Serving the Community Through Clinical Education

William & Mary Law School
A Message from the Director

From helping veterans get the benefits they earned, to briefing and arguing constitutional claims in the United States Courts of Appeals, our students have the opportunity to practice their lawyering skills and professional judgment while working closely with supervising attorneys. These professors are leaders in their fields who recognize the value that close mentorship, guided reflection, and exploration of professional responsibility and social justice in the context of client representation can have on a legal education.

“For those to whom much is given, much is required.” This quote from President Kennedy embodies the spirit of the William & Mary students who devote their time and talent to those who lack the means to obtain the justice they deserve. Our clinical program—featuring nine clinics with more than 150 positions for 2L and 3L students—addresses the unmet legal needs of our community while strengthening skills and a sense of responsibility among our students. We expect much of our clinic students, and they do not disappoint. Their passion and dedication to their clinic work is inspirational, and forms a solid foundation for their future pro bono work and ethical practice of law.

Patricia E. Roberts
Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Clinical Programs
The Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic

The Puller Clinic assists veterans with claims for disability compensation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as discharge upgrades and medical separations. Students interview clients, analyze medical records, communicate with health care providers, draft briefs and appeals, and craft strategies to address the needs of veteran clients through interprofessional partnerships with other universities. The Puller Clinic has captured national attention and has been hailed on Capitol Hill as a model for law schools across the country.

Patricia E. Roberts, Managing Attorney

Appellate and Supreme Court Clinic

The Appellate and Supreme Court Clinic introduces 3L students to appellate practice in the federal Courts of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Students identify cases suitable for the clinic, summarize and present potential cases to their colleagues for consideration, and, for those clients accepted by the clinic, prepare appellate briefs in cases involving the First and Fourth Amendments. Clinic students engaged in five oral arguments in fall 2013 in the Third, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, and D.C. Circuits.

Tillman J. Breckenridge, Managing Attorney

Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic

The Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic provides science-based legal and policy analysis of environmental and land use issues affecting coastal resources. Students work in partnership with Virginia scientists from William & Mary’s Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Virginia Sea Grant, examining issues ranging from property rights to federalism. The clinic’s activities are inherently interprofessional, so students are trained to work with scientists, local policymakers, nonprofits, private citizens, and the business and military communities, engaging them in discussion and adaptation planning concerning the most complex coastal resource management issues facing Virginia and the nation.

Roy A. Hoagland, Managing Attorney

Special Education Advocacy Clinic

The Parents Engaged for Learning Equality (PELE) Special Education Advocacy Clinic assists children with special needs and their families with eligibility, Individualized Education Programs, discipline matters, mediation, administrative hearings, empowering families by teaching them how to advocate for their children’s rights under the law. The PELE clinic also hosts a nationally recognized Institute in Special Education Advocacy each summer for attorneys, advocates, and law students from across the country.

Crystal S. Shin, Managing Attorney

Law Firm, University, Small Office, Home, or Public Sector

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