Students Prevail Against City of New York

Students in the Environmental Litigation Clinic celebrated a victory in the recent court ruling of Rentan Baykeeper v. City of New York. New York State Supreme Court Judge Bernard J. Graham agreed with the argument presented by the law students and ruled that New York City must cease using a Brooklyn park as the site of a solid-waste treatment center. A dozen students contributed to the effort over nine years and Nicole Sasaki (JD ’14, pictured left) argued the case before Justice Graham. More »

New Clinic Provides Counsel to Underserved

The Neighborhood Justice Clinic opened its doors this January, providing a new opportunity for Pace students to sharpen their lawyering skills as they provide legal services to low-income individuals and grassroots community organizations. Under the supervision of Professor Jason Parkin, students in the inaugural clinic will handle both litigation and non-litigation matters pertaining to the rights of low-wage, mostly immigrant workers.

Among the clinic’s first clients is Don Bosco Workers, Inc., an organization that advocates for day laborers and other low-wage workers in Port Chester, NY. Clinic students, serving as counsel to Don Bosco, have been asked to research and analyze new strategies to ensure that all workers in New York are paid the wages they have earned. In addition to supporting organizations seeking systemic reform, clinic students will also represent individual clients at administrative hearings.

As Professor Parkin explains, “By representing both individuals and organizations, clinic students will have the opportunity to develop fundamental lawyering skills, explore different forms of lawyering, and provide much-needed legal services and support to clients who would otherwise have no access to a lawyer.”

Intensive, Experiential Final Semester

The newest curricular lawyering opportunity available to Pace Law students is Semester in Practice. Designed for those with defined career goals, it offers students an intensive, experiential learning opportunity as an alternative to the traditional final semester of law school.

Those selected for this 15-credit program participate in one of two tracks, either on-campus at one of the law school’s six direct representation clinics (Criminal Defense, Disability Rights, Environmental Litigation, Immigration Justice, Investor Rights and Neighborhood Justice), or off-campus at certain established non-profit law offices with Student Practice Orders (such as Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, the Westchester County D.A.’s Office and the Pace Women’s Justice Center). In addition to full-time work representing actual clients, students participate in a weekly seminar where they learn advanced lawyering skills and discuss issues that arise during the course of their placements. Students will gain additional credit by enrolling in an intensive skills course offered during the two-week January intersession. The final component of the Semester in Practice is guided research, where students will complete a substantive, faculty-supervised writing project.

“W e crafted this program for students who seek an intensive skills-building alternative to the traditional classroom during their final semester at Pace Law. The Semester in Practice will teach students more advanced lawyering and problem-solving skills to better prepare them for the challenges they will face in practice,” stated Professor Jill Gross, Director of Legal Skills.

Admission to the on-campus track of Semester in Practice is open to those students with previous clinic experience, either at Pace Law School’s John Jay Legal Services, Inc. or the Environmental Litigation Clinic. Those applying to the off-campus track will already have completed pertinent courses including Professional Responsibility, Interviewing/Counseling/Negotiation, and Advanced Legal Research.

Professor Gross added, “Students who are hungry to spend their entire semester representing actual clients under faculty supervision will leave our law school truly ready to practice law.”

Clinic Opportunities

Barbara C. Salken Criminal Justice Clinic

Environmental Litigation Clinic

Equal Justice America:

Disability Rights/Health Law Clinic

Immigration Justice Clinic

Investor Rights Clinic

Neighborhood Justice Clinic

Semester in Practice