

MEDIATION EXTERNSHIP

OBJECTIVES & METHODS

(Two Credit Hour Course)

Prerequisites: Students must be state certified county court mediators or have completed a certified mediation class or training, which includes the mediation course at the Law School. Preference will be given to students who are already certified.

Externship Description: The students work at the Orange County Dispute Resolution Service under the supervision of David Hunt and Kathy Reuter for a minimum of five hours each week throughout the semester equally at a minimum of eighty-four hours, including classroom time during the semester. In addition to the work hours, the students meet as a class for one hour every other week. This externship is designed as a follow-up to the Mediation course taught by Professors Hunt and Reuter. This is a pass/fail course. Students will be evaluated for this grade by the Professors Hunt, and Reuter in consultation with other mediators who have observed individual students.

Objective I: Students will learn and/or strengthen their skills as a mediator.

Method: Students have to either be state certified county mediators or complete the necessary mentorship and application within the first two weeks of the clinic. Students will then conduct a minimum of fourteen county-civil mediations as a co-mediator or mediator throughout the semester. Students will also observe a minimum of seven mediations in three of the following areas: dependency, Circuit-civil, criminal, juvenile restitution, school peer mediation or domestic relations. Students may also observe a county-civil trial. These activities will be reviewed and analyzed by the placement supervisors, other mediators and fellow students. The classroom component of the course will provide an opportunity to review any ethical or practical dilemmas experienced.

Objective II: Students will learn the skills of a lawyer in mediation.

Method: Although the students will be functioning as mediators in this clinic, they will be observing the conduct of attorneys and evaluating this conduct in the classroom component and through individual discussions with the field placement supervisors and other mediators. In the classroom component students will identify conduct of attorneys that may have helped or hurt their client's issues. Ethical aspects of the attorneys conduct will also be reviewed.

Objective III: Students will learn the law of mediation in Florida.

Method: Although the students will have covered the law of mediation in their certification training or prerequisite course, the procedural and ethical laws discussed will come to life in this course. The students will observe challenges to procedural problems and resolve ethical conflicts they confront in their own cases through

consultation with the field placement supervisors, other mediators and fellow students. In the classroom component, the students will also discuss ethical and procedural issues that arise in the semester and compare the ethics rules for mediators with the rules for attorneys.

Objective IV: Students will learn the mechanics of a court-based mediation program.

Method: Although the students will primarily be involved in mediations, the students will also be exposed to the mechanics of requesting mediations, office procedures for assignments, courthouse procedures written and informal.

(These Objectives and Methods were approved by the Curriculum Committee on October 20, 1999 and approved by the full faculty on October 21, 1999. Revisions on September 30, 2003.)