

# Criminal Justice Institute's Top 10 FAQ List

## ➤ Who may do CJI?

CJI is an in-house HLS clinic open to all 3Ls who have taken the Trial Advocacy Workshop by October of their 3L year.

## ➤ When is CJI offered?

Students enroll for Fall-Winter or Winter-Spring. Fall-Winter students may continue for the full year as part of Advanced Clinical Study.

## ➤ How many credits is CJI?

Fall/Winter – 5 Credits

Winter/Spring – 6 Credits

Advanced Clinical Study – 2 to 4 Credits

## ➤ What time commitment is involved?

The credit hours are based on 20 hours of clinical work, weekly. CJI Student Attorneys have weekly, one-hour, one-on-one supervision meetings with their Clinical Instructor. Each Clinical Instructor also holds Group Meetings when all of his/her students meet together. In addition, the CJI course, Defense Theory and Practice, meets 4 hours weekly during the semester. Most students report that CJI-related work takes more than 20 hours some weeks, and less than 20 hours some weeks.

## ➤ When do CJI Student Attorneys go to court?

On any day that the local courts are open. Most days of the week, someone from CJI has something happening in court. On days when a Student Attorney has a case scheduled for court, the Student Attorney typically must be available from, at a minimum, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. Sometimes court days go into the late afternoon.

## ➤ What course schedule is most compatible with doing CJI?

A schedule that provides a Student Attorney with 3 open mornings each week for scheduling cases in court. In general, long blocks of open time are desirable when doing CJI. Longer blocks give Student Attorneys the time they need to meet with their clients, conduct case investigations, moot arguments, and meet with their Clinical Instructors.

## ➤ What kind of supervision does CJI provide?

Clinical Instructors closely supervise CJI students on all aspects of their case work. This includes determining case strategy, reviewing all written work, reviewing “scripts” for court, and mooted hearings, trials and plea negotiations. Clinical Instructors appear in court with their students for all proceedings.

## ➤ Are there other requirements of CJI, besides representing clients?

Yes. CJI students must attend a week of Orientation, typically held the last week of September/first week of October. Students submit 3 Journals during each semester. The CJI course requires a final Reflection Paper.

## ➤ Does every Student Attorney have a trial?

No. If client-centered advocacy means going to trial, CJI goes to trial! This is a big part of what we do, and we love doing it. However, CJI is assigned to cases randomly by the courts, just like most public defenders. Some cases go to trial; most do not.

## ➤ What should I do if I'm interested in doing CJI and I want to learn more before deciding?

Talk with CJI's Director, Professor Dehlia Umunna, with Carol Flores, CJI's Administrative Director, or with a Clinical Instructor. Talk with a current CJI student, or a CJI alum. We are happy to provide contact information! Or just come by and introduce yourself. CJI is in 1607 Massachusetts Avenue, on the 2nd Floor.

## WHAT CJI DOES:

The Criminal Justice Institute represents indigent adults and juvenile clients facing misdemeanor and felony charges in the Boston criminal courts. Students are assigned cases in local municipal and juvenile courts, handling everything from the arraignment to investigation to motions to trial. Students handle an average of six to eight misdemeanor and felony cases during the semester. In appropriate cases, students team up with CJI's Social Workers to provide additional client-centered supports. In addition, student practice may include interlocutory appellate representation in the Appeals Court and Supreme Judicial Court.