



Wayne State University Law School Business and Community Law Clinic

COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Hone your transactional legal skills and professional capabilities while enhancing the community – practice as a student attorney in the Business and Community Law Clinic at Wayne State University Law School.

Who should apply?

The BCLC is relevant to students interested in corporate, public interest, or government work, and those interested in equitable and entrepreneurial approaches to problem solving. Students must (1) have taken or are concurrently enrolled in Corporations and (2) demonstrate interest, through other coursework, activities and experience, in transactional law and public service. Students who successfully complete the BCLC may enroll in the Advanced BCLC with permission of BCLC faculty.

What will I learn in BCLC?

Students' learning in the BCLC culminates in the growth of their professional identity as unique transactional lawyers who have integrity, purpose and the know-how to use their skills to promote their client's best interests, the public interest, and justice in communities.

- BCLC students learn the theory, skills and practice of transactional lawyering through supervised representation of qualifying organizational clients, while also learning how transactional law can contribute to organizations' triple bottom line (profits, planet, and people/economy, environment, and equity).
- Students gain familiarity with the non-legal considerations and context, both local and beyond, for working with and counseling community-based businesses and organizations.
- Students obtain experience managing multiple projects, as well as skills for interacting with client representatives and collaborating with other professionals, service providers and experts to holistically address the needs of their organizational clients.

How is the course organized?

Students assume primary responsibility for their client work in the BCLC, with seminar (including a pre-semester one-day boot camp for regular BCLC students) and weekly supervision to support their work.

- In a pre-semester one-day boot camp (typically the Thursday before classes start), students new to the BCLC quickly gain necessary information enabling them to jump into client work in the first week of the semester.
- In seminar, regular BCLC 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 (transactional law theory, skills, and practice; context; and professional ethics). Students also engage in moots and rounds to practice presentations and obtain feedback on work before external meetings. Advanced students attend all rounds and some seminar meetings.
- In supervision, regular BCLC students meet in teams, and advanced BCLC students meet individually, with faculty to discuss client work, broad lawyering issues and the progress of their professional development as a lawyer.

How is the clinic graded?

All credits (six for BCLC, two for Advanced BCLC) are graded on a letter grade basis. Each component of the clinic contributes to a student's final grade. Before any credit may be awarded, regular and advanced BCLC students must complete at least 270 and 110 hours, respectively, of clinic-related work prior to the last scheduled day of that semester's classes (approximately 21-24 or 8.5-10 hours per week, respectively, for 13 weeks). These hours include both "billable" hours (client work, including supervision) and "nonbillable" hours (seminar, simulations, etc.)

Where and when?

Most class meetings will take place in the Law School or on the university campus. From time to time, students will also need to travel off campus to clients' and guest speakers' offices, as well as community spaces for meetings and presentations. 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 Choike directly at anne.choike@wayne.edu or (313) 577-9488.