Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics (MVLC)

Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.

Law students pair up with volunteer attorneys and help clients with civil legal questions. Law students explain the limits of the clinic to each client, help frame the legal issue presented, conduct legal research, help prepare legal forms and other documents, maintain the client file, and prepare a written summary of next steps for the client while developing professional relationships with the volunteer lawyers. The clinics take place in-person and remotely via Zoom. Students are scheduled for a two-hour shift.

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<td>12:45-3PM on Zoom</td>
<td>12:45-3PM at House of Peace</td>
<td>Mobile Legal Clinic: 11:45-2PM</td>
<td>9-11AM at Milwaukee Justice Center</td>
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<td>Mobile Legal Clinics: 9:45-12PM OR 11:45-2PM OR 1:45-4PM</td>
<td>1:30-3:30PM at Milwaukee Justice Center</td>
<td>Mobile Legal Clinic: 1:45-4PM</td>
<td>Mobile Legal Clinic: 1:45-4PM</td>
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<td>3:45-6PM at Veterans Service Office</td>
<td>5-7PM at United Community Center</td>
<td>12:45-3PM on Zoom</td>
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Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC) Family Law Forms Clinic

Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.

Learn the basics of family law and procedure ranging from matters of divorce to child support to others like name changes. Law students work one-on-one with a client, under attorney supervision, and learn how to identify the procedure required to help a client meet their goal. Client interviewing skills are central to all types of lawyering and is a skill honed at this clinic. Students interact with circuit court civil procedures ranging from jurisdictional issues to service of process to de novo reviews. The clinics take place in-person or remotely via Zoom.

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<td>8:30-12PM at Milwaukee Justice Center</td>
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Civil Legal Help Line

Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.

The Civil Legal Help Line was established at the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis when in-person services and drop-in clinics were no longer a safe option for community members seeking legal aid. The Help Line receives a large volume of calls. Help Line operators will hone their issue spotting skills and learn about the civil legal aid options available in the Milwaukee area. Answer calls in live-time or respond to voice mails to help get community members linked with the best resource to resolve their legal issue. Hotline operators work remotely and use a Google Voice account (not their own phone numbers). Students have access to a supervisor throughout the entirety of the shift.

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<td>1:30-4:30PM on Zoom</td>
<td>9-12PM on Zoom</td>
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Free Legal Answers: Brief Legal Advice by Email

Training: Available online. Watch before your first referral.

Collaborate by email with a Legal Action lawyer to draft a written answer to a legal question posted by a low-income Wisconsinite to a free online legal help service operated by the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Wisconsin. Law students are assigned two questions every three to five weeks to work on over a five-day period on their own time. Relevant research materials are available and a catalogue of over 400 past questions and accompanying completed answers are provided for students’ use as models. The estimated time commitment for this project is four hours monthly. This project is for students with at least one semester of consistent pro bono experience.

Estate Planning Clinic

Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.

Work alongside volunteer attorneys to prepare basic wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives, and witness clients signing their documents. Estate planning documents can help reduce family conflict and court involvement related to the client’s property, medical decisions, and financial decisions. Students will work with two clients during their 3-hour shift from 9AM-12PM on three dates: Tues., May 16; Wed., June 28; and Wed., July 12.
Expungement & Pardon Clinic
Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.
Work alongside volunteer attorneys to help clients determine eligibility for an expungement or a pardon. If a client qualifies, volunteers work through the process of applying to remove convictions from public records through the expungement process or by working with the client to complete the pardon application. As part of this opportunity, students will learn how to interpret CCAP records and other court-related documents. Students are scheduled for two-hour shifts on Zoom on Mondays from 1-3PM (“Part A” eligibility clinic), or Wednesdays from 1-3PM (“Part B” pardon clinic) and/or on three Saturdays from 10-12PM – May 27, June 24, and July 22.

Adult Guardianship Forms Clinic
Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.
Assist a family in need of a court-appointed guardian for a loved one with the required court pleading in this forms-intensive process. A guardianship practice is a natural accompaniment to an estate planning practice. Law students work one-on-one with a client, under attorney supervision to interview the petitioner and complete the necessary forms. Students are scheduled for a 1.5-hour shift in-person (either Mondays 10:30-12PM or Wednesdays 1-2:30PM) at the Milwaukee Justice Center located in the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

Domestic Abuse Injunction Petition Preparation with VALT
(VALT: Volunteer Attorney Legal Team)
Training: Will be provided live on Zoom on a date/time that works for all involved.
Work under supervision of volunteer attorneys and a professional advocate to interview survivors of domestic violence and harassment seeking civil injunction orders. Learn how to prepare and e-file the injunction petition. Learn how to support survivors seeking safety and communicate effectively with people in crisis. This work takes place on Tuesdays from 2-4PM or 5-7PM on Zoom. Students may participate weekly or every-other-week.

Consumer Debt Defense Clinic
Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.
This Lawyer-for-A-Day program is designed to provide defense for debtors facing lawsuits in Milwaukee/Waukesha Small Claims Court. The project seeks to challenge the current system of debt buyers not filing appropriate paperwork to support their claims and relying upon default judgments. Students will be reviewing court filings, drafting appropriate documents including hardship waivers, fraud affidavits, court answers, and discovery requests. This work is done in-person at the Legal Action Office (633 W. Wisconsin Ave.) on Wednesdays from 1-3PM. Students may participate every week or every-other-week.

Eviction Defense Project
Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.
Nearly 15,000 evictions are filed in Milwaukee each year. In eviction court, most people being evicted do not appear because they do not have a lawyer and, prior to the Eviction Defense Project’s creation in 2016, Legal Action of Wisconsin could help only about 3% of people being evicted. Most landlords have experience in court or have someone representing them. Work with clients to prepare for their eviction hearings by collecting supporting documents and identifying defenses. This work is done in-person at the Legal Action Office (located at 633 W. Wisconsin Ave.). Students may select any 2-hour period of time on Mondays or Fridays.

Student Legal Aid Project with Legal Action of Wisconsin
Training: Live training will be held in-person at a date, time, & location that works for all involved.
Law students will work with volunteer lawyers and Legal Action staff to assist technical college students from across the southern half of the state to remove barriers to graduation and employment. Specifically, the clinics address criminal records/expungement/pardons, driver’s license recovery, unemployment and consumer/bankruptcy issues. Law students will learn how to read and interpret Criminal Information Bureau (CIB) reports, CCAP records, driver’s license abstracts, administrative decisions, and court-related documents. Select any 2-hour timeframe on a Friday (weekly or every-other-week) at work in-person at Legal Action’s office at 633 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Petition Clinic with Legal Action of Wisconsin
Training: Available online. Watch before your first shift.
Work in teams of two under attorney supervision to assist clients with gathering all supporting documents and preparing the necessary forms to file to Chapter 7 bankruptcy relief. Students learn the basics of a filing involved in determining eligibility for Chapter 7 and possible alternative forms of debt relief. The estimated time commitment for this project is two hours weekly. Students can work remotely or come to Legal Action’s office in Milwaukee. Each petition will take approximately 15 hours to prepare. This work is done over the course of the semester (or summer months). Students will make a completion plan and determine volunteer times with the supervising attorney when the case is assigned. You select the 1.5 to 2-hours weekly you will perform this work in collaboration with your client.

Domestic Violence in Family Court: Sojourner Family Peace Center Research Project
Training: Will be held in-person at the Family Peace Center at 619 W. Walnut St. at date/time that works for all involved.
Work under supervision of Dr. Erin Schubert research parents’ experience in the Milwaukee County Family Court system. Students may conduct research on court records in CCAP terminals located in the Milwaukee County Courthouse or may complete an extensive training to be qualified to conduct direct interviews with human research study participants. Court records research must be conducted in-person at the Milwaukee Country Courthouse. Interviews are conducted virtually or in-person (based on what works best for the research participant). Students are asked to make a 2-hour weekly commitment which can be performed anytime.