Public Interest Law - 2009

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Human rights, civil rights and civil liberties, social justice, access to justice, and antidiscrimination are just a few of the many areas addressed by public interest law. Carve your own academic and service niche in this surprisingly competitive field. Our program includes a rigorous volunteer service requirement and specialized career planning.

Requirements
You must complete 12 credit hours of approved course work, in addition to the requirements below. For details, visit http://www.kentlaw.edu/academics/pil/requirements.html.

Experiential Course
Supervised by skilled practitioners, you’ll gain hands-on experience with real cases in a clinic, externship or seminar. Course options include Public Interest Legal and Judicial Externships, the International Rule of Law Externship, the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, and the Mediation and Other ADR Procedures Clinic.

Public Interest Career Path Planning Process
Work with Chicago-Kent’s Career Services Office to cultivate professional relationships and determine the most effective way to secure employment in the area of public interest law that interests you.

Core Courses
Public Interest Law and Policy (3 credits) Gain an overview of issues you’ll face representing low-income clients and underrepresented and disenfranchised groups, focusing on key cases and legislation.

Legal Writing 4—Public Interest Law (3 credits) Get advanced practical training in writing, drafting documents, and researching material that is essential to legal practice in public interest law.
Additional Courses and Seminars
You must complete 6 credits in addition to the two required courses. The program allows you to customize a course path that closely matches your interests and career goals. The program director must approve your course selections. Choose from a variety of courses in:

- Environment
- Health
- Immigration
- Labor
- Poverty
- Civil Rights
- Women’s Rights
- Gay and Lesbian Issues
- Children and Youth
- International Human Rights
- Nonprofit Organizations

For the complete course list, visit www.kentlaw.edu/academics/courses.html.

Opportunities
Chicago-Kent houses the Center for Access to Justice & Technology (CAJT), which promotes the use of technology to increase access to justice through teaching, practice and public outreach. The center houses the A2J Author Project and runs the A2J Student Editorial Board and the Self-Help Web Center, each of which offers student leadership and volunteer opportunities.

The Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC) is a student-staffed office at Chicago-Kent that helps students find legal and non-legal service opportunities and administers the Chicago-Kent Certificate of Service.

The Kent Justice Foundation (KJF) is a student organization promoting public interest law, volunteerism and pro bono work. The KJF Summer Fellowship Program provides financial aid to students taking unpaid or low-paying public interest summer positions.

Career Paths
Public interest attorneys practice in civil rights, immigration, international human rights, housing, animal rights, gay and lesbian rights, bankruptcy and consumer debt, and many other areas. Chicago-Kent’s Career Services Office has a full-time staff member to advise you on public interest career planning and job searches.

Faculty
Members of the resident faculty are noted authorities in public interest law, joined by adjunct professors who are prominent in the Chicago public interest law community.

Resident Faculty
Professor Ronald W. Staudt
Director
B.S., B.A., St. Joseph’s College; J.D., University of Chicago 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–Bloomingston.

Professor Kari L. Aamot
B.A., St. Olaf College; J.D., University of Minnesota Law School.

Professor Susan Johanne Adams
B.A., M.A., University of Wisconsin; J.D., Valparaiso University School of Law.

Professor Lori B. Andrews
B.A., Yale University; J.D., Yale Law School.

Professor Katharine K. Baker
B.A., Harvard-Radcliffe College; J.D., University of Chicago Law School.

Professor Ralph Brill
A.B., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; J.D., University of Illinois College of Law.

Professor Evelyn Brody
B.A., Yale University; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center.

Professor Elizabeth De Armond
B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology; J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School; LL.M., Harvard Law School.
Professor Jonathan Decatorsmith  
B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;  
J.D., University of Colorado Law School.

Professor Howard C. Eglit  
B.A., University of Michigan; J.D.,  
University of Chicago Law School.

Professor Steven L. Harris  
B.A., University of Chicago; J.D.,  
University of Chicago Law School.

Professor Steven J. Heyman  
A.B., Harvard University; J.D., Harvard Law School.

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

Professor Nancy S. Marder  
B.A., Yale University; M.Phil., University of Cambridge; J.D., Yale Law School.

Professor Nicole A. Martinez  
B.A., Princeton University; M.A., University of Chicago; J.D., Harvard Law School.

Professor Sheldon H. Nahmod  

Professor Henry H. Perritt, Jr.  
S.B., Massachusetts Institute of Technology;  
S.M., Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management; J.D.,  
Georgetown University Law Center.

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

Professor Carolyn Shapiro  
B.A., University of Chicago; M.A., University of Chicago, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy; J.D., University of Chicago Law School.

Professor Joan E. Steinman  
A.B., University of Rochester; J.D.,  
Harvard Law School.

Adjunct Faculty

Nancy Zimmerman Hablutzel  
B.S., Northwestern University; M.A.,  
Northeastern Illinois University; Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago; J.D.,  

Marshall J. Hartman  

William C. Kling  
B.A., University of Colorado at Boulder;  
J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law.  
William C. Kling Attorney at Law.

Michael Nathanson, CPA, CEP  
B.S., M.S., M.B.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago. President, Cadwallader Corp.;  
Principal, Medical Mediation Associates.

Hon. Thomas J. Stanfa  
B.A., J.D., Loyola University Chicago.  
Associate judge, Kendall County Circuit Court.

Patricia A. Wrona  
B.A., Northwestern University; J.D., DePaul University College of Law. Director of legal services, Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services.

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