UMKC SCHOOL LAW ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION Fall 2012

COURSE NAME: Child & Family Services Clinic

COURSE NUMBER: 8752S

PROFESSOR: Mary Kay O’Malley

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Rule 13 Certification (A student must have completed 46 credit hours to receive Rule 13 Certification.)

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Family Law

COURSE BOOKS: N/A

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Pass/Fail

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The UMKC Child & Family Services Clinic (“Clinic”) is an in-house clinical course offering law students practical learning opportunities while providing quality legal representation for parents or custodians needing assistance to obtain custodial orders and achieve permanency for children. Clinic functions as a “law firm” within the law school and provides litigation experience for all participating students.

COURSE CONTENT: This is a 2 semester course. In addition to studying Missouri specific family law statutes and rules, Clinic students will learn about Missouri’s child protection system and the juvenile court.
RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES

In this clinic law students have the opportunity to establish an attorney-client relationship and practice all the skills they will need to be successful practitioners. The student attorneys enter into employment agreements with clients, conduct factual investigations, develop case strategies, prepare written discovery, study relevant substantive and procedural law, draft and file pleadings, prepare witnesses and present evidence in actual court hearings. Students also have an opportunity to learn what happens after the hearing by advising clients of relevant appeal issues and timeframes, taking steps to effectuate the court’s orders (eg. income assignments for child support), preparing proposed judgments and sending closing letters with case documents to their clients.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Participation in the Clinic will help students evaluate and improve their progress in the following essential lawyering skills:

- Oral Communication
- Written Communication
- Professional Judgment
- Practice Management
- Professional Ethics
- Work Habits
- Research/Analysis