

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY CLINIC

Goal of Clinic

The Legislative and Public Policy Clinic provides a practical skills experience in researching, drafting, and pursuing adoption of California state legislative, regulatory, and policy changes. Students will interact with elected and appointed officials in state government, their staff, lobbyists, and public affairs professionals. Students will develop coalitions, and interact with the media.

Structure of Clinic

Students participate in a weekly instructional seminar. A total of 150 hours per semester is required. **The Clinic is a year-long, 3 credit per semester clinic.**

Prerequisites for Enrollment

A written application is required. Previous or concurrent enrollment in *Lawmaking in California* (822) is strongly encouraged. Students participating in the Capital Lawyering Concentration will receive preferred enrollment.

Instructors

Professor Cathy Christian is a partner with Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross, and Leoni, with extensive experience election, campaign, and government law. She represents governmental and commercial interests before the Legislature and state agencies. Previously, she handled litigation and legislative issues in the California Attorney General's office, was an appellate lawyer for the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and a staff attorney for a legal services program. Contact Professor Christian at CChristian@nmgovlaw.com.

Professor Liz Fenton is a Senior Policy and Campaign Strategist at Dewey Square Public Affairs. She is a 25-year veteran of California state politics, serving as Chief of Staff to several senior members of the State Senate and Assembly. She has extensive political campaign experience as a senior adviser for multiple legislative campaigns. Contact Professor Fenton at Elizabeth.Fenton@deweysquare.com.

The seminar component will be co-taught by Professor Chris Micheli. Professor Micheli is a Principal with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli, Inc. He also co-teaches the Lawmaking in California course in the Capital Lawyering Concentration. Contact Professor Micheli at cmicheli@apreamicheli.com.

Why This Clinic is Valuable

This Clinic provides an opportunity for students to represent clients to develop legislative, regulatory, or policy change. Students will engage with experienced professionals and develop a network of Capitol area contacts. Previous Clinic advocacy includes:

2013-2014- All signed by Gov. Brown: AB 2643 (Wieckowski) – Revenge Porn, AB 2623 (Pan) – Peace Officer Training – Elder Law, AB 2632 (Maienschein) – State Dependent Care Facilities, SB 1058 (Leno) – Discredited Expert Witness Testimony.

2014-2015- Vetoed by Gov. Brown: AB 1200 (Gordon) – Procurement Lobbying (passed by Legislature).

2015-2016- All signed by Gov. Brown: AB 1554 (Irwin) – Powdered Alcohol, AB 1825 (Gordon) – Animal Euthanasia, AB 2505 (Quirk) – CO2 Euthanasia, SB 1064 (Hancock) – Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, SB 1339 (Monning) – Inter-county Medi-Cal transfers.

2016-2017: AB 90 (Weber) – CalGang shared gang database program (Signed by Governor Brown), AB 413 (Eggman) – Confidential Communications, domestic violence (Signed by Governor Brown), SB 350 (Galgiani) – Incarcerated Persons, health records (died in committee), SB 791 (Glazer) – Higher education, student loan repayments (pending in Senate).