

# **FOCUS ON TEACHING**

**AALS Workshop on Shifting Foundations in Family Law  
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# ABA Standard 302

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

A law school shall establish learning outcomes that shall, at a minimum, include competency in the following:

- (a) Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law;
- (b) Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context;
- (c) Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; and
- (d) Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

# Economic Justice Institute

## Mission

The Economic Justice Institute's mission is to educate law students by providing them with real world experience in the legal system while they, in turn, provide information, advocacy, and methods of alternative dispute resolution to their clients and to the community, thus empowering them to resolve conflict.

# Economic Justice Institute

## Core Values

- Students best construct their own legal education by doing the real work of lawyers, taking advantage of opportunities for experiential learning as they arise.
- Students best learn the art of lawyering when they, rather than their supervising attorneys, take primary responsibility working with clients to address the clients' issues in an ethical, creative, and diligent manner.
- Students will best contribute to the quality of the legal system, and to their own professional growth and satisfaction, by developing the habit of engaging in life-long critical reflection about themselves, the practice of law, and the justice system.

# Course Objectives

- **Conduct an empathetic client-centered interview that accurately identifies client goals and needs.**
- **Create and maintain well-documented client files that reflect that you keep clients adequately informed about their cases.**
- **Develop a case theory AND a case plan for all your cases**
- **Conduct a hearing, if necessary.**
- **Adequately brief and argue your cases.**
- **Manage and triage your case load.**
- **Conduct yourself in a professional manner.**
- **Develop an appreciation for the social justice aspects of the Clinic's work.**
- **Develop a self-reflective law practice.**

# Focus on Ethics

STAGE 1 If the desired result is for the learners to understand that....

1. Being a professional requires them to be self-reflective in their decision-making and in evaluating their role in the justice system;
2. Being a professional means abiding by the rules of ethics while appreciating the moral dilemmas that may present;
3. Being a professional includes how they act with others, how they communicate to others, how they manage their time, how they manage their cases, and how they view their clients;
4. Being a professional means accountability, diligence and competence in the work that they do;
5. Working collaboratively helps students to become more diligent, competent and empathetic attorneys;
6. They need to consciously and deliberately develop their own professional identity;

# And thoughtfully consider the questions:

1. How do I develop into a professional?
2. What is important to my own satisfaction as an attorney?
2. How do the ethical rules impact my work in the clinic, and ultimately me, as a lawyer?
3. What steps do I need to take to ensure that I am diligent and competent in my clinic work?
4. What should I do to ensure that I am complying with the rules of ethics and norms of the profession?
5. How can I be an effective member of the team?

# Then you need evidence of your students' ability to:

1. Identify ethical challenges and solutions;
2. Identify the most common ethical rules and how they are applied in practice;
3. Articulate personal values and defend recommendations;



# Then, the learning activities need to..

1. Include office management training (including CLIO)
2. Include teaching the rules of professional responsibility;  
EJI Handbook
3. Include simulations and role play that require students to analyze ethical dilemmas
4. Include reflection, both individually and in small/large groups
5. Include activities on self-care and/or stress management.

## STAGE 2: Then you need evidence of the students' ability to....

1. Reflect on their relationships with clients, opposing parties, and each other.
2. Analyze the rules in the context of the clinic's work
3. Self-analysis of one's performance and that of one's group

# Self-Evaluation

1. How well have you developed/improved your “lawyering skills?” What are your greatest strengths? Were these strengths you had identified before coming to EJI or have you identified them during the course of your clinic work? Take a look back at the Skills Worksheet you completed at the start of the fall semester. Are your strengths/weaknesses those that you predicted?
2. Identify one or two weaknesses that you would like to address in the coming semester.

# Self-Eval. Cont.

Please address both your strengths and weaknesses in the context of **at least one specific example** from your casework, community outreach or classroom experiences in each section below. Include what strategies have you implemented this semester to address any weaknesses.

- A. Client Centered Representation/Counseling;
- B. Interviewing and Fact Investigation;
- C. Oral & Written Advocacy (in and out of court);
- D. Legal Research and Writing (either through your client work or a result of class assignments). Also address what steps, if any, you want to take in the coming semester to hone your legal research & writing skills;
- E. Drafting legal or other documents;
- F. Professional judgment or decision making;
- G. Taking responsibility for and initiative on your cases;

# Self-Eval. Cont.

Lawyering requires integrity, authenticity, civility, humility and ethical behavior. Lawyers should be respectful and nonjudgmental toward their clients and other actors in the system. You have probably observed others in the legal system who embody these qualities and those who have not.

A. How do you define these traits in your lawyering work? Have your observations of others informed your ideas about lawyering? In what ways?

B. Has your understanding or lack of understanding of the ethical rules and considerations impacted your client work? If so, in what ways?

C. Using an example from one or more of our cases or classroom activities, identify a situation(s) where you or another attorney did not display the integrity, civility, authenticity, humility or ethical behavior that you wished would have been used, and why you or the other attorney acted that way.