

Supreme Court Practicum Fall 2021 Syllabus

Faculty & Staff

- Carter Phillips, cphillips@sidley.com
- Jeff Green, jgreen@sidley.com
 - Maggie Bahnson, mbahnson@sidley.com
- Xiao Wang, x.wang@law.northwestern.edu
 - Angie Starks, angelia.starks1@law.northwestern.edu

General Course Information

- **Seminar:** The Practicum will meet once each week on Fridays promptly at 12:00 p.m. for one hour and fifteen minutes. The instructional portion of the Practicum will cover six general areas, through either class instruction or presentation
 1. Research
 2. Brief Writing
 3. Specialized Brief Writing (Petitions for Certiorari, Briefs in Opposition, Replies)
 4. Oral Advocacy
 5. The Court as an Institution
 6. Doctrinal Areas of Special Interest to the Court (e.g. Finality, Original Jurisdiction)
- **Case Teams:** Research projects, petitions, and briefs will be staffed in teams. We will determine the number of students in each team based upon the complexity and timing of each particular matter. Teams will meet both in person and via teleconference at least on a weekly basis, and participants should expect meetings to convene more frequently as the due dates approach for petitions and briefs.
- **Speakers:** Speakers will be invited for both semesters. These sessions will be open to all students.
- **Moot Courts:** Moot courts for attorneys who will argue during the Term will be convened at the Law School with panels of professors and practitioners. The opposing side and (if appropriate) amicus roles shall be argued by Practicum members. Moot courts will be open to all students, but all students who attend are required to assure confidentiality and the absence of any other conflict (for example, work on the case as a judicial extern).
- **Travel:** If circumstances permit, the Practicum will meet once in Washington each year to coincide with an oral argument in a case in which the Practicum has been involved. Participants will attend the argument and a post-argument lunch meeting (if possible, with the advocate) to discuss the case. Participants will also tour the Court and attend a dinner with the Practicum faculty.

Course Requirements and Expectations

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend the weekly seminar and hold regular calls with their teams.
- **Assignments:** Students are expected to complete all listed assignments on a given day *before* coming to class.
- **Case Rounds:** When we have case rounds, case teams should circulate to the class a short agenda (max. one page single-spaced), reviewing the relevant facts, issues, and questions that they would like the class to discuss.
- **Laptop & Phone Use:** Please refrain from non-class related laptop or phone use during clinic sessions.

Schedule of Classes

September 3

Class Orientation

What is a Practicum Anyway?

Assignment:

- Schedule individual meetings with faculty

September 10 [Meeting at 10 AM, not Noon]

The Art & Science of Certiorari

Assignment:

- Re-watch “The Art & Science of Certiorari”
- Review class exercise materials
- Review posted examples of petitions previously filed by the clinic

September 17

The Last Word: Reply Briefs

Assignment:

- Watch “The Last Word: Reply Briefs”
- Review posted examples of reply briefs previously filed by the clinic

September 24

Live Edit Session of Brief

October 1

Case Dissection with Carter Phillips

October 8

Moots and Arguments

Assignment:

- Watch “Moots and Arguments; Dulcet Tones”

October 15

Case Rounds

October 22

Media and the Court

Guest Speaker: Tony Mauro, *National Law Journal*

October 29

The Better Brief / Seven Habits of Effective Brief Writers

Assignment:

- Watch “The Better Brief”

November 5

Live Edit of Brief

November 12

Effective Appellate Strategy

Assignment:

- Watch “Effective Appellate Strategy”

November 19

Amicus Briefs

Assignment:

- Watch “With Friends Like These...Amicus Briefs”

December 1

Finality