CFCC STUDENT FELLOWS PROGRAM I

**University of Baltimore School of Law**

**SAYRA AND NEIL MEYERHOFF**

**CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THE COURTS STUDENT FELLOWS PROGRAM I**

**Fall 2020 SYLLABUS** (8/10/2020)

**Course**: Center for Families, Children, and the Courts Student Fellows Program I

LAW 888

Section 511

**Instructor**: Professor Barbara A. Babb – (bbabb@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5661)

Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment

Rebecca M. Stahl, CFCC Deputy Director – (rstahl@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5613)

Michele H. Hong-Polansky, CFCC Program Manager ([mhongpolansky@ubalt.edu](mailto:mhongpolansky@ubalt.edu); 410-837-5288)

CFCC Program Administrative Specialist: Katrice Williams – (kwilliams2@ubalt.edu; 410-837-5615)

**Day/Time:** Thursday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Modality:** This is a fully online class with a LIVE seminar meeting time. You will have to be online and

present.

**Course Description**:

This limited enrollment course will provide students with an in-depth examination of the policies and theories surrounding court reform in family law, including unified family courts, therapeutic jurisprudence, and the ecology of human development. In addition to a weekly two-hour classroom component, students will take an active role in research and writing associated with the Center for Families, Children and the Courts' (CFCC's) projects. The research and writing will involve weekly one-hour meetings with either CFCC's Director, Deputy Director, and/or Program Manager and might include areas such as the creation and evaluation of unified family courts in specific jurisdictions, juvenile justice, truancy and truancy courts, high conflict custody programs, and substance use as it affects families in courts. Particular subject-matter areas will depend upon the nature of CFCC's activities at any given time.

**Course Materials:**

Required readings will be emailed or posted on TWEN.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will explain the holistic, interdisciplinary, and therapeutic approach to family law, including the development of new and promising practices.
2. Students will distinguish the non-legal as well as legal issues that affect families in family court.
3. Students will evaluate programs which characterize CFCC’s approach to family justice system reform.
4. Students will assess the process and operation of the problem-solving approach to family law
5. Students will build skills that are central to the practice of family law.
6. Students will explain the roles of lawyers in the family justice and educational systems.

**Grades:**

Based on projects and class participation. See Memorandum regarding calculation of final class grades distributed during first class.

**Course Expectations:**

American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work per week for each credit earned in a class, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

You are expected to attend all classes, to complete the readings and any work assigned for each class, to attend class on time, and to participate consistently and meaningfully in class discussions and projects. In addition to the two hour class, students will meet for one hour each week with their supervisor (either Professor Babb, CFCC Deputy Director Stahl, and/or CFCC Program Manager Hong-Polansky) to discuss their projects.

Consistent with the nature of the legal profession, please be logged into Zoom when class begins and remain on Zoom throughout the class session, absent extraordinary circumstances. Please silence cell phones.

**Attendance**:

Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor. A student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences (generally 20% of class sessions) as illustrated below may be compelled to withdraw from the course or may be barred from sitting for the final exam. Students who are forced to withdraw for exceeding the allowed absences may receive a grade of FA (failure due to excessive absence). This policy is consistent with American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Regular Semester Hours | | |
| Credit Hours | Meetings Per Week | |
|  | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 absences | 5 absences |
| 3 | 2 absences | 5 absences |
| 4 | -- | 5 absences |

*Attendance and Zoom*: Regular class attendance is mandatory. Zoom automatically records attendance (including duration). **In order for this to work and for you to get credit for attendance, you must use your ubalt email and make sure your Zoom account is configured with your real name.** Students who have more than twoabsences will not be eligible to complete the course. Please note that under this policy, there are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences (with the exception for religious holidays). Please make sure you log on to Zoom promptly. Of course, I understand technical issues may arise from time to time. With that said, I reserve the right to count as “absent” a student who logs on late repeatedly and/or without a valid explanation.

**Course Website:**

You are required to register for the course TWEN site. The TWEN site links to this syllabus, announcements, class assignments, and other class materials. You are responsible for self-enrolling in the TWEN page and for checking it regularly for course information.

**Zoom Expectations:**

You should familiarize yourself with Zoom and its functions prior to our first class.

Please enter class with your microphone muted. During class, I strongly encourage that you keep your camera/video on. You may feel free to use a Zoom background for privacy. If you choose not to turn on your camera and if I call on you or otherwise ask you to engage in class work, if you in fact are not present, you may be subject to discipline under the Honor Code for misrepresenting attendance. If you have a special circumstance that makes it inappropriate or uncomfortable to use video, please reach out to me offline.

Inevitably, there will be technical problems that disrupt class. If you lose your signal, please attempt to log back in. If I lose my signal or have a slow connection, I may be forced to end the meeting and restart it. IF THIS HAPPPENS, PLEASE SIGN BACK IN AND CONTINUE THE CLASS. If things get completely off track, check your email for an update from me.

*Hand raising*: I WANT you to ask questions and participate in class discussions. When you have a question or something to contribute, please raise your hand using the “hand raise button.” Try to remember to put your hand down after you have spoken. Also, since this is a seminar with a smaller enrollment, I will try to acknowledge “live” hand raising.

*The Chat Window***:** The chat window is distracting during class. Thus, please use chat solely to communicate with me if you need to tell me something and the hand raising function is not appropriate or helpful.

We will continue to explore this technology and this means of learning together. Please be kind to your fellow classmates (and your professor), as we all likely will make mistakes, and we will surely have to make adjustments as we go.

**Panopto:**

Faculty are required to record Zoom classes for the purposes of accommodating a disability, for students who cannot attend, or so students who wish to review may have access to the full class content. All recordings are for the sole use of the class and may not be reproduced by students for any other purpose. Faculty cannot reproduce students' voices or images from the class for any other purpose without additional student consent. All such recordings are protected by a UB login process based on where they are posted. Students may mute their microphones or turn off their cameras if they do not consent to be recorded, but this may mean they need to find additional ways to participate in the class discussion. In addition, students who turn off their camera and do not remain present for the class session may be subject to the Honor Code for misrepresenting attendance, as discussed above.

**Professionalism:**

Learning cannot take place effectively in an environment that is unprofessional or uncivil. To that end, I expect that you will observe basic professional courtesies.

It is my hope that we can have lively class discussions where all students feel comfortable participating and expressing their opinions. Respect for your colleagues is vital to fostering a healthy classroom environment. At all times, remain mindful of the diversity of perspectives and experiences in our classroom and be respectful as you articulate your responses. We need not agree on everything, but we do need to disagree professionally.

*Note: Please contact me if something related to our class discussions makes you feel uncomfortable or otherwise interferes with your ability to learn. I will make every effort to address any issues raised.*

**Class Cancellation:**

If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or the School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; misuse of library materials; use of another’s book or study materials without consent; unapproved multiple submissions; material misrepresentation of one’s academic history or standing; misrepresentation of any academic matter; intentionally giving another student false or inaccurate information about class requirements; inappropriate discussion of exams; and misrepresenting or falsifying class attendance reports. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at <https://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/index.cfm>.

**Course Evaluations:**

It is a requirement of this course that students complete a course evaluation. The evaluation will be available later in the semester and is entirely anonymous. Faculty members will not have access to the feedback provided on course evaluations until after all grades are submitted.

**Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy:**

The University of Baltimore’s Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB’s nondiscrimination policies can be found at <http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix> .

**Disability Policy:**

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an accommodation for academic programs, exams, or access to the University’s facilities, please contact Keri Hickey, Director of Student Support in the Office of Academic Affairs, at [khickey@ubalt.edu](mailto:khickey@ubalt.edu).

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Date Topic**

August 27 Orientation to and Overview of the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for

Families, Children and the Courts

Therapeutic Jurisprudence (TJ)

September 3 TJ (cont’d)

The Ecology of Human Development

Preventive Law

September 10 Guest Speaker: Professor David B. Wexler

Judging, Therapeutic Application of the Law, and Practicing TJ

September 17 Court Reform in Family Law

Unified Family Courts

September 24 Virtual Tour of Baltimore City’s Family Division

(Guest Speakers: Family Division Coordinator T. Sue German;

Judge Christopher Panos; Magistrate Hope Tipton;

Circuit Court for Baltimore City)

October 1 New Approaches to Family Lawyering (Panel of Former CFCC Student

Fellows)

October 8 Trauma-Sensitive and Trauma-Informed Lawyering

October 15 Guest Speaker: The Hon. Peggy Fulton Hora (ret.)

Problem-Solving Courts/Drug Treatment Courts

October 22 Guest Speaker: Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Esq.

Access to Justice Issues

October 29 Guest Speaker: Risa Garon

Child- and Family-Focused Practice

November 5 Guest Speaker: Joan Little, Esq.

Child Abuse and Neglect Issues

November 12 Guest Speaker: Jenny Egan

Juvenile Justice Issues

November 19 Student Presentations

December 1 Wrap up