ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION CLINIC

Goal of Clinic

In the State of California, more than 500,000 administrative hearings occur each year. The Administrative Adjudication Clinic is designed to educate students on how administrative law judges make decisions and how administrative hearing systems operate. A variety of instructional approaches including classroom instruction, observations, simulations and research assignments are used. Once students are prepared to act as administrative hearing officers, they will be assigned to conduct administrative hearings.

Structure of Clinic

This one-semester Clinic (offered only during the spring) will consist of weekly class sessions to prepare the student to be an administrative hearing officer and will include a number of sessions concerning the law as it relates to parking citations. Students will be required to observe an actual administrative hearing and prepare a short paper concerning the observation. The student will also be given a research assignment concerning administrative procedure. All students will participate in simulated administrative hearings based on actual administrative hearings. Each student will ultimately be assigned to conduct a number of parking citation hearings for a local government.

Prerequisites for Enrollment

There are no prerequisites.

Instructor

The Clinic is taught by Megan Shapiro, a practicing attorney and McGeorge Alumni. Contact information: mshapiro@pacific.edu.

Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment

- This is a two-unit, honors/pass/no-credit/fail course.
- Enrollment in the clinic is limited to 10 students.

Why This Clinic Is Valuable

This unique course teaches the importance of administrative procedure in the legal system and teaches a student from the perspective of the administrative law judge/hearing officer rather than that of the advocate. Many students in this course have gone on to important positions within the government and some have become administrative hearing officers.