Capital Defense Clinic
University of Alabama School of Law
Fall 2011

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Course Description: The Capital Defense Clinic is a full-year, 4 credit clinic. Students will assist private attorneys on a variety of legal issues facing persons charged with capital murder or already convicted of capital murder. Activities include, but are not limited to, preparing mitigation for the capital sentencing phase of a trial, researching and preparing a case for a federal habeas corpus petition, interviewing witnesses and digesting the trial record.

Class Meetings: The Capital Defense Clinic meets Wednesdays, from 2 - 3:25 p.m. There will also be individual meetings scheduled periodically through the semester. These dates will be set by the student and Director.

Course Requirements: Students are required to comply with the following requirements in order to complete the course successfully:

1. Students must attend all class meetings
2. Students must schedule and attend individual meetings with Director.
3. Students must agree to and sign the Clinic Confidentiality Agreement.
4. Students are expected to dedicate 7-8 hours per week to Clinic work. There will certainly be busier times during the year when students will put in more hours and some times that are slower - the number of hours expected is an average.

Course Grading: The Capital Defense Clinic is graded with standard letter grade.
Schedule

Wednesday, August 24: Orientation; no reading assignment

Wednesday, August 31: The Alabama Court System; Handling GIP cases; Visiting Jails and Prisons; no reading assignment

Wednesday, September 7: Alabama Capital Murder Statue; review 13A-6-2; 5-40; 5-46 - 5-52

Wednesday, September 14: Motion Drafting – John Lentine; review provided sample motions
* Case Meetings


Wednesday, September 28: Mitigation: Strickland v. Washington; Ake v. Oklahoma; Wiggins v. Smith; Rompilla v. Beard; Abdul-Kabir v. Quartermaster; Ex parte Moody; Beckworth v. State; How Jurors Decide on Death
* Case Meetings

Wednesday, October 5: Interviewing Witnesses – Joanne Terrell

Wednesday, October 12: Interviewing Witnesses II – Social Work students
* Case Meetings

Wednesday, October 19: Super-Mitigators: Atkins v. Virginia; Roper v. Simmons; Kennedy v. Louisiana

Wednesday, October 26: No Class; Individual Meetings

Wednesday, November 2: Case Rounds

Wednesday, November 9: No Class; Individual Meetings

Wednesday, November 16: Case Rounds; Semester Wrap Up

Wednesday, November 23: No class; Case Status Reports due