

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Appellate Litigation Clinic

Students in the Appellate Litigation Clinic receive hands-on training in legal research and writing and oral advocacy, as well as instruction in substantive law as it applies to a real Federal Court of Appeals case.

The Appellate Litigation Clinic offers students an opportunity to work with the professors in litigating a real pro bono appeal in the Ninth Circuit - up to and including oral argument before the court. Students will participate in every step of the process, including review of the file; meeting with the client; assessing possible claims; researching case law; proposing arguments; drafting, revising, and proofing the opening brief; reviewing the response brief; drafting, revising, and proofing the reply brief; and participating in oral argument before a three-judge panel.

What types of cases do students work on?

Currently, the clinic handles difficult immigration appeals. All of the clinic's many published and unpublished wins may have seemed hopeless at the time under then existing law, but the arc of justice bent to permit the right result, both for our clients and for the many noncitizens who have since benefitted from the favorable precedents our cases have set.



The success of our clinic cases is entirely due to the law students' dedication, idealism, passion, and unwavering belief that even the strictest immigration laws can be molded to produce a just result.

- Professor Andrew Knapp



Class Meets:

Saturdays, 2-4 p.m.



Weekly Hours Required:

10.5 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

3L's with top 30% class rank



How will the Appellate Litigation Clinic benefit my education and career?

The Appellate Litigation Clinic, which received the Ninth Circuit's 2018 Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award, offers students an opportunity to practice real appellate law and benefit the lives of real clients. All students will appear on the Ninth Circuit's docket as their clients' authorized law student representatives. Some will even have their names listed as co-counsels on published Ninth Circuit opinions. Students will also learn to practice client-centered lawyering.



Did you know?

Professor Knapp has taken clinic cases all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and won!



Interested in applying?

Fill out the application form on the Southwestern Legal Clinics portal page at swlaw.sharepoint.com/sites/clinic or by scanning the QR code.

For more information about the Appellate Litigation Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/appellatelitigationclinic.

