



“The Law Center provides students with invaluable practical experience. No amount of time in the classroom can teach the art of interacting with clients, opposing counsel and the courts. The Law Center does this. While much of the reward comes from developing practical skills as an attorney, the experience is enhanced by working for clients who truly need the help and working with a friendly and dedicated staff.”

-- Jeffrey Curl, 3L, Workers' Compensation Practice



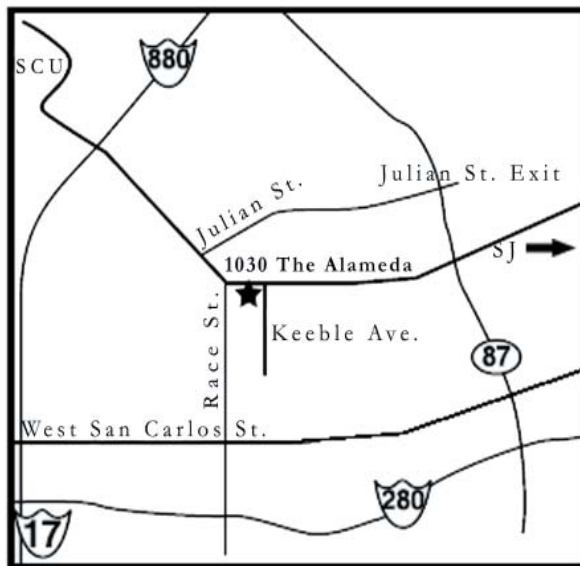
“Participating in the Consumer practice area has been rewarding on many levels...with all the classroom theory its easy to forget why we came to law school. Clinical work puts the theory into practice, and helping clients attain some level of relief and peace-of-mind is both satisfying and humbling. Scott Maurer allows you to take charge of the case but gives enough guidance to help you stay focused and effective. Clinical work is the missing piece of the law school puzzle.”

-- Vivian Ware, 3L, Consumer Practice



“Working in the Law Center's Immigration practice area and with my clients has helped me gain confidence. Because the law school experience is very competitive, any activity within the law school that encourages students to use practical skills, help real people and grow more assured at the same time is very rewarding. Working with the clients, the

staff and the attorneys at the clinic has convinced me that I belong in law school and will belong as an attorney. The professional working environment of the clinic far outshines that of the large private law firm I worked at before law school.” -- Sue Lake, 3L, Immigration Practice



Directions to the Law Center from SCU:

- » Take The Alameda towards downtown San José
- » Drive for about 2 miles
- » The Law Center is on the corner of The Alameda and Keeble Avenue (across from Kragen Auto Parts)
- » Parking is scarce and you are encouraged to carpool or take the #22 bus. There is some two-hour street parking.

Parking on Keeble, across the Alameda, is unlimited.

For additional information about the Law Center or any of its clinics and programs, please contact any of the following individuals:

- Angelo Ancheta, Director (effective May 2005)
(aancheta@scu.edu)
- Scott Maurer, Consumer Practice
(smaurer@scu.edu)
- Lynette Parker, Immigration Practice
(lparker@scu.edu)
- Susan Levin, Worker's Comp Practice
(slevin@scu.edu)
- Margarita P. Alvarez, Workers' Rights Practice
(mpalvarez@scu.edu)

The Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center



CIVIL CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Making a Difference in our Community



1030 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126
Phone (408) 288-7030
<http://www.scu.edu/law/kgaclc>



Our Mission

The Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center educates law students in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards by serving individuals and communities in need with competence, conscience and compassion, through pro bono legal representation and education.

A time to learn, to help, to grow...

At the KGACLC, you can make a difference in people's lives. Under the supervision of experienced attorneys, you can apply your knowledge of the law to help the most under-represented members of our community.

- » Manage cases for actual clients
- » Earn units for your work
- » Utilize your foreign language skills (not required)
- » Know that you do make a difference !

Employment/Workers' Compensation Law

You may represent low-income workers seeking unpaid overtime and minimum wages, unemployment benefits, and workers' compensation benefits in administrative agency hearings or in court. During the advice clinic, you counsel workers regarding all employment matters.

Consumer/Debtors' Rights

You may handle cases involving auto fraud, unfair credit and debt collection practices, unfair business practices, and other consumer matters. During the advice clinics, you counsel clients in all aspects of consumer law.

Immigration Rights

You may represent low-income clients in political asylum cases and in deportation proceedings. You may assist immigrant victims of domestic violence with self-petitions for lawful residency and assist abandoned immigrant children in obtaining residency. You counsel individuals in all aspects of immigration law during the advice clinics.

A sample case:

Ms. R. was employed by a well-known restaurant chain when she slipped and fell in the kitchen. Her employer refused to report the claim to its insurance carrier or to submit her medical bills for payment. As a result, Ms. R.'s credit was negatively impacted. Ms. R. came to the Law Center as a last resort for relief.

A Law Center student submitted the medical bills to the insurance carrier and entered into settlement negotiations with it. The next semester, another student appeared before a Workers' Compensation judge and got a settlement approved. The client was properly compensated, thanks to the perseverance and professionalism of the students.

A sample case:

Mr. J. and his father-in-law, Mr. S., were Spanish-speaking immigrants who were deceived by a local car dealership. The dealership had induced these recent immigrant consumers into signing a contract to pay over \$72,000 for a used pickup truck. The contract also required the consumers to pay \$500 for an insurance policy that was never issued to them.

Shortly after the contract was signed, a Law Center student wrote a demand letter to the dealership. The letter motivated the dealership to enter into negotiations via its insurance carrier. Another Law Center student reached a settlement with the insurance company in the amount of \$10,868.17. The insurance company then backed out of the settlement, claiming the adjuster lacked authority. The students drafted a complaint, filed suit, and handled all the discovery in the case. In the end, the students negotiated the final settlement in favor of the clients for \$25,000.

A sample case:

Ms. E. was 17 years old when she and a younger brother were trafficked into the United States with promises that they could go to school and learn English. Instead, her traffickers put her to work in their home. Among many other tasks, she had to cook, clean, wash clothes and care for children approximately 20 hours a day. She was not paid and was threatened and beaten when she did not perform the work to her traffickers' satisfaction. Her traffickers held her passport.

She and her brother were often prohibited from leaving the house and were occasionally denied food. She was totally unfamiliar with the United States and was completely unaware that any services were available to her. With the help of Law Center students, Ms. E. applied for a T-visa as a victim of trafficking. Immigration approved her petition and granted her work authorization. She is now eligible for services and benefits through the Department of Health and Human Services. All of this would not have been possible without the tenacity, compassion, and dedication of the students.