

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS LEGAL CLINIC
DISABILITY RIGHTS LAW CLINIC
PROFESSOR JEFFREY MILLER

The Basics

COURSE NAME: Disability Rights Law Clinic

GRADED CREDIT HOURS: Four (4) **REQUIRED:** No **ELECTIVE:** Yes

Course Pre-Requisites or Co-Requisites: Professional Responsibility and Evidence should be taken either before the clinic or concurrently with the clinic, although the requirement may be waived in certain circumstances. Requests for waiver should be made in the clinic application.

Course Description

Student-attorneys in the University of Memphis Disability Rights Law Clinic represent clients and their families in a variety of matters related to disability law and the rights of persons with disabilities. Student-attorneys typically litigate on behalf of clients who allege violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (a federal special education statute), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. They also advocate on behalf of disabled clients who seek personal care assistance to enable them to remain in their homes and avoid being placed in an institution or nursing home.

The skills that students develop in the Clinic are applicable well beyond the disability rights law field and include many of the core tasks of a practicing litigator. Student-attorneys are expected to take full ownership of their cases and are decision-makers (under faculty supervision) for all aspects of client representation. They take primary responsibility for client interviews, client counseling, giving and taking depositions, legal research, legal strategy, correspondence with opposing counsel, filing legal briefs, and making oral presentations in administrative and court proceedings.

Students are encouraged to think deeply about the most ethical, effective, and constructive ways to serve clients who have historically faced significant difficulties in obtaining skilled and competent legal counsel. The weekly seminar introduces student to theories of implicit bias and cross-cultural competency, and includes a case rounds component, during which students discuss the challenges they are facing in their legal work and brainstorm with peers about potential legal strategies to advance their clients' interests.

Course Enrollment and Credit

The Disability Rights Law Clinic is open to a maximum of four (4) students during the Spring 2026 semester. To be eligible for enrollment, a student must have completed at least one-half of the legal studies required for graduation and be in good academic standing. Students earn four (4) hours of graded academic credit for their satisfactory completion of the Clinic course.

Time Requirements

The Disability Rights Law Clinic will meet for two (2) hours of regularly scheduled classroom time each week. Extra orientation sessions will be scheduled during the first four weeks of classes to ensure proper introduction to the Clinic's work. Clinic students will be expected to spend fifteen (15) hours per week on case-related activities. One or more of those fifteen (15) hours may be spent in a joint case review or legal skills building sessions.