

GENERAL PRACTICUM SYLLABUS

cvdeal@hamline.edu

Professor Cathryn Deal (preferred)

651-523-2352 (secondary)

Class objectives:

Student in this Practicum will have very specific yet widely varied types of placement locations. Guided reflections on the role of the attorney and the development of lawyering skills are therefore a key part of the classes, rather than discussion of specific topics of law. In this class students will fine-tune and reflect upon their problem-solving skills, engage in interaction with busy attorneys and non-attorneys, develop networking skills, explore career interests, improve time management abilities, and evaluate professional responsibility obligations in a real world context.

Class schedule:

This class will meet online on TWEN, once all students enrolled have begun field work tasks at their placement. There are no on-site class meetings at HUSL. All enrolled students must Add this course on TWEN immediately upon registration with HUSL for the course. Assignments will require both individual and group communications; participation in both is required for course credit. Students are encouraged to bring questions and issues of interest into the discussions.

Because the subject matter of your placement activities varies widely, our classroom discussions will focus on commonalities of professional responsibility in today's law practice. Anticipated topics include:

- 1) Developing observation skills. Who are your role models in your workplace? In what ways do they exhibit effective problem-solving and relationship skills?
- 2) Keeping client confidentiality. What types of sensitive information and communications exist in your office? In what situations do you have to be especially vigilant to avoid inappropriate disclosure of confidential information?
- 3) Making your voice heard. In a busy law office, how do you make yourself a useful and valued presence? How do you make sure that your colleagues answer your questions and give you needed feedback?
- 4) Using technology effectively. In what ways does your office utilize modern technology? In what ways could it do so better?
- 5) Managing time and duties. How do you accomplish assigned tasks most efficiently? What are some barriers to doing so? How do you balance work time and personal time effectively?
- 6) Positioning your law work in context. What value do you see in your own and your office's legal work in assisting your clients and the public?