

Law School Clinics

Michigan's six law schools each offer clinical programs as part of their curriculum. Law school clinics offer counsel or instruction in a particular field of law and provide low-income persons with an opportunity to obtain legal representation. Under Michigan Court Rules, law students may provide direct representation to clients while under the supervision of experienced attorneys. Expert faculty members, talented students, and the vast resources available to law schools combine to make law school clinics a valuable community resource.

Ave Maria School of Law

Asylum and Immigrant Rights Law Clinic
 In the Asylum and Immigrant Rights Law Clinic, students provide legal assistance to asylum seekers and immigrants. This legal assistance includes representing asylum seekers in both affirmative and removal proceedings, helping battered women self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act, and writing appellate briefs for the Board of Immigration Appeals. Students, under the supervision of clinical faculty, perform client interviewing and counseling, conduct research, draft pleadings, and appear in court.

Ave Maria School of Law
 3475 Plymouth Road
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2550
 Contact: Professor Bridgette Carr
 Phone: (734) 827-7930
 E-mail: jpeyster@avemarialaw.edu

Michigan State University College of Law

Rental Housing Clinic
 The Rental Housing Clinic (RHC) is operated with the approval and support of the Law College's faculty and administration, and is a cooperative venture with the City of East Lansing. The RHC is staffed with second- and third-year law students who provide legal counseling, representation, and education to tenants and landlords experiencing

rental-housing difficulties. The RHC provides advisory services to landlords and tenants, and it provides education and training on rental housing matters for Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties. The RHC attempts to improve landlord/tenant issues by making a student-drafted model lease available to area landlords.

Rental Housing Clinic
 MSU College of Law
 541 East Grand River Avenue
 East Lansing, MI 48823
 Contact: John Boufford, Director
 Phone: (517) 336-8088
 Website: www.law.msu.edu/rhc

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
 The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) provides legal assistance to low-income taxpayers. The clinic's goal is to provide low-cost, high-quality legal assistance to low-income taxpayers in the Greater Lansing area who have cases or controversies with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or who are non-filers. LITC also provides tax consultation and ancillary return preparation for persons for whom English is a second language (ESL).

The tax clinic is committed to serving the needs of individuals and increasing public awareness and understanding of tax laws through user-friendly literature and community-education sessions. Law students who have met prerequisites for enrollment in the Tax Clinic are permitted to represent low-

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income and ESL clients under the supervision of licensed attorneys.

Tax Clinic
MSU College of Law
541 East Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823
Contact: Professor Michele Halloran
Phone: (517) 336-8084
E-mail: hallor11@msu.edu
Website: www.law.msu.edu/taxclinic
(Tax self-help materials available here)

Indigenous Law & Policy Center

Law students, under attorney supervision, provide legal services to tribal governments in an effort to assist them in attaining their judicial and governmental goals. Two of the clinic's objectives are to allow students to obtain a greater understanding of the applicable federal and tribal administrative law processes and to provide students with practical experience in working with tribal court judges through research, writing, and experience. In addition to the clinic work, the Center anticipates sponsoring indigenous law conferences and symposia at the MSU College of Law, as well as working to obtain legal internships for law students with local firms and tribal governments in the field of Indian Law.

Indigenous Law & Policy Center
MSU College of Law
405 College of Law Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
Contact: Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Director
Phone: (517) 432-6939
E-mail: indigenous@law.msu.edu
Website: www.law.msu.edu/indigenous

Chance at Childhood Law & Social Work Clinic

This clinic is a joint program offered by the MSU College of Law and the MSU Graduate School of Social Work. Both law students and graduate social work students gain practical experience by advocating for children. Through this collaborative effort, students

work in teams to bring their expertise to the practice of child welfare. The clinic provides three primary services: (1) legal representation to children; (2) consultation to practitioners and community members; and (3) training of students seeking careers in child welfare. Students may serve as guardian ad litem in domestic relations matters, and as a lawyer for children in delinquency cases.

Chance at Childhood Law & Social Work Clinic
MSU College of Law
541 East Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48826
Director: Joseph Kozakiewicz
Phone: (517) 336-8008
Website: <http://chanceatchildhood.msu.edu/>

Small Business & Nonprofit Law Clinic

This clinic was established for students who wish to develop special expertise in transactional business law practice. Clinical residents/law students provide legal services exclusively to small businesses and nonprofit organizations in an effort to assist the client in attaining his/her organizational goals and compliance with federal, state, and local laws. Law students may gain experience interviewing and counseling clients, negotiating with attorneys and the parties, planning, dispute resolution, monitoring, and advising compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Small Business & Nonprofit Law Clinic
MSU College of Law
541 East Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48826
Contact: Nicole Dandridge, Director
E-mail: dandridn@law.msu.edu
Phone: (517) 336-8088
Website: www.law.msu.edu/clinics/sbnp

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Service to Soldiers: Legal Referral Assistance Program

The purpose of this program is to assist military personnel who have just returned from serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. This program provides soldiers with free legal help and guidance with many issues that they face when they return home. The services provided cover a wide range of issues from cell phone overcharges to divorce proceedings. This program offers one-on-one consultations with Cooley professors who will match the individual with local attorneys who specialize in the area of law required. The selected attorney will then provide counsel concerning all aspects of the legal issue, including possible representation in court.

Thomas M. Cooley Law School
300 South Capitol Avenue, 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
Contact: Heather Spielmaker
Phone: (517) 334-5764, ext. 4112

The Sixty-Plus, Inc., Elderlaw Clinic
The Sixty-Plus, Inc., Elderlaw Clinic operates as a general civil law firm located on campus at the Cooley Center. Its caseload encompasses a full spectrum of legal matters, including will preparation, powers of attorney, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, pension benefits, divorce, grandparent visitation, landlord-tenant, consumer rights, probate, property and housing, wills and trusts, guardianships and conservatorships. Legal services are delivered by student interns (under the supervision of clinical faculty) from the initial in-take interview through final disposition of the case. The clinic serves approximately 1,000 clients annually with the highest priority being service to those with the greatest economic and social need.

The Sixty-Plus, Inc., Estate Planning Clinic
This clinic is designed to meet the high demands of end-of-life planning for elderly persons of modest means. It focuses on powers of attorney, health care directives, wills and trusts for persons with small to moderate estates.

Sixty Plus Clinics
Thomas M. Cooley Law School
300 South Capitol Avenue, 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
Contact: Professor Kimberly E. O'Leary
Phone: (517) 334-5760
E-mail: olearyk@cooley.edu

***Hours of operation are 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and by appointment. (No walk-ins; please call).

The Cooley Innocence Project
In January 2001, Cooley initiated the Innocence Project for the state of Michigan, which is part of an Innocence Network organized to allow a sharing of resources with other projects around the country. Nationally, the work of the Innocence Projects has been credited with the release of wrongfully accused prisoners, mainly through the use of DNA testing. The mission of Cooley's Innocence Project is to identify, provide legal assistance to, and secure the release of persons who are wrongfully imprisoned for crimes they did not commit. The Project operates as a law school clinic in which students work with practicing criminal defense lawyers to seek the release of wrongfully convicted prisoners in the state of Michigan.

The Project screens cases for strong evidence of factual innocence and assigns appropriate cases to volunteer criminal defense attorneys. It has organized a group of over 160 criminal defense practitioners statewide to take cases into court on a pro bono basis. Cooley students have the opportunity to be intricately involved in various aspects of the program

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such as creating screening procedures, reviewing case files, applying screening devices, investigating facts, interviewing involved persons, writing case histories, doing case analysis, and preparing written case evaluations.

There is no charge for services provided by the Project, and the program receives no government funding. It is maintained entirely by Cooley Law School, with a supporting grant from the Michigan State Bar Foundation and private donations.

Innocence Project
Thomas M. Cooley Law School
300 South Capitol Avenue,
6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
Contact: Professor Kathy Swedlow or
Professor Norman Fell
Phone: (517) 334-5764
E-mail: swedlowk@cooley.edu or felln@
cooley.edu

***The Innocence Project takes inquiries by mail only. A letter to The Cooley Innocence Project at the above address is sufficient to start the process.

Domestic Violence Clinic

The Domestic Violence Clinic is part of the Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP), collaboration between Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Lakeshore Legal Aid. Students in the clinic work with FLAP's staff attorneys representing low-income people in family law and domestic violence matters in Oakland County Circuit Court under Michigan Court Rule 8.120. Under the supervision of FLAP's attorneys, students will interview, counsel, and represent clients in court.

Thomas M. Cooley Law School-Auburn Hills
2630 Featherstone
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Contact: Professor Ashley M. Lowe
Phone: (248) 751-7800
E-mail: lowea@cooley.edu

Washtenaw Public Defender Clinic
While working with the Washtenaw County Public Defender's office, students appear in court under the supervision of a State Bar member and with the approval of the judge. Students handle a wide variety of defense work, including misdemeanors and felonies.

Thomas M. Cooley Law School
300 South Capitol Avenue, 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
Contact: Terrence F. Cavanaugh
Phone: (517) 334-5764
E-mail: cavanaut@cooley.edu

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Immigration Law Clinic

The Immigration Law Clinic provides law students with a unique and intensive hands-on learning experience representing clients before the U.S. Immigration Court and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Immigration Law Clinic works in close cooperation with Freedom House, a Detroit-based nonprofit organization well known nationally and internationally for its comprehensive range of services for persons seeking asylum. Law students are assigned a client who is seeking asylum in the U.S., interview that client, prepare a detailed asylum application, and conduct a trial before the U.S. Immigration Court, which decides whether the client will be granted protection in the U.S. Students also staff the mobile law office, which allows the Immigration Law Clinic to better serve immigrants and their families in the neighborhoods in which they reside.

Immigration Law Clinic
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
651 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48226
Contact: Professor Michael C. Bryce
Phone: (313) 596-0235
E-mail: brycemi@udmercy.edu

Mediation Clinic

Recognizing the importance of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the practice of law, a Mediation Clinic has been initiated at University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) through the offices of Oakland County Mediation and Martin Reisig, Esq. The Mediation Clinic is unique: to participate in the clinic, the students need to already be court-approved mediators. In other words, the student must have completed the 40-hour mediation-training course and have completed the requisite mediations to qualify. UDM works with Oakland County Mediation and with Neighborhood Reconciliation Center's (NRC) mediation services in Detroit to ensure students are able to do the 40-hour mediation training and qualify for the clinic.

When the students join the Mediation Clinic, they participate in a long series of mediations throughout the semester at various state district courts. In addition, Professor Reisig takes the students through advanced mediation techniques in the classroom component of the course. The mediation trainings and Mediation Clinic allow the students to develop their empathy and listening skills, and to consider a moderately different career path.

Mediation Clinic
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
651 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48226
Contact: Professor Michael C. Bryce
Phone: (313) 596-0235
E-mail: brycemi@udmercy.edu
Website: <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/academics/clinics.php>

Mobile Law Office Clinic

The clinical program at UDM is now aided by the addition of a Mobile Law Office (MLO). After purchasing a 29-foot RV, the law school had it revamped into a rolling law office. The MLO goes out to community

and other centers to conduct interviews, assist on cases that the UDM clinics handle, and to make appropriate referrals for other matters. Students and faculty also go out with the MLO to conduct educational presentations on various legal problems facing the community, including consumer fraud.

In addition to the UDM clinical students who participate with the MLO, pro bono attorneys from the Catholic Lawyers Association, Compuware's general counsel's office, and other organizations are getting involved. This allows the students to learn a great deal not only from their professors, but also from participating practicing attorneys. The MLO has vastly increased the outreach capability of the UDM clinical program and expanded the educational impact.

Mobile Law Office Clinic
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
651 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48226
Contact: Professor Michael C. Bryce
Phone: (313) 596-0235
E-mail: brycemi@udmercy.edu
Website: <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/academics/clinics.php>

Urban Law Clinic

The Urban Law Clinic at UDM has been representing indigent clients for over 40 years (since 1965). The clinic provides services that include the areas of consumer law, SSD, SSI, Medicaid and Medicare, mortgage law (predatory lending), and debt collection matters. Students in the clinic represent seniors in the Detroit area who are over 50 years of age. Students conduct interviews and investigations, draft complaints, motions, orders, and memoranda of law.

Students advocate in administrative hearings and at trials in both state and federal courts. In order to reach out to the community on

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many of these issues, students in the Urban Law Clinic also go out with the Mobile Law Office to community, church, and senior centers to interview and counsel potential clients.

Urban Law Clinic
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
651 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48226
Contact: Professor Michael C. Bryce
Phone: (313) 596-0235
E-mail: brycemi@udmercy.edu
Website: <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/academics/clinics.php>

**Set up a Tuesday morning or Thursday afternoon appointment by calling (313) 596-0262.

University of Michigan Law School

Child Advocacy Law Clinic
In the Child Advocacy Law Clinic (CALC), students represent children, parents, or local county offices of the Department of Human Services in court cases that may be located in Washtenaw, Genesee, Wayne, Jackson, Monroe, or Calhoun counties. With close support and supervision of an interdisciplinary faculty, law students address the complex legal, social, emotional, ethical, and public policy questions of state intervention in family life on behalf of children. Law students work together with practicing professionals, faculty, and students in the fields of social work, psychology, pediatrics, and psychiatry. Over the past 25 years, CALC student attorneys have been responsible for securing permanent homes for more than 1,000 children.

Child Advocacy Law Clinic
University of Michigan Law School
625 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215
Contact : Alicia Lixey, Clinical Administrator
Phone: (734) 763-5000
E-mail: lixey@umich.edu

Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic

Criminal appellate practice students represent convicted felons on appeal. Each student is assigned to help represent an indigent defendant in the appeal of his or her felony conviction, under the supervision of attorneys from Michigan's State Appellate Defender Office. Students learn to prepare polished appellate briefs that are filed with the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court. The clinic seeks to improve students' understanding and skill in all phases of appellate advocacy, including determination of relevant facts and competing interests, legal research, developing a theory of the case, and effective written and oral presentation.

Students review trial transcripts and lower court records, interview clients in prison (with the instructor), develop a strategy for appeal, conduct legal research, and help draft briefs on appeal. Frequent individual meetings with the instructors provide student feedback, as well as an oral argument before a panel of attorneys experienced in criminal law.

Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic
University of Michigan Law School
625 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215
Phone: (734) 764-9344

Environmental Law Clinic

The Environmental Law Clinic (ELC) operates in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center in Ann Arbor. Cases are drawn from the center's docket of judicial administrative and legislative proceedings. In addition to practice skills, the ELC provides students with practical experience in a wide range of natural resources and environmental matters such as wetlands management, clean water protection, and endangered species protection.

National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Natural Resource Center
213 West Liberty Street, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Contact: Neil Kagan, Practicum Director
Phone: (734) 769-3351
E-mail: kagan@nwf.org

General Clinic

On the civil side, students work on cases in many areas of the law, including landlord-tenant, consumer, domestic violence, family, welfare, employment discrimination, asylum and refugee, and prisoners' civil rights. On the criminal side, students represent clients charged with misdemeanors, from in-take through trial. Students also handle some post-judgment issues in serious felony cases. Clinical professors supervise, but students do all of the work for their clients, including interviewing, counseling, legal research, discovery, negotiation, motion practice, bench and jury trials, and appeals.

Cases are heard in the district, circuit, and probate courts, as well as in the federal courts, and less formal administrative venues. Clinic students have conducted jury trials in all of these courts, and have taken appeals to every level of the state and federal appellate courts, including the Michigan and U.S. Supreme Courts. Unlike in some more urban areas where the courts are overwhelmed and the delays are interminable, in the courts where clinical students practice, the dockets move quickly. Every semester, all students get to court steadily, on a rich variety of cases.

Clinical Law Program
University of Michigan Law School
363 Legal Research Building
801 Monroe Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215
Phone: (734) 763-4319
E-mail: mclp@umich.edu

Urban Communities Clinic

Urban Communities Clinic focuses on community development and small business assistance. Since its creation in 1991, this clinic has assisted community development corporations responsible for building more than 1,000 units of affordable housing. More recently, the clinic has expanded its assistance to small, minority, and women-owned businesses in Detroit with the goal of helping such businesses become contributors to the economy of the city. Activities include negotiating with city attorneys and commercial lenders, drafting and reviewing contracts, selecting and forming legal entities, and closing on financing and other transactions. Areas of legal assistance also include real estate purchase and leasing, licensing and trademark services, stockholder and operating agreements. Results of the students' efforts are improved communities and continual economic development in the city of Detroit.

Urban Communities Clinic
University of Michigan Law School
801 Monroe
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215
Contact : Roshunda L. Price, Director
Phone: (734) 764-4147
E-mail: roprice@umich.edu

Pediatric Advocacy Clinic

The Pediatric Advocacy Clinic is a medical-legal collaborative for law students and pediatric providers to improve the health of low-income children and their families. It provides students with on-site legal advocacy assistance and training by engaging in a variety of activities, including direct casework, consumer/professional education and training, and public policy advocacy. Working with healthcare providers, students identify and prioritize legal practice areas, design and conduct trainings for medical providers, structure and prioritize future clinic services,

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and represent the clients referred through the program.

Pediatric Advocacy Clinic
University of Michigan Law School
611 Church Street, Suite 4E
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Contact: Anne Schroth
Phone: (734) 615-2450
E-mail: schroth@umich.edu

Wayne State University Law School

Civil Rights Litigation Clinic

Students in the clinic assist in the representation of an indigent prisoner who has filed a civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in the U.S. District Court. The student interviews the client, takes and defends depositions, prepares written discovery and motions, argues the case in federal court, and prepares for trials.

Civil Rights Litigation Clinic
Wayne State University Law School
471 W. Palmer Street
Detroit, MI 48202
Contact: Prof. Erica Eisinger
Phone: (313) 577-3348

***The Civil Rights Litigation Clinic accepts clients on referral from the pro bono panel of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Criminal Appellate Practice

Students in this clinic, with oversight by a member of the State Appellate Defender Office, prepare a criminal appellate brief on behalf of a client who has been convicted of a felony after a jury trial. The students interview the client, present a mock oral argument to a panel of experienced criminal appellate practitioners, and ultimately have their briefs submitted to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Criminal Appellate Practice
Wayne State University Law School
471 W. Palmer Street
Detroit, MI 48202
Contact: Adj. Professor Gail Rodwan
Phone: (313) 256-9833 x 228
E-mail: gail@sado.org

**The Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic accepts cases from the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO).

Disability Law Clinic

Students assist low-income individuals with disabilities on a range of issues, including Social Security/SSI, special education, and Medicaid and Medicare. The clinic aims to help its clients obtain the services and support needed to live in their own homes rather than in institutional settings. The clinic offers students an intensive exposure to administrative advocacy, while helping one of Detroit's most underrepresented populations.

Students participate in all aspects of the clinic's operations, from intake of potential clients, case acceptance, and individual client representation, to community education and law reform efforts.

Disability Law Clinic
Wayne State University Law School
471 W. Palmer Street
Detroit, MI 48202
Contact: Professor David Moss
Phone: (313) 577-3970
E-mail: david.moss@wayne.edu

Free Legal Aid Clinic

The Free Legal Aid Clinic (FLAC) is Wayne State University Law School's oldest and largest live-client clinic. FLAC originated as a student-run nonprofit organization and continues today in partnership with the law school and the Legal Aid and Defender Association. FLAC provides legal assistance in state court on family law matters such as custody, support, visitation, and divorce. Students inter-

view clients, investigate facts, draft pleadings to negotiate with opposing counsel, appear in court, and may participate in all phases—even up to the final judgment. FLAC is a collaborative venture with the Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LADA) of Detroit and is located at:

Free Legal Aid Clinic (FLAC)
Penobscot Building
645 Griswold Street
Detroit, MI 48226
Contact: Professor David Moss
Phone: (313) 577-3970
E-mail: david.moss@wayne.edu

***Prospective clients need to meet the income and asset guidelines of the Legal Services Corporation and should contact LADA's intake unit at (877) 964-4700.

Small Business Enterprises and Nonprofit Corporations Clinic

The clinic represents both for-profit and nonprofit clients who cannot afford to pay for legal services offered by attorneys in the private bar. The clinic will assist businesses within the city of Detroit and in the Detroit metropolitan area. Among the services the clinic offers are entity formation, contract review and preparation, review and drafting of commercial real estate documents, preparation of trademark and copyright applications, and preparation of tax-exempt applications. The clinic represents clients only on business transactions and will not work on litigation matters.

Small Business Enterprises and Nonprofit
Corporations Clinic
Wayne State University Law School
Contact: Dana A. Roach, Director
471 W. Palmer Street
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 577-3961