**

The Elder and Health Law Clinic is an opportunity to do what lawyers do and advance the cause of social justice. Students to engage in legal counseling, negotiation, drafting documents, and management of their own cases. Court appearances allow real life experience with attorneys, judges, and witnesses.