

CONSUMER LAW CLINIC – FALL 2014

Professor: Rick McElvaney

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a practical course involving representing actual clients with their legal issues. You will be working on cases filed in Justice, County, and District courts. Most of your cases will relate directly to consumer law, including landlord and tenant law, real estate issues, deceptive trade practices, debt collection, bankruptcy, negotiation strategies, and lease drafting. After completing this course, students will have the necessary legal and practical knowledge to represent consumers effectively upon starting to practice law.

Regular participation in the clinic is required! You must work 60 hours per course credit hour. There is a weekly staff meeting class that last approximately 1 ½ hours. The time of the class will be determined after I receive all of the clinic students' schedules. In the event that our class needs to be rescheduled, I will give you advance warning by email. This will not happen often, but may happen from time to time. All postponed/cancelled classes will be rescheduled.

This is a clinical University of Houston Law Center course. Accordingly, Law Center policy requires the final grade average for the course be 3.20 on a 4.0 scale. Work performance, attendance, and participation, including turning in all assignments, will count toward your final grade.

I am available to discuss your cases any time I am here at UHLC. My office is in BLB – 134 and my phone number is (713) 743 -1236 (UHLC). If you do not find me in my office, you should feel free to call me at any time or email me regarding questions. My cell phone is (832) 738 – 2119. You may call me at any time if you have a problem that cannot wait until regular school hours.

REQUIRED TEXT

All books required for the Consumer Law Clinic are provided.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Initial Meeting

Bring completed Third Year Bar Card application, \$15 check made out to "State Bar of Texas", a listing and times of your other classes (and time you are otherwise unavailable to meet), as well as your proposed clinic work hour schedule.

2. Clinic Reflection Paper

3. Final De-briefing (Last Week of Classes)

4. Client Self-Help Brochure (Student selects topic) (Last week of Class)

CLASSES

In order to avoid students being unable to take the consumer law clinic because of class conflicts, the CLC class will be arranged at a time mutually convenient to enrolled clinic students. The CLC class time will be announced during the first week of classes.

Part 1: Introduction

Part 2: Interviewing and Dealing with Clients

Part 3: Courthouse Area Visit

Part 4: Negotiation

Part 5: Civil Litigation

Part 6: Real Estate Practice

Part 7: Landlord and Tenant

Part 8: DTPA

Part 9: Debt Collection

Part 10: Bankruptcy

Part 11: Wills/Probate

Part 12: Law Office Management

Part 13: Guest Lecturer – (Practice Management)

