UMKC School of Law Fall Semester 2006

COURSE NAME: Child and Family Services Clinic

COURSE NUMBER: 752S

PROFESSOR: Mary Kay O’Malley

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE:
1. Students may enroll in the clinic subject to instructor approval.
2. Students may not receive compensation for their work in the clinic. Students may not work for compensation in the same office in which they are also participating as a clinical student.
3. Students may not participate in more than one clinic at a time. Students are cautioned against part-time employment while enrolled in the clinic. In order to screen for conflicts of interest, all students must disclose any part-time legal employment (whether paid or volunteer) they are or will be undertaking during the clinic year.
4. Students must apply for Rule 13 certification for law student practice. Students may apply in the dean’s office. The applications may take up to eight weeks to be approved; thus, early application is critical if students are to be eligible to undertake courtroom representation upon beginning their field work.

DESIRABLE PRE- or CO-REQUISITES:
Family Law, Professional Responsibility, Evidence, Children and the Law

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Clinic is graded pass/fail on a two-semester basis (i.e. the grade for first semester is an "incomplete" pending second semester completion of work).

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Students represent the Missouri Division of Family Services in representing children in foster care or otherwise under the authority of the Division. Students work under the supervision and direction of clinic faculty and faculty directors, receiving classroom instruction in the relevant substantive law and procedure and gain experience in lawyering skills and courtroom advocacy. Students must be Rule 13 eligible. Pass/Fail.

COURSE CONTENT:
The general educational goals of the clinical program and its clinical courses include teaching students basic lawyering skills, such as interviewing, negotiation, case preparation, and trial and appellate practice; introducing students to the operation of the child welfare system and to the participants in that system; and developing in students an understanding and appreciation of issues of professional responsibility. Clinic students will spend the majority of their time on casework, learning from the experience of working in a professional role.
The clinic will be structured to prepare students for their casework and to provide them with support and supervision in the representation of their clients. All clinic students will attend a series of introductory classes that include readings, simulation exercises, and group discussions that will:
- Provide students with an orientation to clinical practice and professional responsibility
- Train students, through readings and simulated practice sessions, in basic lawyering skills such as interviewing and counseling, file review, interdisciplinary collaboration, and advocacy.
- Educate students on the relevant substantive law and procedures.

Students will begin their case work early in the clinic experience, first in the role of observing procedures, and later, in actual representation. The clinical faculty will participate in and supervise the casework throughout the semester. Individual and group case review sessions will be used to monitor the students' client representation

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
Students who are interested in family law or juvenile law practice will find this clinic work essential preparation for practice. Any attorney may be called upon to work in this field upon appointment by the court.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:
May be helpful in preparing for the Multi-State Practice portion of the exam.