**PRISONER CIVIL RIGHTS MEDIATION CLINIC**

**Goal of Clinic**

The Prisoner Civil Rights Mediation Clinic provides students with the opportunity to co-mediate section 1983 prisoner civil rights cases with a federal magistrate judge at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. Under section 1983, prisoners in state prisons have the right to file a civil rights complaint seeking relief for alleged violations of their rights protected by the Constitution or created by federal statute. Students will learn effective mediation techniques and gain a working knowledge of section 1983 prisoner civil rights law.

**Structure of Clinic**

This semester-long Clinic consists of a seminar and detailed work preparing for and conducting co-mediations with a federal magistrate judge. Over the course of the semester, students review assigned section 1983 cases, interview prisoner-plaintiffs, prepare bench memoranda for a federal magistrate judge, and co-mediate their assigned cases. Students also write reflection papers on their experience co-mediating the cases.

**Prerequisites for Enrollment**

A written application is required for this Clinic.

Prerequisite: Mediation, or Negotiation and Settlements, or Alternative Dispute Resolution, or a non-credit basic 40-hour Mediation Workshop with the consent of the instructors. NOTE: Meeting the prerequisite requires careful planning because ADR courses during both the Fall and Spring semesters fill up quickly. There is a special process to enroll in an ADR course for prospective mediation clinical students, requiring a separate form.

**Instructors**

The Clinic is co-taught by Professor Michael Colatrella and Professor Ederlina Co. Professor Colatrella is Associate Dean at Pacific McGeorge and a nationally recognized mediator. Professor Co is a faculty member at Pacific McGeorge and spent nearly a decade working on Section 1983 prisoner civil rights cases at the Eastern District of California. Contact information: mcolatrella@pacific.edu or eco@pacific.edu.

**Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment**

- The Prisoner Civil Rights Mediation Clinic is a three unit, semester-long, graded course.
- Enrollment in the Clinic is limited to six students.

**Why This Clinic is Valuable**

This Clinic provides an outstanding opportunity for students to learn both the theory and practice of mediation and to develop the skills necessary to serve as mediators, an essential skill for successful lawyers. Students will also develop a working knowledge of section 1983