

**Gator TeamChild Juvenile Law Clinic**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF**  
**LAW**  
**FALL, 2025 SYLLABUS – LAW 6940 – 3 CREDITS**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-11 AM

**MEETING TIME:** Thursdays 10 AM – 12 PM

**LOCATION:** Clinic Suite (meet in the UF Law Welcome Center office)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The Gator TeamChild Juvenile Law and Policy Clinic provides free legal services to children and gives students an opportunity to advocate for children regarding a broad spectrum of issues.

The Clinic provides representation primarily in dependency proceedings. Students are also placed in field placement sites including with attorneys affiliated with Partnership for Strong Families, Guardian ad Litem, and Children’s Legal Services.

The Clinic provides presentations to outside agencies, high school and university classes, and others interested in juvenile law. Students may be required to present on a variety of topics related to juvenile law during the semester.

The Clinic writes policy papers, white papers, and other documents aimed at informing young people, their families, and their communities about issues related to juvenile law and children’s rights. Students will be required to contribute to these written documents during the semester.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, students should know how to:

1. Understand the dependency and delinquency court system.
2. Interact with professionals from various agencies and in opposing positions.
3. Utilize law office case management systems.
4. Navigate systems embedded within various administrative agencies.
5. Speak and write about legal issues to various audiences including non-lawyers.

**REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:**

Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page

and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING EVALUATION:**

This course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. For Further information on current UF LAW grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Your grade will be based on written assignments, class participation, management of case assignments (see minimum case requirements below), quality of preparation and performance during class exercises and role plays and class attendance.

There is no final exam.

### **Journal Entries**

Beginning in the second week of the semester, you must submit a journal entry each month, reflecting on your experiences in the clinic over the previous weeks or on the legal system more broadly. Journal entries are due on the last day of each month by 11:59pm. Please submit these entries via Canvas.

Your entry should be between two and four double spaced pages.

Please write a few paragraphs each week, but only submit them on the monthly due date as one document. You have many choices on what to cover each week. Here are a few suggestions:

#### *Writing about work:*

It is helpful, but not required, to begin these entries with a brief description of what you did or saw in the previous month.

#### *Writing about law practice generally:*

If it's been a slow week at the office, or if something else in the news or in the class readings or in your life experience bearing on the legal system has grabbed your attention, please feel free to discuss these other matters. Again, the aim is to reflect on the legal system and children's lives. Within that realm, you are free to explore widely.

The purpose of maintaining your journal is to encourage you to comment on the legal system as you see it. Ask yourselves whether the system is working, whether the various players are doing their jobs, and whether children are getting a fair shake.

How could the system work better? What can you do to improve it, in your role? Do you like your role?

*Offering suggestions:*

These journal entries also may serve as a forum for you to provide suggestions about the clinic. You may note that you would prefer a different classroom focus; that you would like different kinds of cases; or that you are having difficulties and want extra guidance.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students are allowed two absences during the semester. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement will be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](#).

### **UF LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW STANDARD SYLLABUS POLICIES:**

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, and Course Evaluations can be found at this link: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files/74674656?wrap=1>.

### **CLASS RECORDINGS**

GTC is a legal live-client clinic and as such must adhere to the Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct. According to Rule 4-1.6, all information relating to a client's representation **is confidential** and may not be voluntarily disclosed by the lawyer without either the client's consent or the application of a relevant exception to the confidentiality rule. **Because client information is frequently discussed during class, GTC classes will not be recorded, and student recording of the classes is prohibited.**

Students may not take, circulate, or post photos or videos of classroom discussions, whether they are in-person, hybrid, or completely online. Students failing to follow this rule will be referred to the College of Law Honor Code Council and the University's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

### **ABA OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS REQUIREMENTS**

ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every "classroom hour" of in-class instruction. Since we hold case rounds or attend court in lieu of many classes, please plan on spending 175 hours per semester on our class. This includes class time, case rounds, reading for class, case work, court attendance, and any other event or project you are assigned by Professor Steinberg or your field placement supervisor.

You are required to keep track of this time and submit time sheets showing that you have completed approximately 10 hours of out of class/client/field placement work each week. If permitted by your field placement supervisor, this can include class preparation and other

assigned tasks associated with our class, however, field placement students must add additional out-of-class time for any time they are excused from class due to case rounds.

You are permitted to work ahead on your hours, but please ensure you do not fall more than one week behind on recording your assigned hours.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

This syllabus is offered as a guide to the direction of the course. Our pace will depend in part on our case load and the issues coming up in our cases.

All assignments and readings should be completed before class each week.

### **Clinic Swearing In Ceremony – January 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7 PM (HOL 180/Bailey Event Space)**

#### **Week One**

Read chapter one and two of *What Happened to You*, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey

Review:

Children in Court

[https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/215998/file/Floridas\\_Dependency\\_Benchbook\\_ChildrenInCourt.pdf](https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/215998/file/Floridas_Dependency_Benchbook_ChildrenInCourt.pdf)

Attorneys for Dependent Children with Special Needs

[https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/216029/file/Floridas\\_Dependency\\_Benchbook\\_AttorneysforDependentChildrenwithCertainSpecialNeeds.pdf](https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/216029/file/Floridas_Dependency_Benchbook_AttorneysforDependentChildrenwithCertainSpecialNeeds.pdf)

Acronyms

<https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/216049/file/acronyms.pdf>

Please also bookmark Florida Statutes Chapter 39, and if you can, skim the chapter. We will reference it often this semester. Please also bookmark the Dependency Benchbook. It will be a helpful resource this semester (Word and PDF version available here:

<https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Family-Courts/Family-Court-in-Florida/Dependency/Dependency-Benchbook>)

August 21<sup>st</sup>: Welcome to GTC, overview of clinic and dependency system

#### **Week Two**

Read chapter three and four of *What Happened to You*, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey

Review in-house GTC clinic memo, work with staff attorney Lindsay Hanson, Esq. to ensure you have access to CLIO, email, and clerk websites.

Read: Trauma Responsive Court Systems (written by Fall, 2024 GTC students)  
<https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-journal/trauma-responsive-court-systems-an-approach-for-attorneys-ad-litem/>

*Florida's Baker Act Laws: How Florida's Excessive Use of Baker Acts Can be Harmful to Children*, by Kaitlin Gibbs <https://scholarship.law.ufl.edu/gator-team-child/3/>

Ausut 28<sup>th</sup>: Case Rounds; Trauma Responsive Representation; White paper discussion

Begin submitting your student hours and Lindsay has instructed.

### **Week Three**

Read chapter four and five of *What Happened to You*, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey

Review: Delinquency Case Management Flowchart  
<https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/402738/file/Delinquency-Flowchart-2018.pdf>

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hearing at 1 PM – attendance is optional

September 4<sup>th</sup>: Case Rounds; How to Speak with a Child Client; Overview of Delinquency Law

### **Week Four**

Read chapter six and seven of *What Happened to You*, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey

Review this Delinquency Flowchart:  
<https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/402738/file/Delinquency-Flowchart-2018.pdf>

Assignment: Prepare questions for Magistrate Floyd (we will discuss the types of questions in court the week prior)

September 11<sup>th</sup>: Meet with Magistrate Floyd at the Alachua County Courthouse

September 12<sup>th</sup>: Submit case summary memos on KC and JSC

Case assignments will be provided this week. Plan to meet with the assigned caseworker, GAL case coordinator (copy the attorney when scheduling!), and the child within the next 10 days.

### **Week Five**

Read [ABA Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings](#)

Assignment: Prepare questions for Magistrate Baker (we will discuss the types of questions earlier in the month)

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Attend court in Alachua County, plan to stay for lunch (bring a lunch if you can) to meet with Magistrate Baker

### **Week Six**

Read chapter eight, nine, and epilogue of *What Happened to You*, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey

September 25: Case rounds

### **Week Seven**

Read: [Advocating for Children with Disabilities in Child Protection Cases](#), by Joshua Kay.

Russell v. APD, 929 So.2d 601 (2006)

October 2: No class; asynchronous learning material to be provided.

October 10: Submit research topic for white paper

### **Week Eight**

Read: Sharenting: Children's Privacy on Social Media, available at: <https://scholarship.law.ufl.edu/facultypub/779/>

Beyond Sharenting (article to be provided)

October 9: Case Rounds; be prepared to present on your case.

### **Week Nine**

October 16: TBA

### **Week Ten**

October 23<sup>th</sup> : case rounds

October 24<sup>th</sup>: Submit white paper draft

### **Week Eleven**

October 30<sup>th</sup>: Attend Court in Alachua County, plan to stay after court to meet with Magistrate Baker (bring questions)

**Week Twelve**

November 6<sup>th</sup>: Meet with Magistrate Floyd (bring questions)

**Week Thirteen**

November 13<sup>th</sup> – Attend Court in Alachua County; Clinic Capstone Class at noon