

## **CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM GOALS**

The following are the general clinical education program goals of the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), although each practice group will have additional goals and expectations. In the course of working at EBCLC, we anticipate that you will have the opportunity to work toward achieving most, if not all, of these goals. These goals are not listed in order of priority, but reflect the broad range of purposes we hope to accomplish at EBCLC. Please review them and consider what other goals you wish to accomplish during the semester.

Your first written reflection piece in the clinic will be to write down your learning goals for the semester. You and your supervisor will refer back to these goals, informally throughout the semester, and more formally at the mid-semester evaluation and final review.

### **A. Learning to think strategically about complex, unstructured problems and choose appropriate action alternatives**

At EBCLC, you will learn how to analyze complex, immediate and evolving legal issues that are impacting clients and client communities. Analysis of these issues involves working with clients and community partners to identify issues, and objectives, explore multiple paths to achieving those objectives, and implement the chosen actions.

### **B. Learning cross-cultural advocacy skills**

In both the clinic and seminar, we will discuss the continuing role of race, class, and culture in poverty and law. We will work to identify the cognitive, affective and behavioral components of cultural awareness, and tools for effective cross-cultural advocacy.

### **C. Learning case management**

In direct service units (Health, Income Support, Clean Slate, and Housing), you carry a manageable caseload of client cases, and are primarily responsible for those cases under the supervision of an attorney. You are expected to learn how to make case management decisions and prioritize cases and tasks according to needs and resources. In our group representation/collaboration practice group (Economic Justice), you are expected to learn how to manage your projects in a team setting.

### **D. Learning to learn from experience**

EBCLC supervisors and instructors in both the clinic and seminar will provide ample opportunity to help you develop mechanisms to interpret your work as legal advocates. Through formal and informal feedback from supervisors, and by encouraging self-evaluation, you will work on reviewing, reflecting on, and evaluating your own performance. By learning to learn from your experiences, you will develop tools that will allow you to continue this type of professional self-training throughout your careers.

**E. Understanding the relationship between theory and practice**

Poverty law work involves advocacy on behalf of people who are confronted with oppressive systems, difficult choices, and often- overwhelming conditions. You will be faced with the task of applying theoretical legal and political options and strategies to immediate challenges where the stakes are high. The relation between theory and practice will come to life as you work materially to improve the lives of your clients and client communities.

**F. Recognizing and resolving issues of professional role(s) and responsibilities**

In your work at EBCLC, you will experience firsthand many of the same ethical and professional issues as would a practicing lawyer. Students may be confronted with resolving ethical and moral dilemmas that arise in their casework, i.e., to whom do you owe a duty of care, who is the client, and to whom is the advocate responsible? EBCLC staff will explore these and similar issues with you and help you develop a framework in which to resolve ethical conflicts.

**G. Learning a new areas of law**

You will be exposed to a variety of substantive legal areas in one of our five practice groups, and you will learn how to serve clients and client communities on these issues. However, you will also become familiar with the work of other practice groups through group trainings, presentations, and cross-practice group collaborations.

**H. Skills training (persuasive expression)**

In each of the practice groups, you will gain experience and expertise in persuasive written and/or oral expression through your work at EBCLC. Although the forum, issues, medium, and strategies vary by practice group, there is an opportunity in each to hone your advocacy skills.

**Learning Goals Memo Assignment:**

Review the Clinical Education Program Goals carefully. Write a short memo (approx. 2-3 pages, double-spaced) regarding the goals you wish to achieve in your clinical experience. You should refer to the Clinical Education Program Goals, as well as your own experience, goals, and expectations. You should discuss these learning goals with your supervisor early in the semester, as well as referring back to them at the mid-semester and final evaluations. **This assignment is due Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:20 p.m.**