

Civil Rights Clinic
Fall 2019

The Civil Rights Clinic allows students to earn 6-credits during one-semester through work with the law school's Korematsu Center on important, interesting civil rights issues pending before state and federal trial and appellate courts. During any particular semester, the Civil Rights Clinic is involved in many matters, and students will be expected to work on different aspects of cases that are at different stages in litigation. This may include cases in which we are co-counsel to plaintiffs in impact litigation cases; it may include cases in which we are filing amicus briefs. Working in the Civil Rights Clinic will be similar to working in a boutique civil rights law firm. The work is demanding, and students will be expected to commit to being in the office at least 17.5 hours each week during regular business hours in order to be fully involved in the work.

Please see the Law School's Schedule of Classes for the dates and times of the clinic seminar. In order to enroll in the clinic, you must be available during the times scheduled for the clinic seminar, and, in addition, you must be able to commit to at least 5 of the following time slots.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - noon					
1:00 - 4:30					No office hours Friday afternoon

In past years, clinic students have worked on a wide range of issues. For example, they have drafted briefs challenging Arizona's ethnic studies ban; fighting bias in closing argument and the application of the death penalty; and arguing the need for diversity on medical school faculties in a brief filed in the U.S. Supreme Court. The clinic is taught by faculty associated with the Law School's Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality. In the past, this has included Professors Bob Chang and Lorraine Bannai, along with Korematsu Center Staff Attorneys Melissa Lee and Jessica Levin. Additional supervision may be provided by the Center's litigation director, Professor Charlotte Garden.

Students interested in the clinic should see the instructions below for applying for the Civil Rights Clinic, which will require you to sign up for the clinic lottery and to submit an application. Please note the minimum grade requirements for applying for the clinic.

For more information about the Civil Rights Clinic, including descriptions of the work of the Korematsu Center and copies of briefs written in its cases, see the Korematsu Center webpage, <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/centers-and-institutes/korematsu-center>. A discussion of the clinic is under "Litigation" > Civil Rights Amicus Clinic. You must also watch the informational video on

that page. You can also contact Melissa Lee, leeme@seattleu.edu, Bob Chang, changro@seattleu.edu, and Jessica Levin, levinje@seattleu.edu.

APPLYING FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC

Overview

Students in the Civil Rights Clinic participate in sophisticated litigation that requires high-quality writing involving complex issues and which often must be completed in accordance with a very demanding schedule. This application is intended to ensure that all students enrolled in the clinic have the preparation and commitment to fulfill their obligations to the Clinic's clients. The grade guidelines set out below identify the level of performance in Legal Writing and Constitutional Law that the clinic faculty believe demonstrates the necessary combination of substantive knowledge and writing ability. Students who have not achieved the grades set out below can demonstrate their readiness through other significant writing experiences, in response to Question 4 in the application.

Prepare an application for the clinic, and sign up for the clinic lottery:

Prior to the semester in which you hope to take the Civil Rights Clinic, you will need to sign up for the clinic lottery for that semester according to the deadlines and process to be announced by the law school's registrar. You will receive an email from the registrar, asking you to sign up for the lottery and the clinics you want to take. You must sign up for the clinic lottery by the stated deadline.

You will need to submit an application to Staff Attorney Melissa Lee, leeme@seattleu.edu. **The application will be due 24 hours before you are required to submit your clinic choices to the registrar.** For example, if you are required to submit your clinic choices to the registrar by 9:00 a.m. on May 16, 2019, the application for the Civil Rights Clinic will be due by 9:00 a.m. on May 15, 2019. The application consists of a resume and a statement, of no more than one page, containing the following:

- (1) Explain your interest in taking the Civil Rights Clinic.
- (2) State that you viewed the information session posted on the Korematsu Center Civil Rights Clinic webpage (<http://www.law.seattleu.edu/centers-and-institutes/korematsu-center/litigation/civil-rights-and-amicus-clinic>). You need only watch the portion containing remarks by Professor Bob Chang and alumna Stacy Smith. You need not watch the rest of the video.
- (3) State your grades in Legal Writing II and Constitutional Law I. To be eligible for the clinic, you must have earned grades of B or above in Constitutional Law I and B+ or above in Legal Writing II. Students who have not earned such grades may request a waiver of these requirements from the clinic instructors (see item (4)).
- (4) If you do not meet the above grade requirements, describe your prior writing experience in a class (other than legal writing), law office, or other setting in which you have been asked to write memos, briefs, reports, or other documents (not short letters or

emails) that have required research, analysis, timely production of work product, and solid writing skills. In addition, identify the person who supervised your prior writing experience, as well as your Constitutional Law I and Legal Writing II professors, together with permission for us to speak with them.

(5) For those in Legal Writing II (LWII) or Constitutional Law at the time of your application, identify your Constitutional Law and LWII professors and authorize the clinic instructors to contact them to assess your work and grades in those classes. Acceptance into the clinic is subject to confirmation of those grades.

(6) The following completed table indicating which five time slots you'll be able to commit to working in the office. Remember that, in addition, everyone must be available during the Civil Rights Clinic Seminar posted in the Schedule of Classes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - noon					
1:00 - 4:30					xxxxxxxx

After we review your application, we will let you know whether your application is accepted. If it is, you must sign up for the clinic lottery by the time required by the Registrar, indicating the Civil Rights Clinic as one of your clinic choices.