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Criminal Litigation
Chicago-Kent College of Law



For the aspiring prosecutor or criminal defense attorney, this program combines robust academic offerings in criminal law theory with intensive practice-oriented training. Students gain experience through our demanding trial advocacy program, our in-house criminal defense clinic, and a variety of externships with defense attorneys and state and federal prosecutors.

Requirements

To earn the certificate in criminal litigation, you must complete 24 credit hours of approved course work. For details, visit www.kentlaw.edu/academics/jdcert/crimlit_pgm.html.

Core Courses

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.

Criminal Procedure: The Adjudicative Process (3 credits) Focus on 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 Defense Clinic (3 or 4 credits) Work on criminal defense matters in the trial and appellate courts in both the federal and state legal systems. The program represents clients accused of felonies and misdemeanors of all types.

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: can be satisfied by Intensive Trial Advocacy) Leading trial attorneys and judges teach this introduction

to litigation. Learn trial preparation, strategy and conduct in a courtroom setting while trying hypothetical cases under the tutelage of leading attorneys and judges.

Criminal Litigation (3 credits: substitutes for Legal Writing 4) Focus on client interaction; pre-trial investigation; discovery; research, drafting and argument of pre- and post-trial motions; and litigation strategies. Participate in a final end-of-semester trial.

Legal Externship—Criminal Prosecution or Defense (4 credits) Gain career-enhancing practical experience and develop legal skills working with a supervising attorney in the State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office or the U.S. Attorney's Office. Some externships offer the opportunity to obtain a 711 license and appear in court.

Criminal Law Seminar (2 credits: satisfies the seminar requirement) Select from a variety of seminars offered on advanced criminal law topics.

Elective Courses

The following courses are also offered although not required.

Advanced Criminal Law (3 credits) Study substantive criminal law issues not covered in depth in the required criminal law course. This course generally covers five main topics: punishment, focusing on the death penalty; defenses, focusing on self-defense, necessity, duress and insanity; inchoate crimes, including conspiracy and solicitation; and specific crimes, particularly rape and offenses against property.

Advanced Evidence (2 credits) Further examine the evidentiary issues relating to character, hearsay and confrontation, and expert witnesses—the three areas of evidence that matter most in the trial and appeal of lawsuits, whether civil or criminal. Class discussion tracks the most recent developments in these areas, focusing on ways to successfully object and respond to objections at the trial court level.

Forensic Sciences (2 credits) Study the use of contemporary scientific evidence and expert witnesses in both civil and criminal cases. Topics include pathology, toxicology, toolmark and firearms identification, questioned documents, fingerprints, forensic photography, and the polygraph.

Juvenile Law (3 credits) Examine federal and state laws and cases involving juveniles and cover the Illinois Juvenile Court Act in depth. Topics include delinquency, neglect, adjudications, dispositions, sentencing alternatives, social service agencies and constitutional safeguards for minors.

Trial Advocacy 2 (3 credits) Enhance the litigation skills you acquired in Trial Advocacy 1, applying them to more challenging issues, procedures and trial settings.

White-Collar Crime (2 credits) Examine the federal prosecution of fraud, with a particular focus on health care fraud, securities fraud, and bank fraud. Explore the civil prosecution of fraud and prosecutorial discretion in corporate criminal liability.

Opportunities

Advance your career goals by acquiring hands-on experience with the criminal defense practice group of the Chicago-Kent Law Offices, a fee-for-service law firm staffed by 11 faculty practitioners, including two of the Midwest's most prominent criminal defense attorneys. Study and gain experience in one of the largest legal centers in the United States. Try out for the interscholastic trial advocacy teams that distinguish Chicago-Kent, home of the 2007 and 2008 National Trial Competition champions.

Career Paths

The criminal litigation program is excellent preparation for students considering careers in litigation as an assistant state's or U.S. attorney, public or appellate defender in the state or federal court systems, or trial lawyer in criminal practice.

Faculty

The broad-ranging interests of the program's faculty include evidence and forensic sciences, white-collar crime, professional responsibility, criminal procedure, expert witness testimony, and representation of indigent defendants.

Resident Faculty

Professor David A. Erickson

Program Director

B.A., Northern Illinois University; J.D., The John Marshall Law School. Associate director of Chicago-Kent's Trial Advocacy Program. Retired justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois. Formerly, first assistant state's attorney of Cook County; created a Domestic Violence Division and a Community Prosecution Unit in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Professor Gary S. Laser

Co-Director

B.B.A., J.D., University of Miami. Director of clinical education and founder 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 Law School.

Professor David S. Rudstein

Co-Director

B.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; J.D., Northwestern University School of Law; LL.M., University of Illinois College of Law. Author of *DOUBLE JEOPARDY: A REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION* and *CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS*; co-author of the three-volume treatise *CRIMINAL CONSTITUTIONAL LAW*.

Professor Daniel T. Coyne

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

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 Richard S. Kling

B.A., University of Illinois at Chicago; J.D., Northwestern University School of Law.

Trial Advocacy Faculty

Nicholas A. Caputo '01

Hon. Israel A. Desierto '90

George A. Domas '82

Hon. David A. Erickson, Associate Director

Margaret C. Firnstein '99

Robert L. Gevirtz

Hon. Maxwell Griffin Jr.

Hon. Gilbert J. Grossi

Hon. Laretta Higgins '88

Hon. Demitrios Kotarras '84

David M. Lavin

James McKay '84

Robert J. Milan '88

Ljubica D. Popovic '98

Joseph P. Roddy '90

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

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