Capital Defense Clinic  
University of Alabama School of Law  
Fall 2013

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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, meeting with clients and defense team members, preparing mitigation for the capital sentencing phase of a trial, preparing pre-trial and trial motions, interviewing witnesses, and creating a complete case file and trial notebooks.

Class Meetings: The Capital Defense Clinic meets Wednesdays, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. There will also be individual and team meetings scheduled periodically through the semester. These dates will be set by the students 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 the Director. Each team must schedule and attend team meetings with the Director. Meeting types are indicated on the Schedule.
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.

General Information: The School of Law Honor Code, Grading Policies and other policies will be applicable to this class, and are available for review and reference at http://www.law.ua.edu/students/

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services, 348-4285, and to meet with Assoc. Dean Claude Arrington, 348-5750 or carrington@law.ua.edu. You are invited to see the Director to discuss accommodations and other special needs.
**Schedule**

Friday, August 16: Jail visit; orientation; no reading assignment

Wednesday, August 21: The Court System; Constitutional Issues in Capital Punishment

*Wednesday, August 28: Alabama Capital Murder Statue; review 13A-6; 13A-5-40; 5-46 - 5-52

**Individual meetings this week**

*Wednesday, September 4: Telling Your Client’s Story I: Case Theory and Narrative

**Team meetings this week**

Wednesday, September 11: Getting to Know Your Client; Dealing with Bias; Listening

*Wednesday, September 18: How Do I Get Stuff? Motions, Subpoenas, Letters, Releases

**Individual meetings this week**

Wednesday, September 25: Motion Drafting – John Lentine; review provided sample motions

*Wednesday, October 2: Interviewing Witnesses I – Joanne Terrell

**Team meetings this week**

Wednesday, October 9: Interviewing Witnesses II – Social Work students

*Wednesday, October 16: Case Rounds

**Individual meetings this week**

Wednesday, October 23: Investigation as Advocacy

*Wednesday, October 30: Systemic Justice: Brian Stevenson on TED

**Team meetings this week**

Wednesday, November 1: Thinking About the Whole Case: Connecting Liability and Sentencing Through Case Theory and Management.

*Wednesday, November 6: Inner City Trauma – Juvenile PTSD

**Individual meetings this week**

Wednesday, November 13: Case Rounds; Semester Wrap Up

*Wednesday, November 20: No Class; Self Assessments, Case Narratives, and Motions Due

**Individual meetings this week**