Street Law Clinic

Julia Gold, Senior Lecturer of Law
Director, Street Law and Mediation Clinics

Type of Work

The Street Law Clinic offers law students the opportunity to educate young people about our legal system and democratic form of government.

Student teams are placed in a Seattle School District high school classrooms for one semester, and teach twice weekly. The goals of the clinic are to:

- Provide law students with an opportunity to apply and refine lawyering skills, including communicating with a large audience, organizing their thoughts, directing the flow of ideas, answering wide-ranging questions, and articulating legal arguments;

- Develop an appreciation for the multi-faceted role and responsibilities of the lawyer in the community; to sensitize law students to sources and resolutions of community legal problems, particularly for youth;

- Practice time management and planning, through lesson planning, and classroom management; and

- Prepare for the Washington Bar exam.

In Winter-Spring 2012 law students taught in the following Seattle high schools: Chief Sealth, Garfield (two classes), Nathan Hale, Rainier Beach (two classes), and Roosevelt (two classes).

Clinic Numbers

- Quarters Offered: 2 (Winter and Spring)
- Credits: 8 (4 per quarter)
- Students: 16

Notable Accomplishments

- Students from five Seattle high schools conducted seven mock trials at William H. Gates Hall during the weeks of May 7, and 14, 2012.

- Fourteen lawyers from the community served as volunteer trial judges and attorney evaluators for our mock trials. We owe a special debit of gratitude to the Snohomish County Public Defender’s office, whose attorneys are our most faithful volunteers!

- Street Law students wrote Model Lesson Plans, the best of which are posted on the UW Law Clinics website. The Model Lesson Plans pages are among the most popular of our clinic webpages, and teachers and law students from across the United States have commented on the usefulness of this resource. To see the webpages, go to: http://www.law.washington.edu/Clinics/Streetlaw/lessons.aspx

Faculty Update

Prof. Julia Gold has been teaching Street Law since 1989. In addition to directing the Street Law Clinic, she is director of the Mediation Clinic and teaches alternative dispute resolution and negotiation courses, as well as co-teaching the Mediation Skills CLEs at UW Law. Prof. Gold also conducts mediation and conflict resolution training nationally.

She is involved with numerous public service-oriented entities, including the Executive Committee of the Council on Public Legal Education (a committee of the Access to Justice Board) and the Board of the King County Dispute Resolution Center. The annual Northwest Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference is co-chaired by Prof. Gold.