

2007-08 COURSE CATALOG UPDATE

REFUGEE AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

(6 Units. 2-unit class and 4-unit fieldwork component, class is graded, fieldwork is graded pass-fail, must be taken concurrently. Fieldwork counts against clinical maximum.)

Prior or concurrent enrollment in Upper class Immigration Law or Refugee Law, or International Human Rights strongly preferred but not required. 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th semester students only. Admission to the Clinic requires the prior approval of the instructor. Students should submit a completed application and copy of their resume to Diana Rodriguez, rodrigu@uchastings.edu. The application can be downloaded by going to the home page for The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies <http://cgrs.uchastings.edu> and clicking under "U.C. Hastings Clinic" or by picking up a form from Stephen Kaufman, room 404, 198 McAllister, 565-4620, <kaufmans@uchastings.edu>. Satisfies professional skills requirement.

Students will work 16-20 hours per week on projects involving human rights and refugee issues, and will have a unique opportunity to develop a range of skills relevant to legal advocacy in these areas. A number of the refugee projects will be in partnership with the law school's Center on Gender and Refugee Studies (CGRS). CGRS is one of the nation's leading refugee advocacy organizations, engaging in research, national policy work, impact litigation, and other strategies in defense of asylum seekers. There may be some limited opportunity for engaging in the direct representation of asylum seekers. In the international human rights area, students may engage in collaborative projects with other non-governmental organizations; the work may include advocacy at regional human rights bodies, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, or at inter-governmental bodies, such as the United Nations, or human rights litigation in U.S. courts.

Students will be given as much individual responsibility as feasible, with one-on-one supervision, so as to provide them with mentoring and the opportunity to develop important professional skills and values. Students will participate in the 2-unit class seminar, which will meet once a week, and focus on the development of lawyering skills and issues of ethics. Peer learning will be emphasized through the use of "clinical rounds" and reflective discussion.

The Refugee and Human Rights Clinic will be of particular interest to students who are interested in exploring how successful advocacy on individual cases can impact the development of the law, and how "non-legal" strategies, such as media and grassroots mobilization can strengthen traditional legal strategies.