Clinic Rotation - Spring 2016

General Description:

The Clinic Rotation (2 credits, graded pass/fail) aims to help students refine their career interests by gaining exposure to diverse areas of law practice. It matches first-year students with faculty practitioners, allowing students to gain exposure to three different practice areas and to the day-to-day activities of the clinical faculty. Based inside Chicago-Kent's in-house law firm, the Clinic Rotation course is the first of its kind in the country. The law firm's faculty practitioners participate as both teachers and mentors. Students enrolled in the Clinic Rotation spend four weeks with each of three practitioners, observing and participating in their day-to-day lawyering activities. In addition, there is a weekly plenary classroom session that covers lawyering activities that arise within real life law practice. The available practice areas include criminal defense, employment/civil litigation, entrepreneurial law, family law, health and disability law, and tax law. Although student activities will vary from rotation to rotation, based upon current caseloads and calendars, students may be exposed to such activities as: accompanying lawyers to court appearances, proceedings at administrative agencies, or mediations; client meeting; document drafting; case strategizing; and simulated activities that help develop professional skills. The Clinic Rotation will be graded on a pass/fail basis only.

Scheduling:

Students will be required to put in approximately nine hours a week for the Clinic Rotation. This includes weekly attendance for 14 weeks at a two-hour plenary session, which will expose students to various aspects of practice, lawyering ethics, and law offices management. Students will spend their remaining seven hours a week during the three rotations working independently, in groups, and in collaboration with the clinical faculty members, including a weekly two-hour group discussion session taught by the clinical professor to whom they have been assigned for the four-week period. The three four-week rotations will end after the 13th week of the semester.

The weekly plenary sessions will meet on Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:50 pm. The weekly group discussion sessions with individual clinical professors will meet either Tuesdays 4:00-5:50 pm or Thursdays 4:00-5:50 pm (depending on the professor). The remainder of the student’s hours (five hours per week) will be scheduled so as not to conflict with the class meeting times for the student’s other courses.

Grading:

Students enrolled in the Clinic Rotation will be graded on a pass/fail basis and will receive a grade of Pass, Low Pass, or Fail. Attendance at all 14 plenary sessions and all 12 group discussion sessions is mandatory. If a student is absent from one or two plenary sessions or group discussion sessions or a combination of one or two such sessions his or her grade will not be affected; if however, a student is absent from a combination of either three or four such sessions, he or she will receive a grade of Low Pass; and if a student is absent from a combination of more than four such sessions he or she will receive a grade of Fail. In addition, if
a student does not satisfactorily complete his or her weekly Clinic Rotation assignments he or she will receive a grade of Low Pass or Fail.

Application:

Click here to go to the application form. Applications are due no later than Monday, November 16, 2015. Applicants should rank the six practice areas (see above) in the order of their preference. Each student will be assigned to three practice areas. We will do our best to give students their top preferences, but it is unlikely that we will be able to give every student his or her top three preferences. If applications exceed the number of spaces, students will be chosen by lottery.