**OVERVIEW**

The mission of the Election Law Clinic at Harvard Law School is to train the next generation of election lawyers through litigation and advocacy that bring novel academic ideas to the practice of election law. It aims to build power for voters, not politicians, and recognizes that the struggle for voting rights is a struggle for racial justice.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall or Spring  |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Election Law Clinical Seminar  |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 2 classroom credits |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 2, 3, 4 or 5 clinical credits |
| **LOCATION** | HLS, WCC 4105 |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | By Application (Due April 28, 2023) |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

The Election Law Clinic offers Harvard Law students the opportunity to do hands-on litigation and advocacy work across a range of election law areas, with an initial focus on redistricting and voter suppression cases. Clinic projects cover a range of topics including protecting against: voter suppression and intimidation, racial and partisan gerrymandering, minority vote dilution, campaign finance abuses, and an inaccurate and biased census.

**SKILLS**

Clinic students will work on every aspect of litigation, including pre-filing investigations, meeting and retaining clients, engaging in lay and expert discovery, briefing and arguing dispositive motions, pre-trial preparations and trial practice, as well as the appellate process. Election law cases rely heavily on political scientists as experts, so students will have broad exposure to emerging theories and methods in political science and how to communicate them to a legal audience. Students will also engage in one-off amicus brief work for cases of national importance.

In addition to the regular caseload, students will work on advocacy opportunities such as drafting legislation, legislative testimony, and engaging experts in the policy advocacy process at the federal and state levels. There will also be opportunities to attend national and state coalition meetings that include lawyers, organizers, and communications experts.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Brief writing | Appellate litigation | Interviewing clients |
| Legal research and writing | Collaboration with partner organizations | Drafting reports and policy papers |
| Strategizing cases | Preparing comments | Oral presentations |
| Policy and advocacy work | Trial preparation | Administrative hearings |
| Working with experts | Fact investigation | Community Education |

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

Each week looks different at ELC. This example can provide you with a snapshot into what a day at ELC may look like for you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Morning** | **Afternoon** | **Evening** |
| **10:00 - 11:00 am:** Case update & strategy meeting with clinical instructors and fellow students**11:00 am - 12:30 pm:** Draft outline of amicus brief with student team | **1:15 - 2:30 pm:** Brief team update and feedback meeting with clinical instructors and other students**2:30 - 3:00 pm:** Meet with clinical advisor for weekly 1-on-1 meeting **3:15 - 3:45 pm:** Draft agenda for Co-counsel later in the week | **3:45 - 4:30 pm:** Have Zoom meeting with client to sketch out strategy for upcoming discovery**4:30 – 6:30 pm:** Work on case memo looking at a specific area of law to inform litigation strategy in a case |