**OVERVIEW**

Through the course of the Criminal Justice Appellate Clinic, students will learn the ins-and-outs of litigating appeals in the field of criminal justice, including general appellate strategy and skills, and emerging issues in the criminal legal system. Under the supervision of the MacArthur Justice Center’s Executive Director and the Director of MJC’s Supreme Court and Appellate Program, students will have the opportunity to make a substantial contribution to ongoing appellate cases relating to the criminal legal system. During the winter term, clinical students work full-time in the MJC DC offices, and produce drafts of appellate briefs or Supreme Court cert-stage documents (i.e., cert petitions or briefs in opposition to cert). The Clinic’s associated winter term seminar addresses timely topics in appellate practice and criminal justice issues. During the spring semester, students continue to work with MJC remotely part-time (for 2 or 3 credits) on research issues relating to MJC’s caseload.

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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Winter-Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Criminal Justice Appellate Clinical Seminar |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 1 classroom credit |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 4-5 clinical credits (2 winter clinical credits + 2-3 spring clinical credits) |
| **LOCATION** | Washington, D.C. (full-time over winter) and Cambridge (remote for spring) |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | By Application (Due October 20, 2023) |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

During the winter semester, each student is assigned to one active appeal relating to an important issue in the criminal legal system. Students generally work in teams, and will produce a section of an appellate brief. Students will also engage in strategic thinking and other collaboration for the additional 2-3 cases other clinical students are working on. During the spring semester students work on a variety (roughly 3-4) of legal issues relating to MJC’s docket, and will produce an end-of-term ten-page memo on a legal issue of their choice.

**SKILLS**

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| Appellate litigation | Legal Research and writing |
| Brief writing | Strategizing cases |

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

Students works full-time over Winter term in D.C. and then continue their work remotely from Cambridge over the Spring semester for 8-12 hours/week.

**Example (winter semester; full-time)**

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| **Morning** | **Afternoon** | **Evening** |
| **8:30 - 9:15 am:** Take red line Metro, bus, or walk to MJC offices on H Street, NE  **9:15 - 10:00 am:** Conduct legal research  **10:00 - 11:00 am:** Clinical or seminar meeting with clinical instructors and fellow students  **11:00 am - 12:30 pm:** Conduct legal research and draft portion of appellate brief | **12:30 - 1:15 pm:** Go get lunch with fellow clinical students at one of the many restaurants within a couple blocks of MJC  **1:15 - 3:15 pm:** Conduct legal research and draft portion of appellate brief  **3:15 - 4:15 pm:** Grab coffee with one of the clinical instructors or another MJC attorney  **4:15 – 5:00 pm:** Conduct legal research and draft portion of appellate brief | **5:00 pm:** No evening clinical programming—enjoy your free time (maybe dinner out with friends at one of the many great DC restaurants?) |