**OVERVIEW**

The Mediation Clinic encompasses: co-mediating disputes filed in local courts (typically small claims cases); engaging in self-assessment and self-reflection through debriefing with other mediators and written journal entries; and office projects in support of mediation (e.g., collecting feedback from mediation participants).

The Mediation Clinic is closely associated with the Harvard Mediation Program SPO (“HMP”); members of HMP run the ~34-hour training that all clinical students must complete before serving as co-mediators for court cases. The training is held over two weekends in the first several weeks of the semester, and the most up-to-date information on timing can be found at https://clinics.law.harvard.edu/hmp/

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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Mediation Clinical Seminar |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 1 classroom credit |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 1 clinical credit |
| **LOCATION** | HLS; Students go to courts in the Boston area (Cambridge, Somerville, Quincy, etc.) |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

Students in the Mediation Clinic typically serve as co-mediators for small claims cases – *i.e.*, civil disputes involving $7000 or less and often involving disputes between neighbors, landlord/tenants, contractors/homeowners, customers/service providers, property co-owners, family members or business partners. There are also opportunities to mediate other case types, including advanced civil matters, harassment prevent orders and disputes outside of the court system. Regardless of the case type, mediation offers parties an opportunity to participate in a process that generally lasts 1-3 hours and is focused on helping the parties to generate and craft solutions that all involved find acceptable.

Clinical students generally have the opportunity to observe and co-mediate several cases during the semester, and are expected to participate in an average of approximately one court session per week after completing training. Attendance at a court session generally involves 1-3 hours of time at the courthouse, plus travel time.

**SKILLS**

Students in the mediation clinic develop strong interviewing and active listening skills, and the ability to conduct conflict analysis and foster consensus-building, all supported by exercising a set of self-assessment and self-reflection skills.

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

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| **Half-Day (Morning example)** | | |
| **1 week+ before:** sign up for court session  **1-2 days before:** receive email to coordinate attendance at court session  **8:20 – 8:50 am:** Ride share to courthouse | **8:50 – 9:00 am:** Coordinate with co-mediation team  **9:00 – 9:20 am:** Court session preliminaries/case call | **9:30 – 11:15 am:** Conduct mediation and complete paperwork; role may be that of a co-mediator or an observer  **11:45am – 12:15pm:** Ride share to return to campus |