



Wayne State University Law School Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic

COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Hone your legal advocacy skills while promoting access to justice for immigrant clients – practice as a student attorney in the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic at Wayne State University Law School.

Who should apply?

AILC is open to second- and third-year law students at Wayne Law. Students must have taken or be concurrently enrolled in Immigration Law and Professional Responsibility. This clinic is particularly relevant to students interested in immigration law or legal issues affecting noncitizens, but also provides valuable experience for those pursuing careers in litigation, public interest or government work. Students who successfully complete AILC may enroll in the Advanced AILC with permission of AILC faculty.

What will I learn in AILC?

Although AILC is focused on the practice of immigration law, the course gives students the opportunity to develop and refine essential lawyering skills that can be transferred into many other practice contexts. AILC students represent individuals seeking immigration relief, and have the opportunity to gain knowledge in the context of interviewing and counseling, case planning, fact investigation, and written and oral communication with clients, tribunals, and policymakers. The clinic also challenges student attorneys to apply analytical and problem-solving skills and exercise the creativity and professional judgment that distinguishes excellent advocacy. AILC student attorneys will also gain exposure to immigration policy, cross-cultural lawyering and trauma-informed practices, and the impact of representing persons otherwise unable to pay for needed legal services.

How is the course organized?

Students assume primary responsibility for their client work in AILC, with seminar (including a pre-semester, full-day orientation for first-time AILC students) and weekly supervision sessions with faculty to support their casework.

- In orientation (typically the Friday before classes start), students new to AILC will be introduced to foundational skills and concepts necessary for starting client casework in the very first week of the semester.
- In seminar, regular AILC students meet twice weekly with faculty, classmates and, from time to time, guest speakers to discuss topics relevant to all students. Exercises and relevant readings will be assigned in advance of seminar meetings, to support discussion of seminar topics.
- In supervision, regular AILC students meet in teams with faculty to discuss client work, broader legal practice issues and the progress of their professional development.

How is the clinic graded?

All credits (six for AILC, two for Advanced AILC) are graded on a letter grade basis. Each component of the clinic contributes to a student's final grade. To receive credit for the course, regular and advanced AILC students must complete at least 270 and 90 hours, respectively, of clinic-related work over the course of semester. These hours include both "billable" hours (client work, including supervision) and "nonbillable" hours (class seminar, simulations, etc.)

Where and when?

Most class meetings will take place in the Law School or on the university campus. As cases require, students may need to travel off campus to meet with clients and third parties. Students may have to meet outside of business hours to accommodate clients' schedules and deliver timely, high-quality work product.

For more information, please contact Professor Balgamwalla directly at sabrina.balgamwalla@wayne.edu or (313) 577-3394.