

Gator TeamChild Juvenile Law Clinic
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF
LAW
SPRING 2026 SYLLABUS – LAW 6940 – 3 CREDITS

Professor Stacey Steinberg
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Office Phone: 352.273.0800
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Office Hours: Thursdays 8 AM – 10 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:

What Happened to You, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey

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. 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 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?preview=98226140>.

UF ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

Other information about UF academic policies and resources can be found at [this link](#).

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 13th 5:30 – 7 PM (HOL 180/Bailey Event Space)

Week One (class on January 22)

Review:

Children in Court

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

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>)

Class: Welcome to GTC, overview of clinic and dependency system

Week Two (class on January 29)

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

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

Begin submitting your student hours and Lindsay has instructed.

1 hour webinar (register and watch live or register and watch recording)

Making and Changing Placements of Children in Chapter 39 Proceedings. Presented by Stephanie Zimmerman, BCS, Children's Legal Services Deputy Director & Statewide Director of Appeals.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87310627247?pwd=XmZGkVzwPMUKQlKd1Mq2oB3iM1JcXs.1>

Meeting ID: 873 1062 7247

Passcode: 281667

Week Three (class on February 5)

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

Guest Speaker -- Robin Rosenberg. Readings to be provided.

Week Four (class on February 12)

Read chapter five, six, and seven 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>

Week Five (NO CLASS THIS WEEK)

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

Watch Trauma Informed Lawyering: Best Practices when Working With Young Clients

<https://www.pli.edu/programs/representing-children-in-immigration-matters/448002>

Week Six (class on February 26)

Week Seven (class on March 5)

March 4th – GAL training (virtual)

Class – TBD (may be on Zoom as I am presenting elsewhere today)

Week Eight (class on March 12)

1 hour webinar (register and watch live or register and watch recording)

Dependency Path of a Case: Shelter to Permanency
Presented by Alicia Guerra, BCS, Vice-Chair

LNOCC/Dir. Legal Services GALO; Brittany Rutan, BCS,
Regional Legal Counsel GALO & Amber Speers, BCS
4th Circuit Judicial Staff Attorney.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87310627247?pwd=XmZGkVzwPMUKQIKd1Mq2oB3iM1JcXs.1>

Meeting ID: 873 1062 7247

Passcode: 281667

Guest Speaker – Professor Joy Gabrielli, PhD

Week Nine (NO CLASS THIS WEEK – Spring Break)

Week Ten (class on March 26)

Guest Speaker: Adele Harris, esq.

Week Eleven (class on April 2)

Group practice presentation

Week Twelve (class on April 9)

April 6th - Presentation at College of Education

Class – TBD

Tentative - April 10th at 10 AM – Presentation at College of Public Health and Health Professions

Week Thirteen (class on April 16)

Group practice presentation

Week Fourteen (class on April 23)

1 hour webinar (register and watch live or register and watch recording)

Appeals & Writs in Chapter 39 Proceedings.
Presented by Sara Goldfarb, Vice Chair Juvenile
Court Rules Committee & Guardian ad Litem
Office Director of Appeals.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85882348621?pwd=FPibYIKQZbO3V9EbPQIXdakQhVludy.1>

Meeting ID: 858 8234 8621

Passcode: 892544

PK Yonge Day: April 29th – please keep open if possible; let me know ASAP if you are not available!