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Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
Chicago-Kent College of Law



For the aspiring litigator or mediator, this innovative program combines comprehensive training in trial skills, negotiation and mediation with a rigorous clinical curriculum. You'll work directly with actual clients in our in-house law firm, which handles criminal defense, civil rights, employment discrimination, family, health and tax cases.

Requirements

Earn the certificate in litigation and alternative dispute resolution by completing approximately 21 credit hours of approved course work. For detailed program information, visit www.kentlaw.edu/academics/clinic.

Required Lawyering Process and Doctrinal Courses

Pretrial Litigation for LADR (3 credits) Learn the mechanics and theory of pretrial litigation, the most common activity in which civil litigators engage.

In-House Litigation Clinic (3 or 4 credits per semester, a two-semester requirement) The course provides both classroom and fieldwork instruction. Select from in-house clinics in these areas: criminal defense, employment discrimination and civil rights, family law, health and disability law, immigration law, tax law, and mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

Judicial Externship (4 credits) Selected students may forgo one semester of In-House Litigation Clinic to serve as judicial externs with federal judges in district, appellate and bankruptcy courts. You'll work directly with the judge and the judge's law clerks researching, writing memoranda of law, drafting opinions, and observing and participating in the day-to-day operation of the court.

Mediation and Other ADR Procedures Clinic (3 or 4 credits) You'll engage in training and practice in mediation, become certified as a mediator, and conduct a number of mediations over the course of the semester. Typical areas include juvenile court cases, criminal misdemeanors, employment discrimination cases, landlord-tenant disputes, and small claims court cases.

Evidence (3 credits) Study the rules of evidence and the reasons underlying these rules, with particular emphasis on the Federal Rules of Evidence.

Trial Advocacy 1 (3 credits) Leading trial attorneys and judges teach this introduction to litigation. Through hypothetical cases you'll learn trial preparation, strategy and conduct in a courtroom setting.

Elective Doctrinal Courses

You will be required to take one of the following courses:

Federal Courts (3 credits) Study the powers of, and restraints upon, the federal judiciary, derived largely but not exclusively from Article III.

Criminal Procedure: The Adjudicative Process (3 credits) Study the legal rules governing the operation of the criminal justice system from investigation to trial. Topics range from discovery and the failure of the state to disclose, to hearings into probable cause.

Criminal Procedure: The Investigative Process (3 credits) Study the legal rules, primarily constitutional, governing the operation of the criminal justice system from investigation to trial. Topics range from the meaning of due process to grand jury investigations.

Civil Procedure 2 (3 credits) This course completes the overview of civil litigation in the federal system.

Complex Litigation (3 credits) Study litigation involving multiple parties and multiple claims. The course considers joinder of parties and of claims generally, and treats transfer and consolidation of civil actions. Emphasis then shifts to all major aspects of class action litigation.

Appellate Courts and Procedure (3 credits) Examine the functions of appeals and appellate courts, and the process of appellate review: appellate jurisdiction, standing to appeal, timing of review, vehicles for

obtaining review, the breadth and depth of review, and appellate lawmaking.

Other Courses

As required of all J.D. students, you will complete additional course work in basic civil procedure and in legal research and writing (Legal Writing 1, 2 and 3 and a seminar). Other course work falls under the category of theoretical and ethical foundations of the law (professional responsibility and ethical dimensions of skills training). Elective courses allow you to focus on areas of special interest in greater depth.

Career Paths

The LADR program is excellent preparation if you are considering a career in litigation or alternative dispute resolution, as an assistant state's or U.S. attorney, public or appellate defender in the state or federal court systems, trial lawyer in civil or criminal practice, or as an attorney in the corporate, other governmental, or nonprofit sectors.

Faculty

Law professors who are accomplished, active practitioners comprise Chicago-Kent's clinical faculty. Their broad-ranging interests include evidence and forensic sciences, employment discrimination and wrongful discharge, tax fraud, consumer health benefits, professional responsibility, criminal procedure, workplace defamation, expert witness testimony, and mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

Professor Gary S. Laser

Director of Clinical Education

B.B.A., University of Miami; J.D., University of Miami School of Law. Founder, in 1976, of Chicago-Kent's In-House Clinical Education Program. Formerly, director of the Neighborhood Assistance Center in Chicago, director of the Northwestern University School of Law Legal Assistance Clinic, and director of the Urban Legal Laboratory at Boston College of Law.

Professor Daniel T. Coyne
B.A., University of Illinois at Chicago;
J.D., The John Marshall Law School.

Professor Jonathan P. Decatorsmith
B.A., University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign; J.D., University
of Colorado Law School.

Professor Rhonda E. de Freitas
B.A., Florida International University; J.D.,
Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Professor Richard J. Gonzalez
B.A., Northwestern University; J.D.,
Ohio State University College of Law.

Professor Vivien C. Gross
B.A., Northwestern University; M.A.,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;
J.D., Indiana University School of Law–
Bloomington.

Professor Pamela Kentra
B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign; J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Professor Richard S. Kling
B.A., University of Illinois at Chicago; J.D.,
Northwestern University School of Law.

Professor Edward Kraus
B.A., University of Michigan; J.D.,
Georgetown University Law Center.

Professor Laurie E. Leader
A.B., Washington University; J.D.,
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Professor Natalie Brouwer Potts
B.A., University of Chicago; J.D., Cornell
Law School.

**For additional information
and to schedule a visit, contact:**

Office of Admissions
Chicago-Kent College of Law
Illinois Institute of Technology
565 West Adams Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3691
312.906.5020
admit@kentlaw.edu
www.kentlaw.edu

