ENV.5903.01 SPTC:

ANIMAL LAW PRACTICUM

Spring 2022
Professor Delcianna Winders
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SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION
(updated Jan. 13, 2021)

Course Description
In the Animal Law Practicum students will work under the close supervision of a practicing attorney to develop and execute legal strategies to further the interests of animals, with an emphasis on animals used for commercial purposes, such as for food, experimentation, and research. Each week students will be required to complete work on their assigned matters, meet with the supervising attorney, and attend and participate in a seminar.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
- Students will develop a working understanding of the ethical, professional, and strategic considerations implicated by legal and technical advocacy in behalf of animals and their representatives.
- Students will gain knowledge of and engage with the animal advocacy movement, including its history, underlying ethical considerations, relevant laws and policies, strategic considerations, and challenges.
- Students will learn to think strategically about legal advocacy in behalf of animals, with attention to ethics, goals, outcomes, and hurdles.
- Students will develop skills needed to provide representation for animals and their advocates.
- Students will develop self-awareness and confidence through goal-setting, formalized self-reflections, and evaluative check-ins the supervising attorney.

Course Materials
- Supplemental materials provided electronically.
Class Meeting Information
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:20 AM - 12:35 PM, Oakes Hall 210
In addition to our class meetings, you will be required to spend ten hours a week on average on project work, including a weekly one-on-one with the professor to check in on your projects.

Learning Management Systems
Canvas is the primary learning management system for the seminar component of this course. The syllabus, course materials, and course surveys are available here.

Clio is the practice management system that we will use for your practicum projects and time tracking. You will receive information about accessing and using this system in the second week of the semester.

Teams will be used for class and check-in meetings when in-person attendance is excused. Because we will frequently be discussing privileged and confidential information, we will not record our meetings.

Attendance Policy
Class attendance is required. VLS Academic Regulations require students to attend all classes except where religious observance, serious illness, personal emergency, or a reason that is adequate in the judgment of the professor prevents attendance. If you are unable to attend a given session due to medical, religious, or other circumstances truly beyond your control, you must email me as soon as practicable. Unexcused absences will impact your participation grade. In addition, pursuant to VLS Academic Regulations, if you are absent from twenty percent of the regularly scheduled classes without adequate excuse, you will be automatically withdrawn from the course with a grade of F· Wd.

Grading and Evaluation
This course is graded on a pass / fail basis. You will receive substantive feedback from me throughout the semester and will also be asked to evaluate yourself at the beginning, middle, and end of the semester. You must document completion of an average of ten hours a week of project work outside of class to pass (a minimum of 127.5 hours for the semester).

Accommodations
If you need an accommodation for an illness or disability, please contact the Vice Dean for Students Joe Brennan, jbrennan@vermontlaw.edu.

Office Hours
You will each have a weekly one-on-one meeting with me to discuss your work for the practicum. I am also happy to meet with you by appointment.
Course Outline

Week 1: Introductions
Thursday, Jan. 20
- Complete initial survey on Canvas
- Review syllabus

Week 2: Some Basics
Tuesday, Jan. 25: Vicarious Trauma
- Taimie L. Bryant, *Trauma, Law, and Advocacy for Animals, 1 J. Animal L. & Eth. 63 (2006).*

Thursday, Jan. 27: Ethics and Case Management
- Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct 1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8.
  (only the rules themselves; reading the notes, comments, and annotations is optional)
- Please watch the following training videos for Clio, the practice management system we will be using for the practicum:
  - Matters Overview (6 min)
  - How to Search in Clio (2 min)
  - How to Create Time and Expense Entries and Run a Timer (5 min) – Note: The practicum does not use activity categories – manually enter the activity description instead and see text snippets below. Expense Entries are not applicable for our purposes.
  - Text snippets (2 min) for shortcuts in time entry descriptions. See the second page for the preexisting text snippets that can be used in the description of time entries.
  - How to Upload and Download Documents (2 min)
  - How to Install the Clio Launcher (3 min) & How to Use the Clio Launcher (2 min)

**Friday, Jan. 28: Clinic Ethics Class
- 9:55-11:10AM via Teams

Week 3: Strategic Impact Litigation for Animals
Tuesday, Feb. 1
Thursday, Feb. 3

**Week 4: Who Is the Client in Animal Law and Policy Matters?**
Tuesday, Feb. 8
- Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct 1.13, 1.14. (only the rules themselves; reading the notes, comments, and annotations is optional)
- *Naruto v. Slater*, 888 F.3d 418 (9th Cir. 2018).

Thursday, Feb. 10

**Week 5: Standing and Animal Advocacy**
Tuesday, Feb. 15: Individual Standing

Thursday, Feb. 17: Standing for Organizations; Informational Injury

**Week 6: Preparing for Litigation**
Tuesday, Feb. 22
- Vermont Rule of Professional Conduct 7.2, 7.3, 7.4. (only the rules themselves; reading the notes, comments, and annotations is optional)
Thursday, Feb. 24
- Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5.

**Week 7: Spring Break, No Class**

Tuesday, Mar. 1
Spring break, no class

Thursday, Mar. 3
Spring break, no class

**Week 8: Drafting and Filing the Complaint**

Tuesday, Mar. 8
- Complete mid-semester course- and self-evaluation on Canvas

Thursday, Mar. 10

**Week 9: Making Your Case: The Basics**

Tuesday, Mar. 15

Thursday, Mar. 17

**Week 10: Briefing**

Tuesday, Mar. 22
Thursday, Mar. 24

**Week 11: Oral Argument**
Tuesday, Mar. 29

Thursday, Mar. 31
- Sam Glover, How to Prepare for Oral Argument, SamGlover.net (Apr. 10, 2020).

**Week 12: Beyond Litigation: Embodied Advocacy**
Tuesday, Apr. 5

Thursday, Apr. 7

**Week 13: Legal Advocacy and the Media**
Tuesday, Apr. 12
- Vermont Rule of Professional Conduct 3.6 (only the rule itself, reading the notes and comments is optional)
- Kathy Kerchnew, Chapters 1, 4, SoundBites: A Business Guide for Working with the Media (1997). (Canvas)

Thursday, Apr. 14
- Kathy Kerchnew, Chapters 5-6, SoundBites: A Business Guide for Working with the Media (1997). (Canvas)

**Week 14: Animal Advocacy and the Administrative State**
Tuesday, Apr. 19

Thursday, Apr. 21
Week 15: Changing the Law for Animals
Tuesday, Apr. 26

Thursday, Apr. 28
- Animal Welfare Institute, *How to Communicate Effectively with Legislators*.
- Complete final course- and self-evaluation on Canvas