

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service

Real Clients,
Real Causes,
Real Cases



Why Do It?

- Experience-Based Hands-On Learning
- No Exam!
- One-On-One Work with Clients
- Courtroom Speaking
- Give Back to the Community
- Wide Range of File Topics
- 13 Credits
- Social Events
- Sense of Satisfaction and Fulfilment

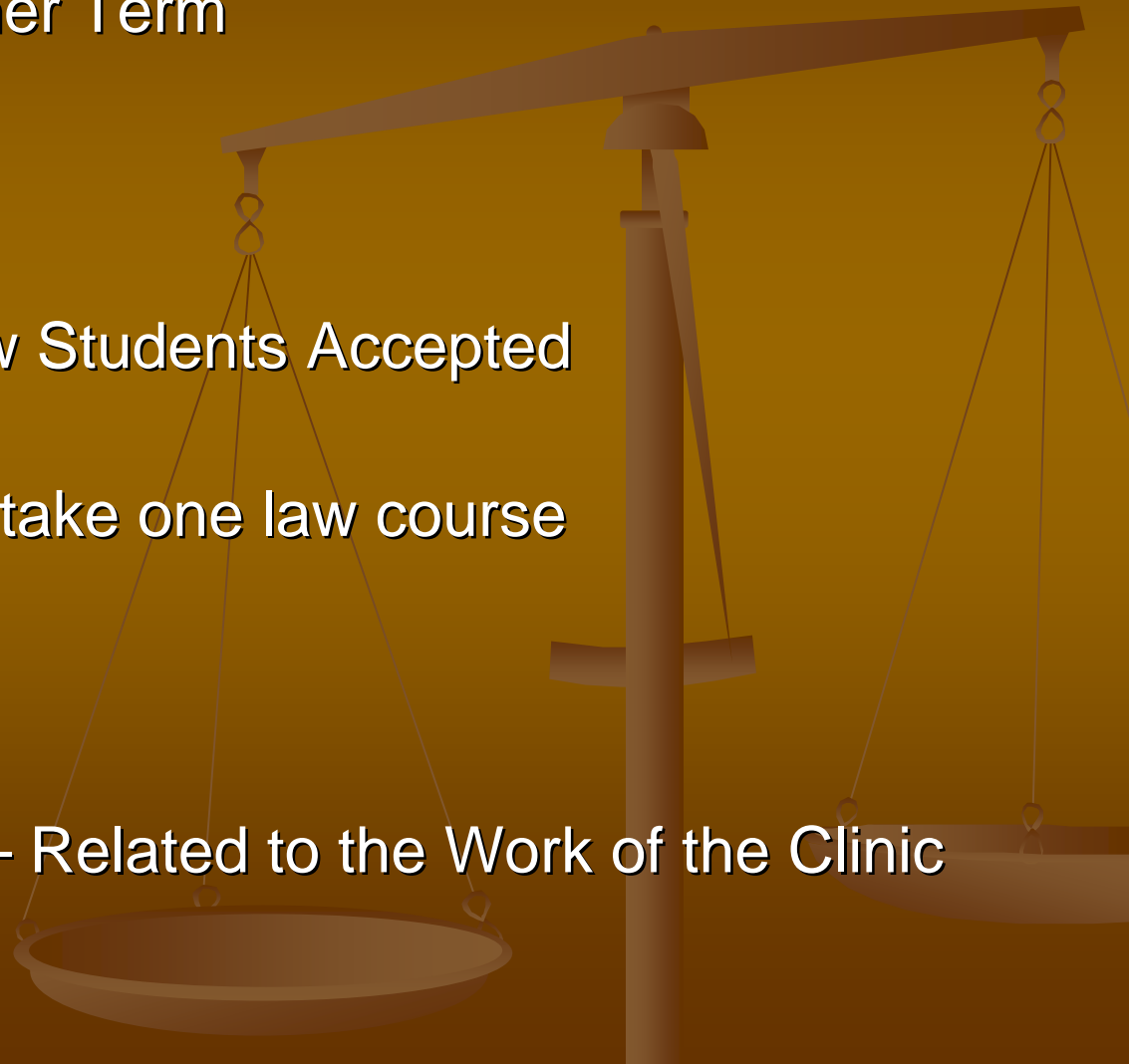


Bringing Law to Life



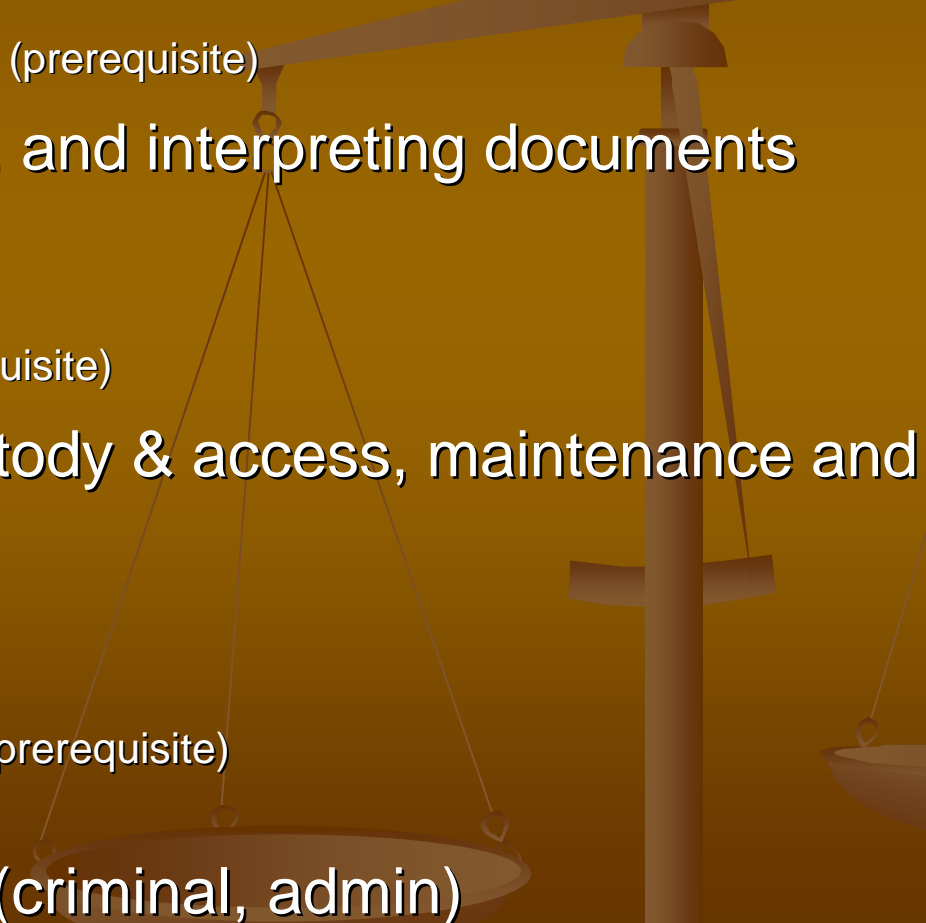
Law School Credit

- Fall, Winter or Summer Term
- 13 Credits
- 12-16 Third Year Law Students Accepted
- 9-5 Hours + you can take one law course
- Same Tuition
- Paper Requirement – Related to the Work of the Clinic

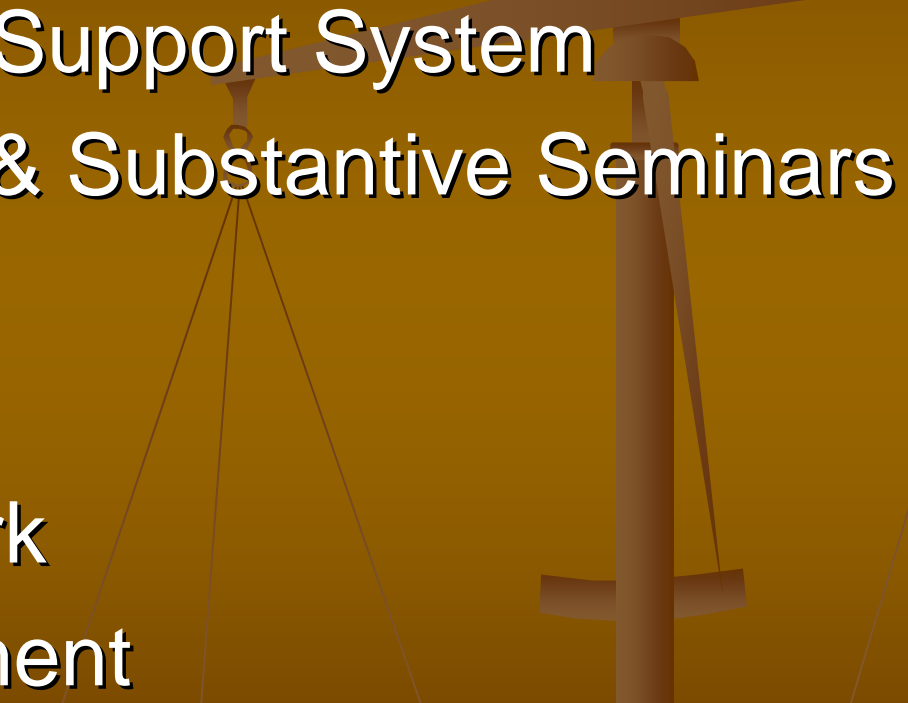


Requirements:

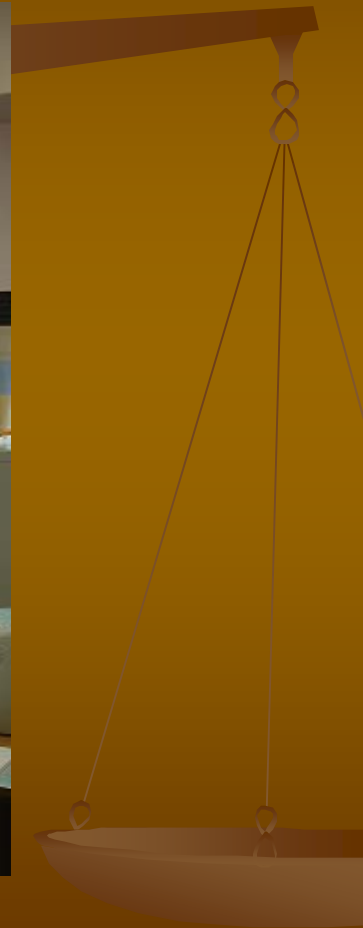
Plan for These Courses in 2nd Year

- **Civil Procedure** (prerequisite)
 - For drafting, filing, and interpreting documents
 - **Family Law** (prerequisite)
 - Divorce, child custody & access, maintenance and child protection
 - **Evidence Law** (prerequisite)
- Courses of Assistance (criminal, admin)
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Structure

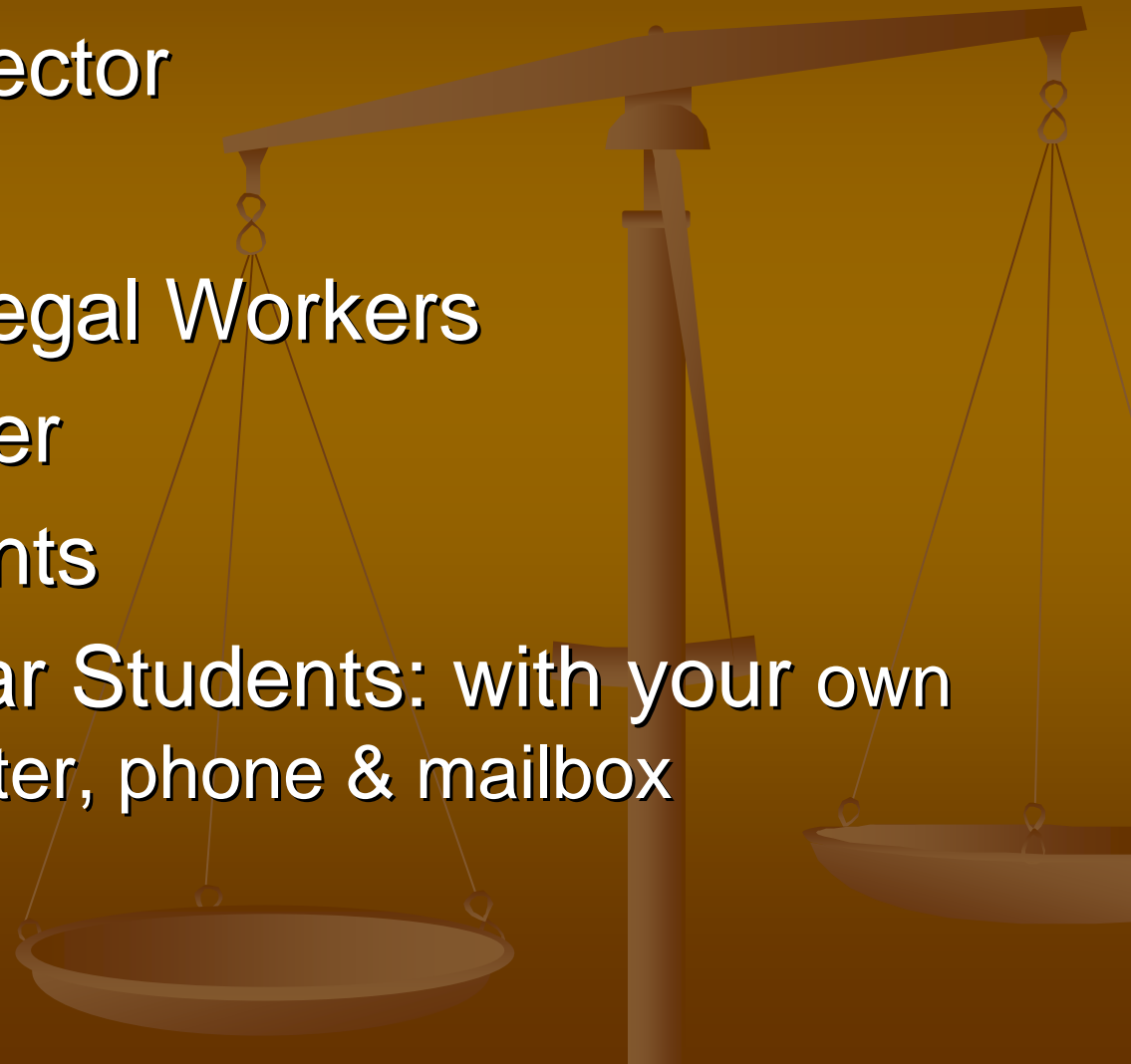
- Mentor/Mentee Support System
 - Skills Sessions & Substantive Seminars
 - Simulations
 - Case Work
 - Community Work
 - Paper Requirement
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Your New Home!



Staff & Students

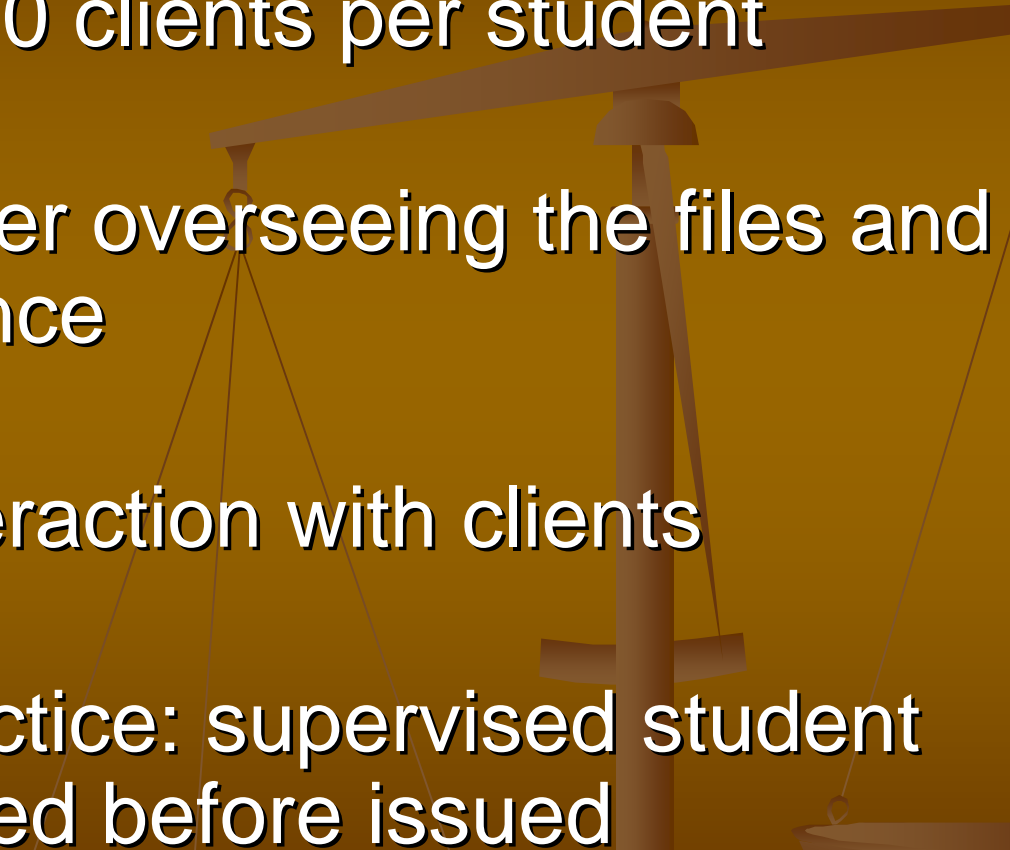
- 1 Executive Director
- 5 Staff Lawyers
- 2 Community Legal Workers
- 1 Office Manager
- 3 Legal Assistants
- 12-16 Third Year Students: with your own desk, own computer, phone & mailbox



Our Communication Centre

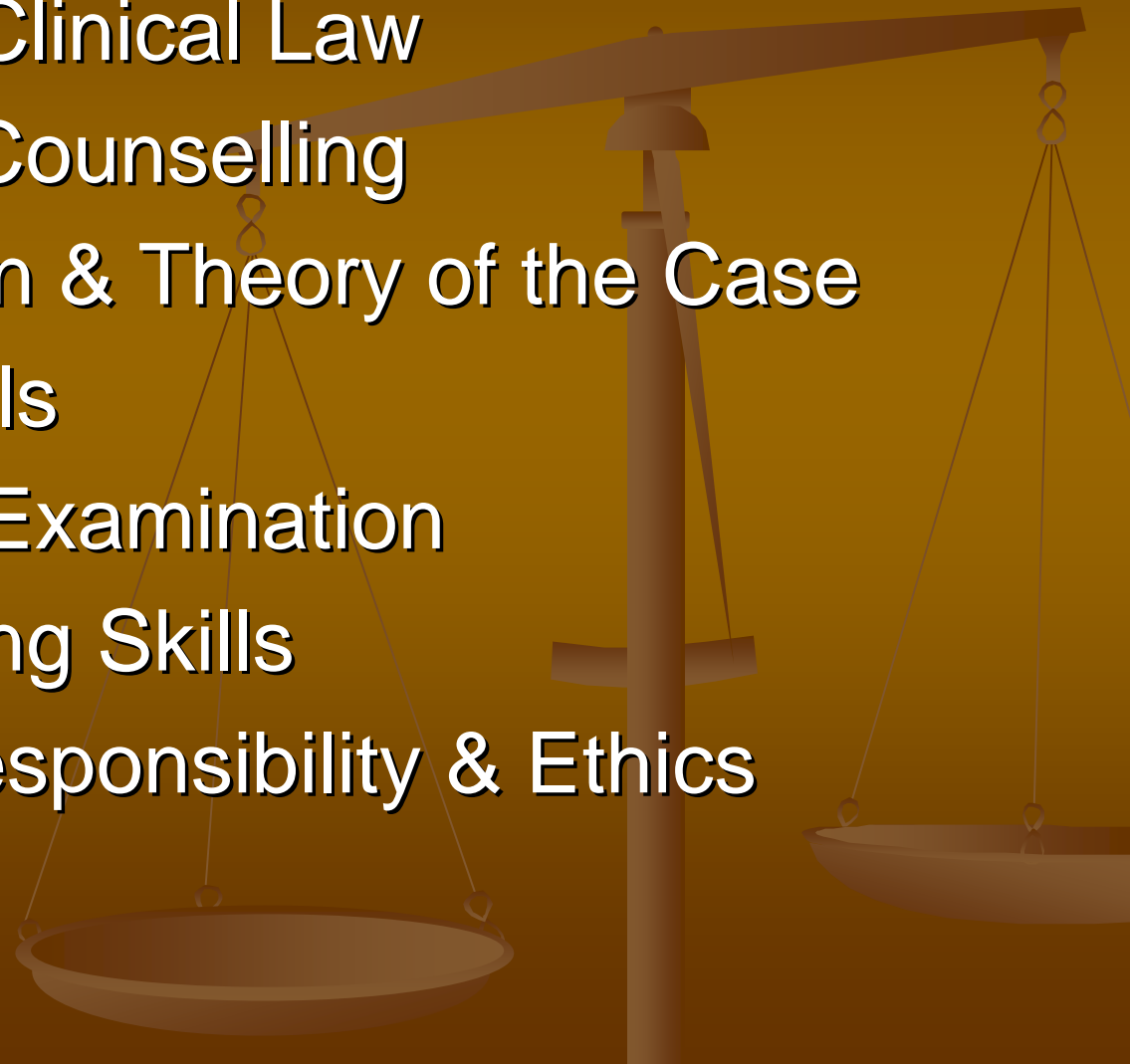


File Structure

- Approximately 10 clients per student
 - Supervisor/lawyer overseeing the files and providing guidance
 - One-on-one interaction with clients
 - Safe way to practice: supervised student work is authorized before issued
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Skills Seminars – Such As:

- Introduction to Clinical Law
- Interviewing & Counselling
- Trial Preparation & Theory of the Case
- Negotiation Skills
- Direct & Cross Examination
- Writing & Drafting Skills
- Professional Responsibility & Ethics



Simulations

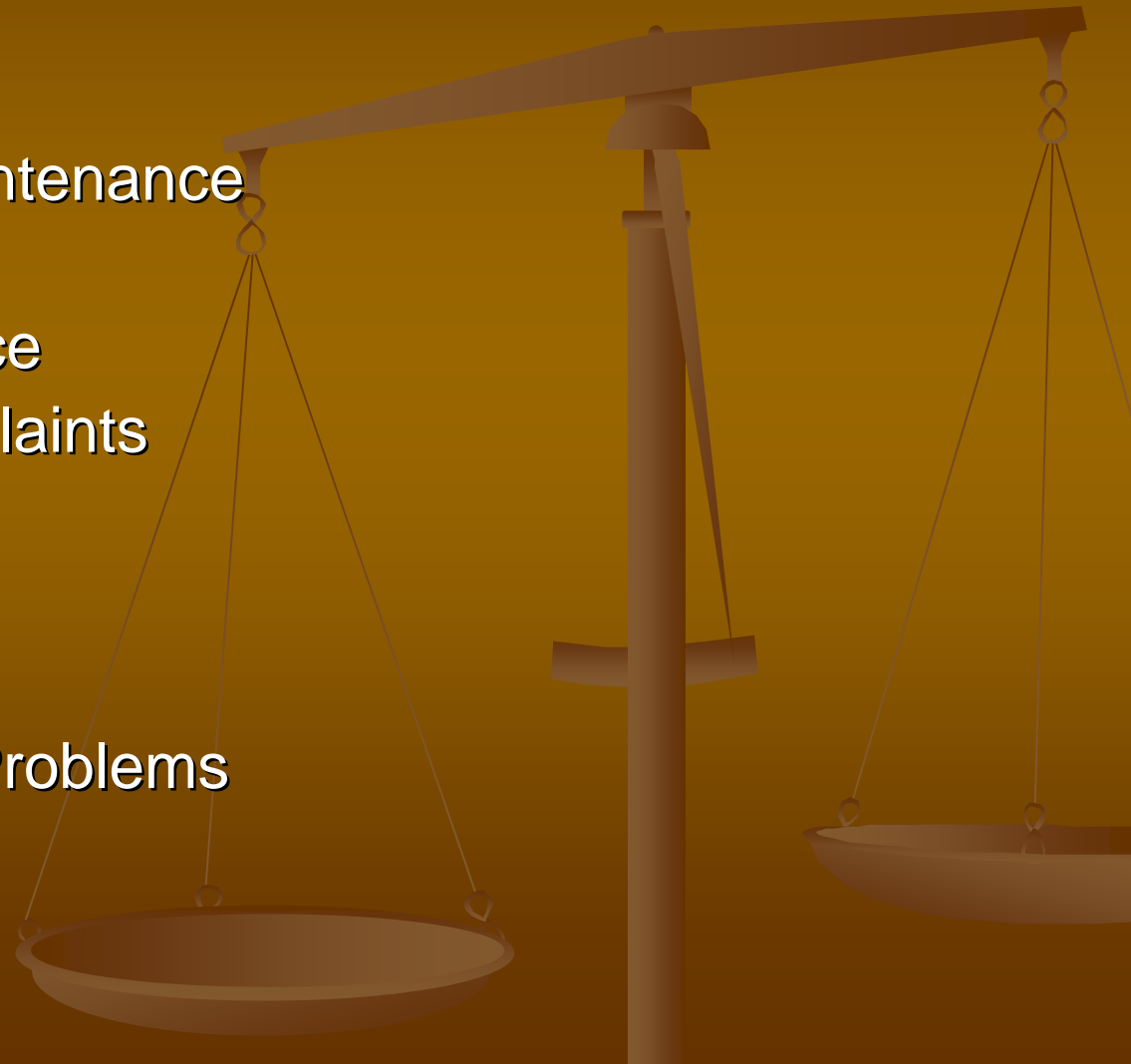


- **Mini-Trial:** Each student participates in a mock trial simulation with witnesses, direct and cross-examinations, objections, and opening and closing statements.
- **Sentencing Submissions:** Each student advocates for a Youth Criminal client making submissions regarding his or her sentencing for an offence.

Case Work Categories

Bringing Law to Life!

- Divorce
- Custody & Access
- Child & Spousal Maintenance
- Mobility
- Youth Criminal Justice
- Human Rights Complaints
- Child Protection
- Mental Health
- Landlord/Tenant
- Income Assistance Problems
- Debtor/Creditor



REAL COURT EXPERIENCE



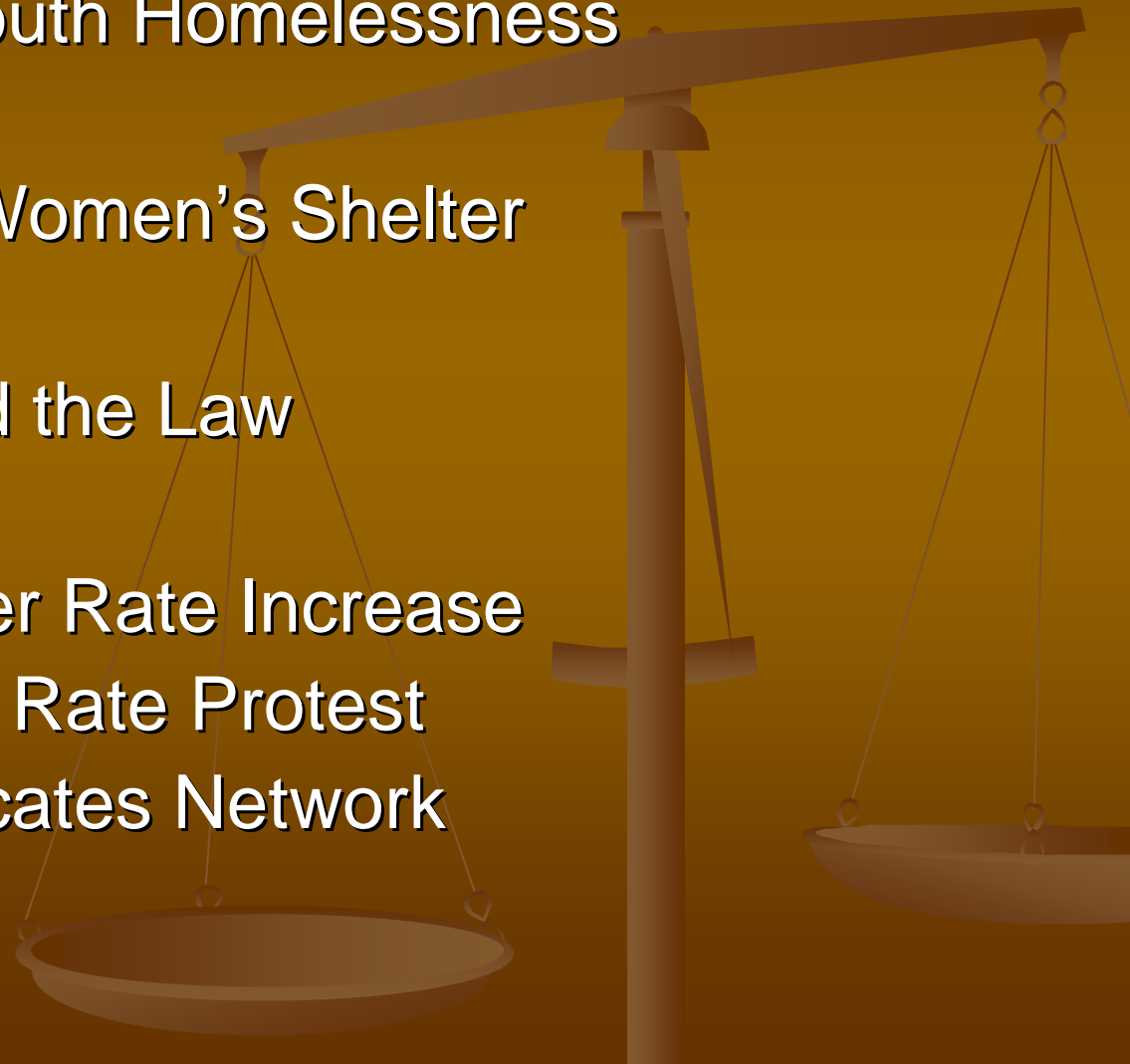
Sample Cases



- Trent is an abusive husband to Lori, they had a fight and he pulled a gun on her making her fear for her life. You help her respond to his appeal of the Emergency Protection Order she sought;
- Shevan's student loan has defaulted and gone to collections. With medical problems and being on social assistance he cannot even make interest payments; you are to advocate for him;
- Carey was caught stealing from a department store for the third time and wants to go to the Restorative Justice programme, you advocate to convince the Crown to agree.

Community Work

- Street Action – Youth Homelessness
- AIDS Coalition
- Bryony House – Women’s Shelter
- Tenants’ Rights
- Black Women and the Law
- Native Issues
- Nova Scotia Power Rate Increase
- Social Assistance Rate Protest
- Community Advocates Network



Tenants' Rights Sessions



Supporting Those in Need !



A Voice for Real Causes



Community Tour – Knowing Your Supports

- Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank
 - Community YMCA
 - Mi'kmaq Child Development Centre
 - Parent Resource Centre
 - Metro Turning Point
 - Youth Project
 - Stepping Stone
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Features



- Courtroom Work & Advocacy
- Personal Work with Clients
- Community Tour
- Noteworthy Files:
 - J.J. – Mental Health @ SCC
 - Nova Scotia Utilities Board – NS Power Rates

Social Activities

- Karaoke
- Pot Lucks
- Birthdays
- Special Events
- Sea Kayaking
- Community Protests

No Clinic Term is Complete Without... Karaoke!!



Even Crusaders need time for a beer... with Rocky Jones!



Where are We?

- Not as far as you think... just across the Commons on Gottingen!
- If you are coming from the school head down Robie
- Go Across the Commons towards the Armouries
- Head down Cunard to the bottom of the street
- It's staring you in the face!

The North End

- Located in the Community you serve
- Great places to eat: Bob and Lori's, Starlite Café, Mollyz, Diamonds
- Near lots of other Community Organizations
- Free parking!
- Close to local businesses

SEE DIFFERENTLY



KEEPING THE WELDON TRADITION ALIVE !

