FEDERAL DEFENDER CLINIC

Goal of Clinic
The Federal Defender Clinic provides students with the opportunities to represent indigent clients in federal misdemeanor cases, draft legal memoranda, argue motions, and develop a working knowledge of criminal and sentencing statutes. Enrolled students will attend monthly Petty Offense Calendar before magistrate judges where they will be assigned cases, then hone their skills in client counseling, plea negotiation, case analysis, oral advocacy, litigation, and trial techniques.

Structure of Clinic
This year-long Clinic has two components: a two-hour weekly seminar called Federal Pretrial/Trial Seminar and the Federal Defender Clinic. The seminar is held on the McGeorge campus while clinical work is conducted downtown at the Federal Defender’s Office and the Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse. Students will handle caseloads in teams of two.

Prerequisites for Enrollment
A written application is required for this Clinic.

To qualify for the Federal Defender Clinic students must enroll in both the Clinic and Seminar, must have completed Criminal Law and Evidence, and have either completed or be concurrently enrolled in Trial Advocacy and Criminal Procedure. This Clinic is limited to third- and fourth-year students.

Instructors
The fall seminar will be taught by federal public defenders and adjunct professors Rachelle Barbour and Tim Zindel with support from Professor Cary Bricker. Both Professor Barbour and Zindel have tried numerous federal cases to verdict and have argued cases before the Ninth Circuit. Before joining the faculty at Pacific McGeorge, Professor Bricker was a federal defender in Manhattan for 12 years. The Clinic will be supervised primarily by Chief Assistant Federal Defender Linda Harter, with assistance from Professors Barbour and Zindel. The spring seminar will be taught by Professors Barbour and Harter and focus on trial skills. Contact information: cbricker@pacific.edu.

Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment

- The Federal Defender Pretrial/Trial Seminar is a two-semester, four-unit (two units per semester) graded course.
- The Federal Defender Clinic is a two-semester, six-unit (three units per semester) graded course.
- Enrollment in the Federal Defender Clinic/Seminar is limited to eight students.

Why This Clinic is Valuable
Indigent client representation is extremely rewarding. By the end of the year you will be a skilled practitioner with plenty of litigation experience under your belt. You will have the benefit of learning from very experienced federal public defenders, will argue against skilled federal prosecutors, and appear before federal judges.