

## 2010 Geneva Law Clinic Information Meeting

### Overview

Practical skills and professional experience are significant assets for graduate law students, in particular to those who have come to Geneva to specialize in international humanitarian law and human rights law. Yet the link between academic and professional skills is not always catered through the traditional academic structure. In response to this gap and the unique nature of Geneva as the humanitarian capital of the world, the Geneva Law Clinic in International Law was launched in November 2009. The programme is geared towards the development of relevant practical and professional skills.

### General Structure

The Geneva Law Clinic will comprise of between 15 and 20 students from ADH, UNIGE and IHEID.

The Geneva Law Clinic of 2010-2011 will run for two semesters and will amount to a full regular course: 6 credits.

The first semester will compromise mainly of a series of skills sessions, whereas the second semester will primarily deal with the drafting and submission of a legal memo.

The group will be divided into two groups, one working on a legal brief for the defence counsel at the ICTY and STL, while the second group will be submit a petition on behalf on a victims of serious human rights abuses for TRIAL.

#### *Semester One*

Once the students have been selected the first class will start on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

The first 3 to 4 sessions will be for *all* law clinic students and will cover general skills. Following these opening sessions the Law Clinic group will be divided into those working on the research for the Defense Council of the STL and ICTY, and those working on human rights advocacy for TRIAL.

Preliminary/Draft Schedule (Please note that the sessions listed are subject to change)

Law Clinic Group Skills Sessions	
Oral Presentation	
Fact to law application	
Legal Drafting	
Human Rights Skills Sessions	International Criminal Law Skills Sessions
How to submit individual communications before human rights bodies	Art of cross examination
Challenges of dealing with victims of serious human rights abuses	Case law analysis
Dealing with gender based violence	Drafting of legal memos
Lecture on the specific human rights violations to be dealt with in work for TRIAL.	Several lectures on ICL and PIL specific to the topic of the memo to be submitted to the Defence Council.

Therefore in your application you **must state your preference** for either human rights or international criminal law. **Please note that if you are students from the Graduate Institute or UNIGE you may only select the international criminal law session.**

## *Semester Two*

Some skill sessions will also be run in the second semester but the main focus will be on drafting and writing the legal memos for the Defense Council or TRIAL (dependent on your group assignment). Each group will be divided into two sub groups (based on language preference).

### **Timetable**

There are officially 2 hours dedicated to the law clinic every week between 12.00 and 14.00. However any student wishing to take part in the law clinic must be able to regularly attend Law Clinic sessions on Thursday, Friday or Saturday mornings. Flexibility is crucial due to the involvement of Professionals and the need for longer four hour sessions.

### **Attendance**

All students selected must attend a minimum of 90% of their assigned Law Clinic sessions and meetings. This only applies to the skills sessions relevant to your assignment, i.e. those working for TRIAL will only have to attend the general sessions and then the human rights skill sessions.

Only students who are able to commit and dedicate the necessary time to the Law Clinic should apply.

### **Application**

Only students who meet the following criteria should apply:

- Excellent command of English or French, and at least passive knowledge of the other language.
- Ability to work and function effectively within a team
- Ability to work independently
- Have excellent analytical and drafting skills
- Strong interest in the fields of international humanitarian law, human rights law, public international law and international criminal law.
- Ability to work to strict deadlines
- Ability to effectively handle pressure and stress
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Commitment and passion to the work of the Law Clinic

In your meet the above criteria please send your CV and letter of motivation (illustrating how you meet the criteria as stated above) to the following email address: [lawclinic@adh-geneve.ch](mailto:lawclinic@adh-geneve.ch)

Deadline:

- For ADH and GI students the deadline for your application is **Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September at 5.00pm**
- For UNIGE students the deadline for your application is **Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> at 5.00pm**

Application Check List

- Please state your preference of working for TRIAL **or** for the Defense Council (ADH students only)
- Preferred working language
- Letter of motivation
- CV (Please only state experience relevant to the criteria)

### **Grading**

Students taking part in the law clinic from ADH and UNIGE will be given a pass or fail grade.

Students of the Graduate Institute will be given a grade from 0 to 6 (as per all other Academic classes).

**N.B. All GI students must ONLY register for the second semester of the law clinic (for administrative purposes) but must come to all required classes in the first semester.**