

CONSUMER LAW CLINIC

Summer 2022

Professor Ryan Marquez

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Class TBD

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 50 hours per course credit hour. There is a weekly staff meeting class that last approximately 1 ½ hours. 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 applicable curved 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 KH – 213 and my phone number is (713) 743 -2169 (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 will be available for you to contact me at any time as well. You may call me at any time if you have a problem that cannot wait until regular school hours.

Attendance

Regular course attendance is expected. The Law Center expects students to attend at least 80% of the scheduled classes

Class Recording

The Law Center will record class sessions with audio and video for the sole and limited purpose of allowing students to stream the recorded sessions for review or to enable students or missed a class to hear the class presentation. Any recordings created will be deleted and destroyed shortly after the final exam for the class. There is a chance that your contributions to class discussion, whether voluntary or while on call, may be included in the recording. Your continued registration in this class indicates your acquiescence to any such incidental recording for the purposes described above.

Grading

This is an ordinary University of Houston Law Center course. Accordingly, Law Center policy requires the final grade average for the course be 3.20 – 3.40 on a 4.0 scale or whatever scale in effect at the time of enrollment. Your grade will be based on a final examination and class participation will also be part of determining your grade. I will call on students each day to discuss the assigned material.

Contact Information/Office Hours

My office phone is (713) 743 - 2169

My email is: rmmarqu2@central.uh.edu

My office is KH213 (office suite next to Krost Hall Auditorium on the Second Floor)

Feel free to stop by my office anytime, e-mail me, or to set an appointment in order to discuss the class material or anything else of interest to you.

If office hours will be remote, at the beginning of the semester, I will establish regular office hours that you may drop by online through Zoom.

Accommodation of Disabilities

The University of Houston Law Center strives to assure equal access and full participation by people with disabilities. If you require services because of a disability, you may notify Academic Records Coordinator in the Office of Student Services, in person in room 44A TU II, or by phone at 713-743-2187. This voluntary self-identification allows the University to prepare any necessary and appropriate support services to facilitate your learning.

Any requests for exam accommodations should be directed to Linda Lee at LLee@central.uh.edu or 713-743-1751 and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and process the request.

COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

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.

http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

REQUIRED TEXT

There is no required text for the Course.

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)

CHOSEN NAMES AND PREFERRED PRONOUNS

I want to address each of you in a manner that corresponds to your identity. Although mistakes happen, chosen names and preferred pronouns—including non-binary ones such as they|them|their—must be respected in my classroom. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun or if you have concerns about how your classmates or I address you.

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 will be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed. If you feel that your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please reach out to your professors. We want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone besides us, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713-743-2182.

UNIVERSITY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

The University is 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, there is a confidential reporting process 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, available here: <http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/uhs-policies/sams/01-general-information/index.php>
http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d7.pdf(antidiscrimination)
http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d8.pdf(sexual misconduct)

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy reach to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not a confidential resource.

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.

Class 1: Introduction

Class 2; Interviewing, and Communicating, and Dealing with Clients

Class 3: Courthouse Area Visit

Class 4: Public Record Research and Court Requirements

Class 5: Negotiation

Class 6: Civil Litigation

Class 7: Motions

Class 8: Evidence

Class 9: Trial Advocacy

Class 10: Fact Investigation and Discovery