

Education Advocacy Clinic

The Education Advocacy Clinic is the nation's first clinic specifically developed for undergraduate students in a BA in Law program. Clinic students gain direct experience in juvenile and family advocacy, working within one of several projects. During clinic seminars, student also have the opportunity to meet a variety of professionals, including judges, attorneys, social workers, juvenile probation officers, and non-profit leaders.

The role of students is comparable to that of junior staff in a legal services organization. Student work includes:

- Conducting intake and screening phone calls
- Researching court documents
- Meeting with members of the public to provide information and assistance
- Creating Know-Your-Rights materials

In past semesters, clinic students have assisted self-represented litigants with default family law matters, updated juvenile court template forms, and assisted juvenile probation, among other projects.

Projects Planned for Spring 2023

Education Advocacy Project

What's the project? This fall, the clinic launched the Education Advocacy Project (EAP), which serves parents and students in Tucson's public schools by providing information and support with special education and school discipline issues. Under state and federal law, students have important rights, but enforcing these rights and navigating the administrative structure of schools can be challenging. Students working with EAP may assist families by attending meetings with them and writing letters, as well as preparing and providing informational materials regarding education rights.

Destruction of Juvenile Records

What's the project? In Pima County, records of juvenile offenses are public, even after a young person has completed the requirements of the juvenile court and the case is over. As a result, it can be difficult for adults with juvenile records to find work or get housing. But under certain conditions, the juvenile court can order these records destroyed. Clinic students will help with the application for record destruction. Students may also conduct research and prepare informational materials regarding fines and fees for juvenile adjudications, as well as other related projects that arise. This clinic project partners with attorneys from the Pima County Public Defender, Juvenile Division.

Interested or have questions? Reach out to Diana Newmark, Clinic Director, at newmark@arizona.edu.