**OVERVIEW**

This course provides the opportunity, through a judicial internship, for law students to learn about the operations, realities, and challenges of state and federal trial courts. Judges who participate are asked to discuss their decision-making and judicial philosophies with their students. Students both observe the work of the courts and undertake legal research and writing projects assigned by their judge.

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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall or Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Judicial Process in Trial Courts Clinical Seminar |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 2 classroom credits |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 2, 3, 4 or 5 clinical credits |
| **LOCATION** | Various Boston state and federal courthouses and accessible by T (unless students with transportation are able to travel to other nearby courthouses) |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios  |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

Students’ assignments for the clinic are assigned by each student’s trial judge. Typical assignments may include writing drafts of decisions or of memoranda on motions (e.g. motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment; motions in limine), drafting jury instructions, preparing bench memos, and writing drafts of other documents needed by a trial judge. Students may also be asked to write memos on new appellate decisions and statutes that impact their judges’ work. (For the classroom, component students write several brief reflections and a final paper. The final paper may be either an academic research paper or a reflection paper.)

**SKILLS**

Skills include legal research and writing; learning about the work of a trial court through observation and discussion; learning about judicial decision-making through observation and discussion; the opportunity to observe lawyering in a trial court.

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

Our students share weekly logs in which they record how their time is spent. Generally, there is a regular mix of time spent observing and time spent working on research assignments. Students also spend time meeting with their judges and court staff, and these conversations typically give students detailed insights into the work of a trial judge.