The Post-Conviction Clinic investigates claims of wrongful conviction and manifest injustice from prisoners convicted of crimes in Arizona. Post-conviction work is a specialized practice area that delves into both fundamental and nuanced aspects of criminal law and criminal procedure – one that is becoming increasingly vital as over 400 prisoners nationwide have been exonerated either in full or in part by DNA testing, and over 1,500 people have been exonerated by other means. Arizona is home to more than 40,000 prisoners and more than 5,000 on community supervision. Arizona incarcerates more people per capita than any other state in the west and ranks sixth in the country. The Clinic works in conjunction with the Arizona Justice Project.

What students do:

- Students participate in the post-conviction investigation and litigation of criminal cases.
- Students produce written work focused on reviewing and analyzing the history of the conviction and the potential reasons for any wrongful conviction, including the role DNA or other newly discovered evidence could play in exonerating the inmate.
- Students interview witnesses and clients, locate biological evidence, and evaluate whether a given case should be submitted for DNA testing.
- Students draft requests for post-conviction DNA testing, petitions for post-conviction relief, and petitions for clemency and parole.
- Students may represent clients in court or before the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency.

Time Commitments:

- Minimum of 180 hours (Fall 2017)
- 2-hour seminar each week
- Weekly 2-hour case rounds session each week

Course Information:

- 4 to 6 Credit hours total, including 2 credit hours of class work
- Class component is graded
- Client component is pass/fail

For More Information & To Apply:

law.asu.edu/postconviction-clinic

For More Information Contact:

Katie Puzauskas
Supervising Legal Clinic Attorney
Katherine.puzauskas@asu.edu

Robert Dormady
Clinical Attorney
Robert.dormady@asu.edu

For more information about innocence work and nationwide exonerations, visit the Innocence Project and the National Registry of Exonerations.