UMKC School of Law Fall Semester 2006

COURSE NAME:  Family Court Clerkship

COURSE NUMBER:  662F

PROFESSOR:  Kisthardt & Glesner Fines

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:
To be eligible for the Clerkship Program, law students must
1.  have satisfactorily completed Civil Procedure
2.   be enrolled in or have satisfactorily completed Family Law
3.  have the recommendation of a faculty advisor (either Professor Glesner or Kisthardt)
4.  successfully pass a criminal background check.

To apply for the program, students should submit a letter of interest and resume to Professors Glesner Fines and Kisthardt and schedule an interview with either.

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:  Professional Responsibility, Children & the Law

COURSE BOOKS:  Course materials are provided by supervising attorney

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:  Pass/fail

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:  The Family Law Clerkship Program is a collaboration between the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, Family Court Division and the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Law. The program offers students an opportunity to gain practical legal skills, learn about the various programs ordered by the Family Court Division to assist families in crisis, and develop a working knowledge of the Family Court Division. Students act as clerks for commissioners of the Jackson County Family Court.

COURSE CONTENT:
Student attend an initial orientation course, to familiarize them with the court system, expectations of clerks, writing instruction for court documents and forms. Students are required to observe a number of aspects of the family court system in practice, including a parent education program, mediation, conciliation, adult abuse docket, and cross court visits. All students should meet with faculty supervisors at least three times during the semester. Students will complete at least 60 hours on “in-division” time, working directly with the commissions with whom they are placed. Students will be given research projects and case management duties, as well as contributing to the Family Court Review. Students are required to keep a time log and a reflective learning journal.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:  Extremely valuable experience for students interested in a career in family or juvenile law.