Student attorneys in the Public Defender Clinic represent indigent defendants in criminal cases. Although the majority of Clinic cases involve felony drug possession charges, Clinic students have defended various other felony and misdemeanor charges including aggravated assault, resisting arrest, promoting prison contraband, car theft and DUI.

Student attorneys will interview clients and witnesses, draft motions, handle preliminary hearings, plea proceedings, settlement conferences, sentencings, evidentiary hearings and jury trials.

In the seminar students learn effective public speaking techniques generally and also receive specific training in all aspects of trials including opening statements, closing arguments, direct and cross-examination, and voir dire.

Course Information

- Evidence is a pre-requisite
- Enrollment is limited to five students in the Fall/Spring & four students in the Summer
- Students receive six units of graded credit
- Second semester 2Ls and 3Ls are eligible to apply

Time Commitment

- Summer: Full Days Monday through Friday required, approximately 40 hours per week
- Fall/Spring: 2 full days (Monday through Thursday) and ½ day on Friday required, approximately 20 hours per week
- Students must complete 270 hours during the semester, including class time

Mandatory Training

Students enrolled in the Fall or Spring Semester must attend a three day mandatory training session. For the Spring and Fall, the training will usually be 3 business days prior to the start of the semester. Please see website for days and times.