



Legal Clinic

School of Law  
Akron, OH 44325-2903  
t: 330-972-7751  
f: 330-972-6326

Immigration & Human Rights Clinic  
Fall 2017  
Professor Elizabeth Knowles

### **Course Description**

The Immigration & Human Rights Law Clinic introduces students to the practice of immigration removal defense with a focus on asylum for individuals seeking protection from persecution in their home countries. Under the professor's supervision and guidance, students will provide direct representation for an individual seeking asylum while detained in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Students will learn immigration court procedure, client interviewing and counseling skills, trial advocacy skills, legal research and writing in the civil, administrative context, and the fundamentals of asylum as a defense to removal from the United States. Students will become familiar with essential asylum case law and will advocate for their clients before a U.S. Immigration Judge.

The clinic consists of both a classroom seminar component and a fieldwork component. Students will also help conduct know-your-rights presentations for groups of detainees. The clinic will require frequent visits to either the Geauga County Jail in Chardon or the Northeast Ohio Detention Center in Youngstown, as well as frequent appearances at the Cleveland Immigration Court. Class meets once per week and clinic students should have Fridays open for visits with their clients.

**Please submit the following to Professor Knowles via email by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 16, 2017:**

- 1) Your completed application;**
- 2) Your updated resumé; and**
- 3) Your complete Fall 2017 weekly schedule including all classes and commitments;**

**Professor Knowles will schedule an interview with you (in-person or via telephone) upon receiving your application.**

## **Immigration & Human Rights Clinic Application**

Name:

Date:

Phone #:

Email Address:

Year:

Cum. GPA:

Anticipated Graduation Date:

**Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. Thorough responses are encouraged in order to best assess your interests and preparedness.**

1. Have you taken an Immigration Law course? If so, which one(s) and when?
2. Have you taken any other relevant courses, such as International Human Rights Law, Administrative Law, Trial Practice, or others?
3. Have you ever interned or been employed in an immigration law firm? If so, which area(s) of immigration law did the firm practice?
4. Have you interned with the Executive Office for Immigration Review?
5. Do you speak Spanish? If so, on a scale from 1 (beginner) to 10 (native fluency), what rating would you assign to your oral and written Spanish skills?
6. Do you speak a language other than English or Spanish? Which one(s)? Please rate your fluency on a scale from 1 (beginner) to 10 (native fluency).
7. During the Fall 2017 semester, what other time-intensive academic or organizational commitments will you have, if any? For example, will you be writing a Law Review article, juggling an internship with 17 units, running a student organization, competing with the Mock Trial Team or the Moot Court Society, or participating in another clinic?
8. Have you ever worked in or visited a detention facility? If so, where and in what context? If not, how comfortable would you be spending a few hours per week in a detention facility?
9. Do you have any other experience related to immigration law that you'd like to share?