



Civil Litigation & Advocacy Concentration

Byron G. Stier

Director of Civil Litigation and Advocacy Concentration

Southwestern's Panish Civil Justice Program is made possible by a generous gift from one of the country's preeminent trial lawyers, Brian Panish '84. The program's goals include providing top litigation training to students, creating a crossroads for judicial bench and bar, and strengthening the foundations of the American civil justice system. The Civil Litigation and Advocacy Concentration advances the Civil Justice Program goals and provides J.D. students with opportunities to explore more deeply this discipline and distinguish themselves.

Students interested in obtaining the J.D. Concentration in Civil Litigation and Advocacy should complete the form, "Declaration of Intention to Fulfill the J.D. Concentration in Civil Litigation and Advocacy," and submit the form to the Registration and Academic Records Office. To be eligible, students must be in good academic standing.

Curricular Requirements

To obtain a J.D. Concentration in Civil Litigation and Advocacy, students must take at least 15 units of Core and Elective Courses from the list below. A student who completes the Concentration program with at least 6 graded units of core and elective courses (in addition to the generally required Evidence course) and graduates with a Concentration grade point average of 3.33 or higher will receive the following designation on the student's transcript: "Concentration in Civil Litigation and Advocacy with Honors." A student's Concentration grade point average will be calculated at the time of the student's graduation in the following manner:

- every graded course a student has taken on the list of core and elective courses below is included in the Concentration grade point average and weighted in accordance with the number of units of that course;
- a student's grade in the four-unit Evidence course will also be included in the Concentration grade point average and weighted in accordance with its four units.

Not all courses listed below are offered every year, and students must meet all course prerequisites and requirements. This Concentration does not change any course prerequisites. Every Southwestern J.D. student is currently required to take various civil-litigation-related courses, including Evidence, so those required courses are not included in the concentration-related courses listed below, although a student's grade in the Evidence course is included in calculating the student's Concentration grade point average.

1. CORE COURSES

A. Litigation Skills Courses: Students must take at least two courses and at least four units total from the following courses:

Advanced Legal Writing (2 units)
Advanced Research: Practice Ready (2 units)
Appellate Process and Brief Drafting (1 unit)
Art of Persuasion (1 unit)
Capstone: Employment Law (3 units)
Capstone: Mass Tort Litigation (2 units)
Civil Pretrial Practice (3 units)

Communication Tools for New Lawyers (1 unit)
Courtroom Procedure 101 (1 unit)
eDiscovery (1 unit)
Evidence Law and Practice I and II (SCALE) (1 unit from each 3-unit course may be applied)
Moot Court Honors Program (max of 3 units earned for participation)

Selected Problems in Evidence Lab (1 unit)
Trial Advocacy (2 or 3 units)

Trial Advocacy Honors Program (max of 3 units
earned for participation)

B. ADR & Negotiation Courses: Students must take at least one course and at least two units total from the following courses:

Alternative Dispute Resolution (2 or 3 units)
International Litigation & Arbitration (2 or 3 units) (Transnational Litigation and Arbitration)
Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiation (3 units)
Negotiation and Dispute Resolution (2 units)
Negotiation Honors Program (max of 3 units earned for participation)

C. Clinic, Externship, or Practicum Courses: Students must take at least one course and at least two units total from the following courses:

Amicus Project Practicum (2 units)
Appellate Litigation Clinic (3 units, fall; 2 units spring)
Externship (approved civil-litigation-related placements only)
Law Firm Externship (3 units)

2. ELECTIVE COURSES

To the extent that the required fifteen (15) Concentration units are not satisfied by a student's taking additional Core Courses from the courses listed above, students must satisfy the remaining Concentration units by taking Elective Courses from the following list:

Advanced Legal Research (2 units)
Big & Medium Law Firm Practice (2 units)
California Civil Procedure (2 units)
California Civil Discovery (1 unit)
Conflict of Laws (3 units)
Defamation, Privacy, Publicity (2 units)
Employment Discrimination Law (2 units)
Employment Law Survey (3 units)
Entertainment and Media Litigation (1 unit)
Entertainment Litigation (2 units)
Family Law (2 units)
Family Law Procedure & Practice (3 units)
Insurance Law (3 units)
International Protection of Human Rights (2 units)
Medical/Legal Aspects of Elder Care (1 unit)
Medical Malpractice (2 units)
Practical Legal Research (1 unit)
Products Liability (3 units)
Public Interest Law Practice (2 units)

Public International Law (3 units)
Remedies (2 or 3 units)
Small Law Practice Management (2 units)
Tort Litigation Seminar (2 units)
Workers Compensation Law & Practice (2 units)

