

2016

Criminal Defense Clinic

Legal Clinic Program

Florida A&M University College of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.law.famu.edu/course-descriptions>



Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), and the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Program, Legal Clinic, "Criminal Defense Clinic" (2016). *Course Descriptions and Information*. Paper 1.
<http://commons.law.famu.edu/course-descriptions/1>

This Course Description is brought to you for free and open access by the Legal Clinic Program at Scholarly Commons @ FAMU Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Course Descriptions and Information by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ FAMU Law. For more information, please contact linda.barrette@famu.edu.

CRIMINAL IN-HOUSE PRACTICE

CRIMINAL DEFENSE-(CDC)-This clinic focuses on the representation of indigent clients charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses in county courts in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida. Students will represent low-income clients charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses from the surrounding community as well as those defendants appointed by the court who qualify for free legal services. 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 these people?' Students are trained and supervised to handle all aspects of a criminal case with an emphasis on becoming zealous ethical practitioners of criminal law. The clinic will provide the student-attorneys with hands-on experience in the actual representation of a criminal defendant from the initial client interview through case resolution. Students will have the opportunity to represent numerous criminal clients and learn several key legal skills in the following areas: case management, client interviewing, case/fact investigation, development of case theory and theme, client counseling, collaboration with attorneys and non-attorneys, pre-trial discovery, drafting pleadings and motions, plea negotiations, plea hearings, jury selection/voir dire, and participate as first chair in all court hearings and trials. Additionally, clinic students provide outreach to the local community in the areas of sealing and expungement law, restoration of civil rights law, and seminars to explain what rights are available when confronted by law enforcement. The clinic goal is to make the student-attorneys competent and prepared to zealously represent a criminal client from arrest to resolution of his/her case, and all things in-between.

Pre-requisite: Trial Practice, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law and FL Bar Clearance Letter.

Credits-6

Course No 6945

Class No. 3030

Sec. 301