San José State University College of Social Sciences / Justice Studies Department

Justice Studies 140: RCP Practical Legal Skills – Spring 2022

Judy Randle and Margaret (Peggy) Stevenson Judy (510) 325-5182 and Peggy (650) 248-7067

Judith.randle@sjsu.edu and Margaret.stevenson@sjsu.edu

Judy: TBD

Peggy: Tu / Thu 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and by arrangement

Zoom link:

https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84100292372?pwd=ckVja2NDbGVITXhkdEdtU3IwOWo0QT09

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Until 2.15, via zoom only at:

https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/85155362477?pwd=Rk5Hb3IjVHIaL0NuMnRtVURH0ENZZz09

On 2.15 and following: in-person: MacQuarrie Hall 324

E - Experiential learning

Catalog Description

RCP teaches students to give community education presentations and advise clients regarding court procedures to clear criminal convictions. Students learn legal interviewing, counseling, ethics, reading rap sheets, performing legal research and writing, the mechanics of court interpreting and related skills.

This is a service-learning course in that students (under attorney supervision) provide valuable legal information regarding expungement law and procedure to community groups through presentations and individual advice sessions. Following their community service, students reflect on their experiences as a group and in writing. Grading includes an evaluation of students' abilities to integrate the learning derived from service.

Course Description

Students taking this course gain the legal skills necessary to help eligible individuals prepare petitions to clear their criminal convictions. These skills are applicable in other legal settings as well. Completion of this course is a prerequisite to the RCP internship courses (JS 141 and 142) in which students directly assist clients. (Note that admission into JS 141 and JS 142 is **not guaranteed** upon completion of JS 140, but is by permission of the instructor only. Usually the decision as to whether a student is admitted to complete an internship is made only after the submission of the last course assignment, a mock petition such as internship students prepare for clients. Thus, students are encouraged to locate alternative internship placements, particularly if the internship is needed for graduation in the upcoming semester.)

We post confidential client information on the course website as well. You must attach your sjsu.edu email to Canvas. This is required by the SJSU campus internet security team to assure that all information stays within the SJSU domain.

We send out Announcements via Canvas, so please check your sjsu.edu email frequently.

Course Requirements and Assignments

This class involves professional interaction with real people – and attendant responsibilities. Students who do not consistently meet the serious and important course requirements that assure the ethically required legal competence and professionalism, are asked to leave the class without receiving credit for any work performed. This may happen at any time in the semester when it appears that a student is unable for whatever reason to meet class requirements. Therefore, it is particularly important that students meet requirements and understand the heightened risk in JS 140 of not receiving credit for work done that is involved in this class.

Class and assignments. Attending all classes is fundamental to meeting course objectives in JS 140. See University policy F15-12 (at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) regarding the expectation that students will attend all meetings for the class. In class, students practice legal skills as outlined in the course schedule.

In JS 140, students must complete reading assignments before class; participate in training, in 273.63W*nBT4ET**B**T912 0 612/F1 12 asT6(s)-6zi seasTd ethcipaUemes J6(s)o(pus)-6(-6(t)7(ude;d a)-13(l)(r

After you attend each workshop, submit a workshop write-up to Judy through Canvas or to Peggy via email (Margaret.stevenson@sjsu.edu), depending on which section you are enrolled in. The write-up should state

(1) when you attended, (2) what you did well at the workshop, and (3) where – if at all - you feel the workshop helped you improve.

Include the <u>details</u> that you learned, not just a summary. For example, don't write, "I learned what a wobbler felony is." Instead write: "I practiced determining whether a felony was a wobbler by looking up whether it could be sentenced to either jail or prison or jail or 1170(h)," and adding more detail. This enables us to see whether indeed you understand and whether there is any confusion to clear up. It also reinforces to you what you learned and did, by writing it clearly. (CLOs 1-4)

Community education presentations. Each student will be part of a team that presents information to community groups regarding how to dismiss eligible convictions, and the services of the SJSU RCP. A former client will participate as a motivational speaker; Peggy will attend all presentations, all of which will be online this semester.

Preparation:

You will sign up for your preferred times / locations for a workshop – check schedule for deadline.

We will assign teams of three students to each presentation.

An advanced student will be assigned to each team to help you prepare.

You will have a workshop session to help prepare as well.

You will schedule and present portions of your presentation to Peggy.

Please confer with your team and send Peggy your available times <u>at least one week in advance</u> of your presentation. If you are not ready to present, then we will ask you to observe and present at another time (assuming time remains in the semester). If you (CLOs 1, 3)

We do not have staff to follow up with you if you do not sign up. Students who do not comply with these scheduling and presentation requirements will not be eligible to participate in RCP as an advanced student.

Speed Screenings are sessions of individual interviews with clients during which students (under attorney supervision), review clients' RAP sheets to determine which convictions are eligible to be dismissed and advise clients regarding their next steps in the expungement process.

RCP students

In-class exercises. We have several in-class exercises, such as mock interviews and practice community education presentations. Most exercises require reading and preparation for the exercise ahead of time; please do so thoroughly. Obviously, you need to attend the session to participate in these exercises. (CLOs 1-4)

Homework assignments. Homework assignments are short, open-book, online exercises designed to demonstrate mastery of a specific topic. They are located in the "Quizzes" folder on Canvas. Complete them by the date listed on the syllabus. Late assignments are not accepted unless you notify us promptly regarding situations like medical and family emergencies that reflect a good reason for the inability to complete the work on time.

Written assignments. There are two written assignments for class: a Speed Screening client profile and a mock record clearance petition described below. (CLOs 1-4). Turn these assignments in by the due dates. Please keep a copy in case of loss.

Speed Screening client profile. The Speed Screening client profile is a roughly four-page description of one or more people you interviewed at a Speed Screening. The goal of this assignment is to encourage reflection on the process of your legal interview. Among things you might write about are: how the person corresponds to the profile of other RCP participants we have seen or read about, how effectively (or not) the law provides a remedy for the client's situation. What were your impressions of the client and interview? Was there anything surprising regarding the person? What went well in your interview? What will you improve on next time, if anything? How well prepared for the interview did you fe00912 07(e)7(nt.7 Tm0[(i)7(nt)7(e)7(rvi)-13(e)q0.00000eF 0 0h(e)7(rvi)-13(e)q)7(e)

Academic integrity. SJSU Academic Integrity Policy ______ provides definitions of cheating and plagiarism. Please take this seriously. **We report all incidents of suspected violation,** in accordance with the policy:

Faculty members are required to report all alleged violations of the Academic Integrity Policy to Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) [will result in] an Academic Sanction and administrative sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that San José State's Academic Integrity Policy requires approval of instructors.

Justice Studies reading and writing philosophy

It is departmental policy to include the following paragraph in every JS course syllabus: The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.