

IMMIGRATION CLINIC II
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER
FALL 2023

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Pronouns: she/her

Additional instructors TBD

Class Sessions: Once per week, to be arranged

Course Description

As a student in this clinic, you will participate in the representation of clients with immigration cases. The clinic's case load includes people seeking asylum and other humanitarian relief from removal, Special Immigrant Juvenile status, and visas for victims of crime and trafficking, in addition to other family-based immigration.

You are your client's attorney and will be responsible for all aspects of the case—client interviewing and counseling, fact investigation and development, working with expert witnesses, legal research, drafting documents and applications, negotiations, and trial advocacy as necessary. You will work under the supervision of one of the professors.

In addition to the work you do on your client's case, known as fieldwork, there is a classroom component to the clinic. The clinic will meet once per week for one hour for case rounds. Case rounds are group problem solving sessions where a team presents a problem to the class and the class helps the team to examine the problem, consider their own goals, and brainstorm solutions.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment

By the conclusion of your participation in the Immigration Clinic II, you are expected to competently:

- Take on the role and responsibilities of a lawyer representing a client and exercise professional judgment in all aspects of a representation;
- Solve problems through a process of deliberate and effectively-structured planning and decision-making;
- Research, develop, and assess legal arguments, investigate potentially relevant facts, and reassess arguments as new facts become known;
- Identify, analyze, and appropriately resolve ethical issues;
- Collaborate with other legal professionals and professionals from other disciplines;

- Conduct interviews that reflect careful planning and effective use of techniques to serve rapport-building, information-gathering, theory-development, and other goals;
- Identify and use effective techniques to deal with cultural, linguistic, and other differences that affect communication between clients, lawyers, and others involved in a case;
- Be sensitive to, and find ways to address, the effects of a client's traumatic experiences on memory, communication, and the lawyer-client relationship; and its impact on a lawyer's own mental health;
- Counsel a client in a way that effectively assists him or her in making informed decisions;
- Make persuasive, clear, and well-organized arguments in briefs and other forms of written advocacy;
- Present facts in a coherent, compelling and persuasive manner, both in written form (e.g., in client or witness affidavits) and by effectively organizing and presenting testimony at a hearing;
- Engage in effective oral advocacy that is both carefully-planned and responsive to the testimony, arguments, and adjudicator concerns that arise at a hearing;
- Engage in thoughtful and constructive self-critique and critique of others in a manner that fosters on-going learning and professional growth;
- Be able to explain, critically evaluate, and develop proposals for improving the legal standards and adjudicatory processes that you encounter in practicing asylum law.

Assessment

Your grade for the clinic will depend both on the competence and professionalism you demonstrate in your fieldwork and your engagement in the classroom aspect of the clinic. More detail will be provided in the Immigration Clinic Manual.

This is an ordinary University of Houston Law Center course. According, Law Center policy requires the final grade average for the course to be 3.20 – 3.40 on a 4.0 scale or whatever scale is in effect at the time of enrollment.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory unless otherwise excused by one of the professors. Students may not be absent for more than two classes. By attending class sessions, you are certifying that you are prepared for class.

In addition to class time, you will meet in person with your supervisor weekly, at a time that is convenient for both. Meetings with your supervisor may become more frequent as a deadline or a hearing approaches.

Students are required to complete 50 hours of clinic work per course credit during the semester (i.e. 150 hours of clinic work for three credits). Clinic work includes class attendance, client work, and supervision meetings.

Students may elect to take Immigration Clinic II for two, three, or four credits.

UH Email

Please check and use your Cougarnet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your Cougarnet credentials.

Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this class. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please ask if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to my course.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Wellness

This is an inclusive learning space.

At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you'll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed.

In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran's status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Our class is richer for this diversity.

Inclusive learning spaces facilitate the innovation and creative thought that enhance student success. This success arises from the participation, support, and understanding of you and your colleagues. We encourage you to speak up and to share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we're all expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others.

If you feel like your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please reach out to Prof. Cabot or any of the professors. We want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone outside the clinic, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713-743-2182. Finally, we encourage you to bring any issues negatively impacting UHLC's openness to diversity and inclusion to the Law Center's Diversity and Inclusion committee. The D&I committee's charge includes "[building] on the Law Center's strengths as a diverse and inclusive environment." You can contact the committee directly at UHLCD&I@uh.edu. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let us know other ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Preferred Name and Pronouns

We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise the professors of this preference early in the semester so that we may make appropriate changes to our records.

Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies

UHLC and the University of Houston are committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08. Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty and other University employees are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Due to this reporting requirement, faculty members and other employees are not a confidential resource. The reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy extends to alleged conduct by University employees and students.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, we, your instructors, are “responsible employees” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which we become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Accessibility and Accommodations

UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation.

If you anticipate or experience barriers based on a disability (including any chronic or temporary medical or mental health condition), please reach out to us so that we may discuss options. If you require any support services, please contact Ms. Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator. Ms. Ary is located in room 44A TU-II in the Office of Student Services suite, and she can be reached at sary@central.uh.edu or 713-743-7466. Requests for accommodation that involve graded assignments **or client work** must be directed to Ms. Ary and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and to process the request. If you observe religious or cultural holidays that will coincide with synchronous class sessions or lawyering events, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we may make arrangements.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic

adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the Law Center's Office of Student Services.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Law Center's Office of Student Services. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Student Affairs and may result in disciplinary action.

Furthermore, confidential client information is frequently discussed in class and dissemination of this information without proper consent from the client(s) involved could be a violation of the rules of professional conduct.

Resources for Online Learning

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through <https://uh.edu/power-on/>. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, Blackboard, and Canvas; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. Our Security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called Cougar Ride that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus (<https://uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets-talk/index>).

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (“TLAP”) also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP's website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students:
<https://www.tlaphelps.org/lawstudents>.

COVID-19 Information

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email.

Students are encouraged to visit the University's [COVID-19 website](#) for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, on-campus testing, and vaccine information. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see [Student Protocols](#) for what to do if you experience symptoms and [Potential Exposure to Coronavirus](#) for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.

Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent [vaccine information](#) and to consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated.

Other UH Resources

[Diversity and Inclusion Statement](#)

[Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

[Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[Center for Students with Disabilities](#)

[LGBTQ Resource Center](#)

[Cougars in Recovery](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(see Section XIII\)](#)

[Veterans Services](#)

[Cougar Cupboard](#)

[CoogsCare \(Student Assistance Resources\)](#)

[DACA: What You Need to Know](#)

[Student Health Center](#)

[Wellness](#)