Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate with an Emphasis in Consumer Law

2014-15 Academic Year

Course Requirements, Faculty, and Forms
F. PUBLIC INTEREST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW CERTIFICATE WITH EMPHASIS IN CONSUMER LAW

This certificate is appropriate for students who wish to practice in the area of consumer protection law. Students earning this certificate must complete the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate requirements, outlined above, for writing requirement, practicum, and community service. The course work requirement is set out below. This certificate requires a 16 unit minimum. Enrollment in the Certificate with Emphasis in Consumer Law may be limited so students are urged to file the Notice of Intent and Request for Advising (Section K.(1)) as early as possible.

1. Required Core Courses (10 units)
   a. Consumer Protection (Law 231)
   b. Either Public Interest and Social Justice Practice (Law 408) or Law and Social Justice (Law 268). The student’s course project should focus on a consumer law case or issue ¹.
   c. At least four units must come from one or both of the following classes:
      - Clinic: KGACLC Community Law Practice: Consumer Law Practice (Law 511)
      - Clinic: KGACLC Community Law Practice: Consumer and Debtors’ Rights Interviewing and Advising (Law 468)

2. Additional Course Requirement (6 units)²
   Students should select at least six units from among the following courses:
   - Advanced Clinical at KGACLC – Consumer Practice (Law 481)
   - California Civil Procedure (Law 504)
   - Advanced Trial Techniques (Law 331)
   - Commercial Transactions (Law 225)
   - Debtors & Creditors’ Rights (Law 260)
   - Consumer Law Practice Mini-Course: Fair Debt Collection (Law 265), or any other consumer mini-course

[continued on next page]

¹ While the Center for Social Justice and Public Service strongly recommends that students take one of these courses, students may substitute a clinical or other advanced course in consumer law for this requirement with approval from the Academic Director of the Center for Social Justice and Public Service.

² Please note that each course is not necessarily offered each year.
2. Additional Course Requirement (cont.’d)

Insurance Law (Law 262)
Moot Court (Law 398)
Negotiating (Law 327)
Pretrial Litigation Techniques (Law 791)
Trial Techniques (Law 325)

3. Advisors
Each student who is interested in receiving the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate with Emphasis in Consumer Law should contact the Center for Social Justice and Public Service by filing the Notice of Intent and Request for Advising (Section K.(1)). The Center will arrange a consumer law advisor to help the student plan courses and other activities that will facilitate practicing consumer law and to advise students about career opportunities as well as other aspects related to preparation for practicing consumer law.

All students who sign up for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate with Emphasis in Consumer Law will be given the opportunity, if possible, to attend the annual National Consumer Law Center-National Association of Consumer Advocates conference held each fall.

4. Faculty

Scott Maurer worked for the New York Legislature and a homeless project before deciding to go to law school. He was in the first class of students working at the Community Law Center. Following graduation with honors from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1995, Scott handled consumer trainings and placements of consumer cases with volunteer attorneys for the Pro Bono Project of Santa Clara County. During law school Scott worked for the Pro Bono Project representing low-income persons in Social Security disability hearings. Since 1996 Scott has supervised consumer cases at the Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center. In partnership with the Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley, he recently implemented the Center’s Debtors’ Rights Clinic, providing advice regarding credit and debt problems at drop-in clinics. Scott also supervises the Fringe Banking Education Project to address problems with check cashing outlets in low-income neighborhoods. He speaks Spanish.
Gary Neustadter specializes in law relating to financial difficulties of individuals, including the rights of individual debtors under state law, consumer bankruptcy law, and Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. His articles include “Consumer Insolvency Counseling for Californians in the 1980’s,” “The New California Exemptions in Bankruptcy: A Constitutional Reprise,” “When Lawyer and Client Meet: Observations of Interviewing and Counseling Behavior in the Consumer Bankruptcy Law Office,” and “2001 and Counting: A Consumer Bankruptcy Odyssey” (forthcoming). He has also created electronic casebooks for his courses in Contracts and UCC Article 9. He has counseled debtors concerning their financial difficulties both through the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County and the East San Jose Community Law Center. He has served as Chair of the AALS Section of Debtors’ and Creditors’ Rights, on the California State Bar Committee on Debtors’ and Creditors’ Rights, and regularly participates in continuing education for lawyers concerning debtors’ and creditors’ rights. He serves as the Law School’s faculty representative on the East San Jose Community Law Center Advisory Board.

Eric Wright is a specialist in consumer problems and consumer financial service, viewing these issues particularly from the perspective of low income clients. He helped form and works with the Consumer Law Project of East San José Community Law Center. He was the guest editor for an issue of The Consumer Advocate on Teaching Consumer Law in Law School. He also wrote an article for the issue, featuring the East San José Community Law Center’s Consumer Law Clinic. He organized and chaired the first session on teaching Consumer Law at the Annual National Association of Consumer Advocates and helped to organize the first law school Conference on Teaching Consumer Law. He worked on a number of consumer cases in connection with the Consumer Law Project at the East San José Community Law Center, receiving significant rulings on both mandatory arbitration and Truth-in-Lending issues. One case authorized distribution of over $120,000 in cy pres funds for consumer education. Through those funds, he started an anti-predatory lending project and a Fair Debt Collection Practice course, open to both law students and consumer attorneys. He received (with Nancy Wright) the Public Interest and Social Justice Achievement Award.
### SECTION K.(1)

**NOTICE OF INTENT AND REQUEST FOR ADVISING:**

**PUBLIC INTEREST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW CERTIFICATE**

**Recommended Submission:** Jan. 20 of Second Year of Residency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (please print)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>Expected Law School Graduation Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Time or Full Time?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Please state your educational goals within the certificate.**

2. **Please indicate if you wish to pursue a Certificate with Emphasis in Consumer Law, Criminal Justice, Critical Race Jurisprudence, Health Law, or Immigration and Refugee Law.**

3. **I would like to request a faculty advisor for the following area(s) of interest:**

4. **I am interested in the following courses:**

---

Santa Clara University School of Law

5
APPLICATION FOR AWARD: 
PUBLIC INTEREST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW CERTIFICATE
CONSUMER LAW EMPHASIS

Due Dates: November 10, 2014 (Dec. grads) and February 9, 2015 (May grads)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME as it should appear on your certificate (please print)</th>
<th>Student ID Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Mailing Address</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Law School Graduation Date</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ACADEMIC COURSE WORK REQUIREMENT: Students must take a minimum of 16 units. Please list your courses below, including the course number, name, number of units, and whether it is a Required Core Course (RCC, 10 units) or Additional Required Course (ARC, 6 units).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Number of Units</th>
<th>RCC/ARC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Number of Units

2. ACADEMIC WRITING REQUIREMENT: A student must complete a substantial written work on a public interest or social justice law topic. Papers, briefs, motions, or projects in conjunction with course work, directed research, or a journal article may qualify as a substantial written work. A supervising professor must sign this Application for Award form to verify completion of the writing requirement and to certify that the student has the ability to express ideas and to communicate in writing.

Complete Title of Paper Submitted to satisfy Writing Requirement. You must submit a clean copy of qualifying paper and an executed Library Release form to the Center for Social Justice and Public Service with this form. Projects being completed during the final semester in residence require the supervising professor’s signature with the date of expected submission of the project. The project must be submitted when completed.

Final Paper Approval
Signature of Faculty Supervisor Date:

3. PRACTICUM: Students must complete 150 hours of supervised legal work in a public interest/social justice organization, government office, or in a judicial externship (see practicum B(2) for elaboration. The work can be paid, volunteer, or for unit credit. However, these hours must be distinct from the 50 hours of volunteer work also required for this certificate. These hours must also be distinct from the 50 hours of volunteer work required for the Pro Bono Recognition Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Total # of Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supervisor
Title Phone

Supervisor’s Signature Date
4. PUBLIC SERVICE: Students must complete 50 hours of on-campus or community volunteer work promoting public interest and social justice as defined by the Pro Bono Recognition Program. The hours cannot be paid or for unit credit. The work may be law-related, but need not be. Work as an officer or active member of a campus student organization may NOT count toward fulfillment of this requirement.

1 Students may use hours that overlap with hours submitted for the Pro Bono Recognition Program only if they are completed in one year.
2 www.scu.edu/law/careers/pro-bono-recognition-program.cfm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Total # of Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Assignments Received</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor’s Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **STUDENT SIGNATURE**: I hereby apply for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate. My completion of requirements includes the following: I declare that the statements in this application are true and accurate. I further declare that to the best of my knowledge, I have satisfied all of the requirements for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate.

| Signature: | Date: |
Library Release Form

______ I release my paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate to the Santa Clara University School of Law Public Interest and Social Justice Law Program and the Heafey Law Library for the purposes of becoming a library holding. I recognize that my submission may be kept by the library in either hard-copy or digital format and stored in the library’s digital repository.

______ I do not release my paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate to the Santa Clara University School of Law Public Interest and Social Justice Law Program and Heafey Law Library for the purposes of becoming a library holding.

________________________
Printed name

________________________
Signature Date

Please complete this form, attach it to a copy of your approved Public Interest & Social Justice Law Certificate Written Work, and submit it to the Center for Social Justice and Public Service, Bannan Hall, Room 301F, 500 El Camino Real.
Contact Information

Center for Social Justice and Public Service
Bannan Hall, Room 301F
500 El Camino Real
408-551-1720 (phone)
408-554-5073 (fax)
socialjustice@scu.edu

Mailing address:
Center for Social Justice and Public Service
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0425

Director
Deborah Moss-West
408-554-2766 (office)
dmosswest@scu.edu

Academic Director
Professor Margalynne Armstrong
408-554-4778 (office)
marmstrong@scu.edu

Administrative Support
Katie Wampler
408-554-4443 (office)
kwampler@scu.edu