

Federal Appellate Litigation Clinic Spring 2022 Syllabus

Students in this Clinic will research, brief, and argue cases in federal appellate courts across the country. Our cases will generally focus on immigration, criminal sentencing/post-conviction issues, and qualified immunity, although other topics may be covered as well.

Faculty and Staff

- Xiao Wang, x.wang@law.northwestern.edu, 312-503-1486
 - Office Hours: Tuesdays by appointment through Calendly
- Angie Starks, angelia.starks1@law.northwestern.edu, 312-503-1497

Learning Goals

- **Client Service:** We will work with clients in vulnerable situations, which may require us to navigate hurdles of access within prison, jail, and detention facilities. We will provide all our clients with exceptional, dedicated legal service.
- **Appellate Advocacy:** We will develop our skills as appellate advocates, so that, by the end of the course, all students will be able to confidently litigate an appeal as lead counsel.
- **Exploring Legal Paths:** We will, through guest speakers and other opportunities, learn about the different pathways to being an appellate advocate. Students are encouraged to meet with students after class in informal dinners.

General Course Information

- **Seminar:** Each week, we will meet as a group on Mondays, from 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM. The seminar will cover a mix of substantive areas of law, case rounds, and guest speakers.
- **Supervision:** Each case team will generally meet with me for one hour per week, to discuss progress on their individual cases. See below for additional information.

Course Requirements and Expectations

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend weekly seminar and supervision. If you must miss class or supervision, please send me a note in advance.
- **Mid-Semester Review:** Each student will have a mid-semester review with me.
- **OneDrive:** All students must have OneDrive.
- **COVID:** If you are affected by COVID, please let me know as soon as possible. We will coordinate a make-up plan for classes.

Grading

- **Seminar and Case Rounds Participation:** 25%
- **Supervision Participation:** 25%
- **Moot Participation:** 25%
- **Written Work Product:** 25%

Schedule of Classes

January 10

Review Syllabus and Calendar
Dealing with Opposing Counsel

January 17

NO CLASS

January 24

Building an Appellate Practice

Assignment:

- Oral Argument Two-Pager
- Listen: *United States v. Lopez Oral Argument*

January 31

Oral Argument: Part I

Odds and Ends of Appellate Practice

Assignment:

- Listen: *Bowers v. Hardwick Oral Argument*

February 7

Oral Argument: Part II

February 14

Case Round: *Williams* and *Moore* Amicus

February 21

Clerking: What It Is, What It Isn't

February 28

Moot: *Thomas-Joseph*

March 7

The Solicitor General's Office and Civil Appellate Department

Guest Speaker: Masha Hansford (Solicitor General) and Courtney Dixon (Civil Appellate)

March 14

Moot: *Roberts*

March 18 – Noon – NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE

The Press, the Court, and the Trump Justices

Guest Speaker: Linda Greenhouse (N.Y. Times)

April 4

Moot: *Stanard*

April 11 (Tentative)

9:30 AM – NOTE TIME CHANGE

3:00 PM – Meeting with Judge Hamilton

Effective Argument and Advocacy – Seventh Circuit Visit

Guest Speakers: Sarah Schrup, Don Wall, Judge David Hamilton

April 18

End of Semester Reflection and Party

Federal Appellate Litigation Clinic Style Guide

1. Double space after sentences.
2. Double space after colons **if** the clause following the colon can be read as a stand-alone sentence.
3. Use en dashes to mark ranges (e.g., 7–8, not 7-8)
4. Use em dashes to separate a clause within a sentence (e.g., “Resolving this issue – which governs Plaintiff X but not Plaintiff Y – turns on Case A, B, and C.”)
5. Use “Justified” alignment, not Left alignment
6. In general, number the Statement of Facts, akin to what you would see in a complaint.
7. Use fonts and formatting in the Templates on OneDrive.
8. Try to keep things short:
 - a. Headings and captions at 15 words or fewer.
 - b. In-text sentences at 25 words or fewer.