

**US ATTORNEY CLINICAL LAB
COURSE 5297, SECTION 26256
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER
FALL 2026**

Course Instructors:

Name	Title	Contact Information
Elizabeth Karpati	Adjunct Professor	Elizabeth.Karpati@usdoj.gov
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Course Description:

As a student in the US Attorney Clinical Lab course (“USACL”), you will have the opportunity to continue advanced civil and criminal law studies in a small group setting. The clinic work component provides students with practical experience and valuable exposure to real cases of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Texas (“USAO”).

Class Sessions:

Class sessions will be held weekly during the semester face-to face in USAO’s offices at Wells Fargo Plaza, 1000 Louisiana St #2300, Houston, TX 77002 at a date and time to be agreed upon by faculty. **In person class session attendance is mandatory.** Students are responsible for their own transportation and parking.

Course Work:

Students are required to complete 100 hours of clinic work during the semester (i.e. 100 hours of clinic work for 2 credits). Clinic work includes class session attendance.

To maintain confidentiality, all clinic work must be completed in person in USAO’s offices at Wells Fargo Plaza, 1000 Louisiana St #2300, Houston, TX 77002.

All students enrolled in USACL are required to sign a confidentiality agreement and submit to a background check by USAO. All students enrolled in USACL must comply with all relevant USAO policies and procedures applicable to their clinic work and participation in the course.

All clinic work must be timely completed by November 24, 2026, unless otherwise approved by course instructors in advance.

Conferences:

Course instructors will hold mid-semester conferences September 21 through September 26 and exit interviews November 16 through November 20. Each student is required to participate in a mid-semester conference and an exit interview.

Assessment Methods:

This course offers formative assessment during the semester to provide feedback on student performance and competence. This includes student participation in class discussion and case rounds, individual meetings with course instructors to discuss clinic work, and feedback from course instructors on written work product. This course also provides summative assessment to evaluate overall performance at the end of the semester through course instructor observation of the following:

Clinic Work	80%
Writing Ability	20%
Legal Analysis and Research Skills	10%
Oral Communication Skills	10%
Organization	10%
Self-Motivation/Reliability	20%
Professionalism	10%
Class Session Preparation/Contribution	20%

The Law Center uses a mandatory grading curve for this course.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- (1) perform thorough and accurate research on assigned USAO projects;
- (2) communicate effectively regarding assigned USAO projects orally and in writing;
- (3) efficiently manage assigned USAO projects;
- (4) identify and analyze typical ethical issues arising in assigned USAO projects; and
- (5) properly utilize USAO software applications for communication, scheduling, file management, and other legal practice functions.

Collaboration with Students and Others:

You are encouraged to cooperate with each other in all aspects of this course. You should feel free to share ideas with each other. You each, of course, must do your own writing, except for those instances when you work with another student as a member of a team. You may not solicit or receive the aid of anyone outside this class, such as practicing lawyers outside of USAO or students who previously took this course.

Honor Code:

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

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 Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. 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 Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

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.

UH Email:

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit University Information Technology (UIT) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct:

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” 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 they 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/>.

Syllabus Changes:

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students’ mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let’s Talk location in-person or virtually. Let’s Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.