

## **Lawyering Program Mission Statement**

Lawyering is the study of law in use. Through a series of experiential, collaborative exercises, Lawyering students broaden and deepen their understanding of legal concepts and develop the analytic, interactive and interpretive skills that are integral to practice.

### **Learning Through Experience**

The act of doing, followed by reflection and discussion, deepens understanding and solidifies learning. In practice simulations, Lawyering students plan and execute strategies, then critically observe the consequences of their choices. Each simulation is an opportunity to experiment and learn in a safe environment; the object is not perfect performance.

### **Learning Collaboratively**

Adults develop skills more effectively when they work in collaboration. In each of the Lawyering Program's exercises, students work in pairs or small groups with a faculty member who functions as supervising attorney. Students develop versatility by working with and learning from an expert practitioner and from peers who have varied strengths, views, experiences and identities.

### **Learning Through Critique**

The Lawyering Program emphasizes critical thinking about lawyers' work by encouraging students to critique themselves and each other during and after each simulation. Small group critiques provide an optimal context for developing professional and ethical judgment. Carefully structured peer critiques enhance motivation, as each student's work becomes a text for collaborative study. They also instill habits of self-reflection and professional improvement. The ideas and solutions that students bring to and take from the critique process are at least as important as the strategies they formulate and execute prior to and during each simulation.

### **Learning Through, Recognizing and Understanding Difference**

An essential component of understanding and solving legal problems is recognizing and attending to how issues of social difference and identity affect lawyers' work. Through large and small group discussions, the Lawyering Program helps students develop multicultural competence so that they better understand the ways these issues will impact both their professional relationships and their approach to legal problems.

### **Learning Beyond the Lawyering Program**

Our aim is for our Lawyering students to continue the process of thoughtful inquiry and self-evaluation after they leave law school and begin to practice law. Therefore, faculty members forego prescribing theories in favor of encouraging student theorizing, and avoid how-to formulas in favor of critical analysis of experiences. With the tools of experience, self-evaluation and peer critique, Lawyering students become life-long students of experience.