

2016

Criminal Defense Clinic

Legal Clinic Program

Florida A&M University College of Law

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WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IN THE CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC



The Criminal Defense Clinic will allow CLI-certified student-attorneys to represent indigent and low-income criminal clients in the Ninth Judicial Circuit. The Clinic will provide students the opportunity to learn several key legal skills in the following areas: client interviewing, case/fact investigation, development of case theory and theme, collaboration with attorneys and non-attorneys, pre-trial discovery, client counseling, drafting pleadings and motions, plea negotiations, jury selection, and the opportunity to participate as first chair in all court hearings and trials.

“The dignity of the human person means that every human being is worth more than the worst thing they’ve ever done.”

-Sister Helen Prejean

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW OUR MISSION

The re-established Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law reaffirms our historical legacy of excellence and responsibility to serve as a transformative force for the public good. Our mission is to serve as a beacon of hope and catalyst for change by providing access to excellent educational training and opportunities to generations of students seeking to serve the needs of traditionally underserved people and communities locally, nationally and internationally.

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW
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FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

**Criminal
Defense**

“If an obscure Florida convict named Clarence Earl Gideon had not sat down in his prison cell with a pencil and paper to write a letter to the Supreme Court, and if the court had not taken the trouble to look for merit in that one crude petition . . . the vast machinery of American law would have gone on functioning undisturbed. But Gideon did write that letter, the Court did look into the case . . . and the whole course of American legal history has been changed.”

-Robert F. Kennedy

**For More Information
Call
(407) 254-3227**

WHAT IS THE CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC?



The Criminal Defense Clinic is one of five in-house clinics offered by the College of Law. The Clinic combines hands-on trial experience with an educational seminar component tailored to developing criminal litigation skills. The Criminal Defense Clinic focuses on the representation of indigent and low-income clients charged with criminal offenses, both misdemeanor and felony cases, in Orange and Osceola County. The Clinic's goal is to make the student-attorney competent and prepared to represent a criminal defendant from arrest to the resolution of his/her case, and all things in-between. Students will realize in this Clinic that working with poor people accused or convicted of crime is often exhilarating, sometimes grueling, and never boring. For some, it is life changing.

"There is no client as scary as an innocent man."

-Michael Connelly, *The Lincoln Lawyer*

PREREQUISITES FOR THE CRIMINAL

DEFENSE CLINIC

To become a part of the Criminal Defense Clinic, all students must have a minimum of forty-eight (48) credit-hours which must include Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Professional Responsibility, Evidence, and Trial Practice.



All students who wish to represent clients in the Ninth Judicial Courts as student-attorneys must also apply to the Florida Supreme Court and become a Certified Legal Intern (CLI) before beginning in the Criminal Defense Clinic. For more information on the process for becoming a Certified Legal Intern please refer to the Rules Governing The Florida Bar, Chapter 11 – Rules Governing the Law School Practice Program.



COURSE DESCRIPTION



Protecting and Serving the Rights of Our Clients

Students will explore the role of the criminal defense attorney in the criminal justice system, the ethical requirements of criminal defense representation, the role of race in the criminal justice system, as well as reflection on the question of 'how can you represent those people?' Students will be trained and supervised to handle all aspects of a criminal case with an emphasis on becoming zealous, ethical practitioners of criminal law.

THE CLINICAL MISSION

To provide free legal services in criminal matters of the highest quality to low income residents and the under-served community in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in the most beneficial, proficient, and professional manner.