

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 Deborah Cantrell, 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 the litigation-based clinics often have students appearing in front of most of the judges who sit in Boulder, often it is exceedingly challenging for a student to take any clinic at the same as externing for a judge sitting in Boulder. **You should not plan to take a clinic and extern in either Boulder County-based courthouse unless you first clear that with the director of the Clinical Program, Professor Deborah Cantrell**. If you are planning on externing for a judge who sits somewhere 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. About 45 days before classes start for the Fall semester, **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. Almost all of the clinics start to take in new cases or projects about a couple of months before classes begin, and we need to have a solid headcount of the number of enrolled students so we can bring in the correct number of new clients or projects. Starting about 45 days before classes, we treat you as a current student attorney member of our clinic law firm, with actual, upcoming client responsibilities, and actual duties under Colorado's Rules of Professional Conduct. That means we understand you **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**. We also give preference to students who have never taken any clinic over students who already have been able to take a clinic. For example, a 2L who takes the one-semester criminal defense clinic, and who enrolls as a 3L in the one-semester natural resources clinic, will have to stand in line for natural resources clinic behind a 2L or 3L student who has not yet 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.