

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: EXTERNSHIPS 7: DEADLINE: October 18, 2013

Externships 7

Scaling New Heights: Field Placements and the Reform of Legal Education

The Organizing Committee for Externships 7 invites proposals for the seventh national and international conference on legal externships. The Conference will occur from February 27 – March 2, 2014, hosted by the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, in Denver, Colorado.

The conference focuses on the role of field placements in reforming legal education. The momentum for reform has increased in recent years, spurred by the Carnegie and Best Practices initiatives and changes in the market for new law graduates. The call for “practice-ready” law graduates has come while schools have struggled to define that goal in an era of scarce resources.

At the same time, the number and diversity of field placement programs has expanded rapidly. Externship programs work at the cutting edge of the reform of legal education, offering programmatic and pedagogical pathways to alter how law schools pursue their mission. The Organizing Committee seeks proposals that explore how field placement programs might advance the cause of reform, through distinctive pedagogies, thoughtful design, creative integration into the curriculum and productive relationships with the practicing bar.

We seek proposals from externship clinicians, other clinicians, non-clinical legal educators and administrators, career services professionals, field supervisors, and others with an interest in how field placement clinics might advance legal education reform. We also seek participation from the international community, where field placement programs have played a distinct role in developing clinical education.

Topics

We encourage you to propose a topic that will challenge us to consider how field placements advance (or restrain) the reform of legal education. ***We append to this RFP a list of specific ideas as prompts for proposals.***

Attendees

At past conferences, attendees have been actively engaged in teaching or administration of field placement programs. At the same time, externship teaching involves an increasingly broad range of law school personnel: tenured or tenure-track faculty; long-term or short-term contract clinicians; adjuncts; administrative staff; field supervisors; career services professionals; and others. Increasingly, clinical faculty with experience outside of externships have come to the task of externship pedagogy so we especially invite their participation. The Organizing Committee seeks to include all those participating in or concerned with field placement work, whatever their vantage point. We will also solicit active participation by international clinicians, both as participants and presenters.

Proposals for New and Experienced Clinicians

The Organizing Committee expects to offer programming both for those new to field placement work and for experienced clinicians. In each time slot of the conference, we plan to offer sessions that will attract attendees in each group. In the attached materials, we ask that you identify which audience you plan to address through your proposal. If you think that your proposal has universal appeal, please indicate that on the attached form.

Formats and Publication

The Organizing Committee seeks presentations in several different formats. We solicit proposals for concurrent sessions to last 75 minutes. We also seek workshop/discussion proposals for those who would like to meet by region, by subject matter (e.g. prosecutorial externships), or by concern (e.g. ABA issues). We will offer several short, “quick idea” presentations of between 10 - 20 minutes. We also invite proposals for poster presentations.

We welcome proposals to present scholarly works-in-progress, to last 20 minutes. The Clinical Law Review has agreed to consider papers emerging from the Conference for publication in a special issue in Fall 2014. No guarantee of publication exists; all papers will be reviewed in accordance with the Clinical Law Review’s normal standards. Potential authors must submit final drafts of manuscripts no later than June 1, 2014 for consideration.

Proposal Selection Criteria

In general, the Organizing Committee will favor proposals that address the conference theme, are relevant to conference attendees, are well-defined and focused, are timely and important, and show care and thoughtfulness in development. In addition, your proposal should:

- demonstrate innovation, either in the choice of topic or in the angle of approach to a familiar topic;
- include presenters who have significant expertise in the topic or a base of experience that provides a unique or useful vantage point on the topic;
- indicate specifically how it will encourage active learning, including specific methods for engaging in interaction with the audience; and
- provide your audience with strategies for implementing the ideas and information when they return to their schools.

Finally, we value diversity, both in the composition of presenting teams, and in your topic’s presentation of diversity and inclusiveness as a concern in field placement work. The Organizing Committee will consider diversity in terms of race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, geographical location, years of experience, type of school, type of program and other factors.

Upon selection, each presenting group will work closely with a member of the Organizing Committee to develop their presentation in advance of the conference.

Deadlines and Instructions:

Consultation:

We encourage you to contact the working group responsible for conference content to discuss your ideas as you prepare a proposal. This group includes:

Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, Carolyn.Kaas@quinnipiac.edu

Danny Schaffzin, dschffzn@memphis.edu

Sue Schechter, sschechter@law.berkeley.edu

Alex Scherr (Chair), Scherr@uga.edu

Kyle Velte, kvelte@law.du.edu

Application:

This document includes both a cover sheet with basic information and a template for a more detailed description of your proposal.

Complete the cover sheet AND the template and submit them no later than October 18, 2013 to:

X7Proposals@law.du.edu

By November 15, 2013, we will notify the contact person for each proposal. We may contact you sooner to discuss modifications or to suggest collaborations. We especially encourage new presenters. After confirming your participation, we will assign a member of the Organizing Committee to your group to help you to prepare and to assure that your eventual presentation and materials meet the expectations stated in the criteria for selection.

For general information about the conference, go to

<http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/Externships-7>

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR PROPOSALS

- the signature contributions of field placement programs to the reform of legal education.
- the nature of specific reforms and how field placement clinics would advance them.
- the influence of field placement pedagogy on the law school curriculum.
- assessments of the growth and spread of field placement programs, including the diversification of models and the significance of “hybrids.”
- the influence of contact with practice settings outside the law school on student learning about practice and about their role as lawyers and citizens.
- both traditional and hybrid models of supervision and teaching as vehicles for clinical experience.
- the development and reform of supervision methods through externship pedagogy.
- the classroom experience, both traditional and non-traditional, as a vehicle for reforming students’ experiences of law school.
- the role of field supervisors as actual or potential agents for student learning and for education reform (including discussions of recruitment, monitoring and training of supervisors).
- how calls for reform influence the selection and focus of field placement sites, and vice versa.
- the importance of reflective practice as an aspect of education reform, including methods for encouraging, teaching and assessing reflection.
- the “career development” dimension of field placement work, both as a goal and as a means to exert pressure for reforming legal education.
- the comparative risks and benefits of different models of externship design.
- the impact of shrinking enrollment and resources both on the choice of externships and on the design of externship programs.
- the relationship between education reform and professionalization of field placement teachers, including issues relating to status, job security and governance.

- the delivery of field placement programs by law schools in other countries, including differences in cultural, structural and financial pressures.
- the influence of state regulation of law school and admission requirements on field placement programs.
- emerging legal, A.B.A., or Best Practices issues.
- the administration of field placement programs and field placement classes.
- the use of technology to improve and extend the teaching opportunities in field placement programs.

Cover Sheet for Proposals -- Externships 7

Send this cover sheet and proposal via e-mail by October 18, 2013 to:

X7Proposals@law.du.edu

The Organizing Committee will use the information on this cover sheet both to review proposals and to prepare the conference brochure. Please include a contact person and the name of all known presenters. We will correspond only with the contact person. Make sure that all information is complete and accurate.

Please note: Presenters must pay the same conference registration fee as participants.

Program Title:

Contact Person:

School (as listed in the AALS Directory):

Address:

E-mail:

Voice: ()

Fax: ()

Others Presenters and Schools (as listed in AALS Directory):

Type of proposal (check all that you are willing to have the proposal considered for):

_____ concurrent session (75 minutes)

_____ workshop/discussion by geographic region (Southeast, Northwest..)

_____ workshop/discussion by topic or practice area (judicial, criminal defense, etc.)

_____ scholarly work-in-progress

_____ a "great idea"

_____ poster presentation

New or Experienced Clinicians:

_____ New

_____ Experienced

_____ Both

Will you prepare a paper based on your presentation? _____ Yes _____ No

Detailed Proposal for Externships 7

Title:

Abstract of your presentation: Describe the content of your presentation. In doing so, identify the points of innovation in the topic or in your approach and describe the expertise or experience base of the presenters.

Method of presentation: Describe how you propose to present your material. In doing so, describe how you will assure active learning by your audience and discuss how you will provide your audience with strategies to implement your ideas when they return to their schools. Finally, describe what materials you propose to distribute at your presentation.