CRIMINAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY CLINIC

Goal of Clinic
The Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic provides students with the opportunity to represent indigent defendants in criminal appeals to the Third Appellate District of the California Court of Appeals. The representation includes communicating with clients, reviewing the appellate record, and drafting appellate briefs. Students will hone their skills in client counseling, record review, issue spotting, and brief drafting.

Structure of Clinic
This one-semester, three-unit, graded Clinic (offered only during the spring) will have two components: a one and one-half hour weekly seminar and the Clinic. Both the seminar and the clinical work will be conducted primarily on the McGeorge campus. Students will work with a partner on each appeal and will be supervised by a staff attorney from the Central California Appellate Program (CCAP) and a McGeorge faculty member.

Prerequisites for Enrollment
To qualify for this Clinic, students must have completed Global Lawyering Skills I and have completed Criminal Procedure. In addition, to meet the California State Bar certification requirements, a student must be enrolled in, or successfully completed, Evidence and Civil Procedure.

Instructor
The Clinic is taught by Professor Jennifer Gibson, with assistance from experienced staff attorneys from the Central California Appellate Program (CCAP). Professor Gibson is an adjunct professor at Pacific McGeorge. She taught for two years as a full-time faculty member in McGeorge’s nationally ranked Global Lawyering Skills program. Immediately following law school, Professor Gibson clerked for the Honorable R. Guy Cole of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Since 2004, Professor Gibson has maintained an appellate practice in Elk Grove, California. Contact information: jen.gibson@comcast.net and jgibson@pacific.edu.

Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment
The Appellate Advocacy Clinic/Seminar is a one-semester, three-unit, graded course. Enrollment in the Clinic/Seminar is limited to six students.

Why This Clinic is Valuable
This Clinic provides an outstanding opportunity for students to develop written and oral appellate advocacy skills while representing real clients. Indigent client representation is extremely rewarding. By the end of the semester you will be a skilled practitioner with actual written appellate experience under your belt. You will have the benefit of learning from very experienced appellate practitioners and will have the opportunity to participate in a simulated oral appellate argument.