

SEVEN IMPORTANT THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU REGISTER FOR ANY CLINIC

All of us in the Clinical Program are extremely excited about you joining us as a student attorney. We have a few recommendations for you on topics that often vex incoming students to the Clinical Program. If you have any questions about our advice below, please feel free to contact Professor Colene Robinson, the director of the Clinical Program, or any of the clinical faculty.

1. You **may not** take any clinical course or practicum at the **same time that you are externing for the Boulder District Attorney's Office or the Criminal Division of the Boulder City Attorney's Office**. Because our criminal defense clinics are always in opposition to the Boulder DA's office and the City Attorney, and because the applicable conflict of interest rules impute the criminal defense conflicts across the entire clinical program, no student can ever take any clinic and extern at the Boulder DA's office of the criminal division of the City Attorney's office concurrently with any clinic. Since we also can be in courts in other surrounding counties, there is a good chance that you may also not be able to extern for other nearby DA's Offices.
2. Similarly, because some clinics often have students appearing in front of several of the judges in Boulder, it can be challenging for a student to take any clinic at the same time as externing for a Boulder judge. **You should not plan to take a clinic and extern in a Boulder County-based courthouse unless you first clear that with the director of the Clinical Program**. If you are planning on externing for a judge outside of Boulder County, you should first clear that with your specific clinical professor.
3. You also will **have to clear any other concurrent externship, volunteer, or paid work with your clinical professor** to ensure that there are no conflicts. For example, if you are planning on working at a Denver law firm, you and your clinical professor will need to determine that the law firm is not representing any client already adverse to any Clinical Program client. Remember, conflicts are shared among all of the individual clinics, even if your firm does not handle any matters related to your particular clinic, you also need to make sure the firm does not handle matters related to other clinics.
4. If you register for a clinic, **you must monitor your colorado.edu account over the summer**. We will be sending you critical e-mail updates during the summer, and you must be able to respond to them promptly.
5. In July, **you will have to confirm your enrollment in a clinic**. If you fail to confirm your enrollment, **you will be automatically dropped** from the clinic. In order for you to have legal matters to work on during your time in clinic, faculty need to engage new clients and projects well before classes begin. This is why from July on, we treat you as a current member of our clinic law firm with actual duties under Colorado's Rules of Professional Conduct. That means you will **not to be able to withdraw from your responsibilities** (i.e., drop the clinic) unless you can show you meet the requirements of Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16. (Don't worry, you will not start your live clinic work until classes start.)
6. You **may not enroll in more than one clinic at a time**. You may, however, take more than one clinic at different times, but you do not receive priority in registration for your second clinic. This means we give preference to students who have never taken any clinic over students who already have taken a clinic.
7. You should **think carefully about the course load and the extracurricular load** you will carry while you are in a clinic. Taking a clinic is a serious professional commitment, and you will want to make sure you have planned enough time for its demands. One of the best ways to think through that issue is to talk with law students who are taking a clinic and learn ideas from them about how they successfully planned their schedules.