**OVERVIEW**

The mission of the Criminal Justice Institute is to educate Harvard Law School students in becoming effective, ethical and zealous criminal defense lawyer-advocates through practice in representing indigent individuals involved in the Massachusetts court system as well as to research and present issues and debates about the criminal and juvenile justice systems in order to affect local and national reform.

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| **3Ls Only** | |
| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall-Winter or Winter-Spring (Fall-Winter students may return in the spring as advanced clinical students) |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Criminal Justice Institute: Defense Theory and Practice (Fall-Winter course) |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 4 classroom credits (3 fall + 1 winter) |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 5 clinical credits for Fall-Winter (4 fall + 1 winter) and 6 clinical credits for Winter-Spring (1 winter + 5 spring) |
| **LOCATION** | HLS |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

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.

**SKILLS**

* Client-centered direct representation
* Interview and advise indigent clients
* Engage in factual and legal investigations of criminal cases
* Interview witnesses
* Strategize cases
* Motion practice (research, draft and argue motions before a court
* Work with experts
* Negotiation with Opposing Counsel
* Significant trial work
* Argue cases before the Appeals Court and Supreme Judicial Court
* Amicus briefs

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

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| **Morning** | **Afternoon** | **Evening** |
| **7:45 – 9:00 am:** Take MBTA to Roxbury Court in Nubian Square. Meet up with CI and client in the courthouse.  **9:00 – 11:00 am:** Appear before the Court to argue Motion to Dismiss and, if needed, requests for discovery. Meet with client and his family in courthouse afterwards.  **11:00 – 11:45 am:** Find opposing counsel in another client’s case and negotiate disposition request, provide her with mitigation packet. | **11:45 am – 2:00 pm:** Meet up with CJI peer and grab lunch. Go to South End to investigate and interview witnesses to an alleged larceny from a motor vehicle.  **2:00 – 4:00 pm:** Return to CJI office. Exchange stories and updates from court with other students. Meet *ad hoc* with CI to talk about immediate next steps. | **4:00 – 5:30 pm:** Research feasibility of self-defense defense in client’s assault and battery case; begin to draft memo to CI for discussion at weekly supervision meeting. Draft agenda for weekly supervision meeting. |