

Award winning Clinical Law Program

# DALHOUSIE LEGAL AID SERVICE

## Dalhousie Legal Aid Service

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service (the clinic) provides third year law students with an intensive learning opportunity. This structured experiential learning environment allows students to learn and practice lawyering skills in a community law office located in north-end Halifax. Emphasis is placed on skills training, independence and self reliance.

Students are given the opportunity to acquire skills and knowledge that is not a part of the traditional law school education. Through the experience of working with actual clients, complex fact situations and the need to find or create a solution to problems, you are provided with a context which enables you to understand and reflect on the role and responsibility of a lawyer in society. It's true, you get to be just like a real lawyer, doing the things a lawyer does and being a member of the provincial Barristers' Society as an articulated clerk while you're doing it!

In addition to the nuts and bolts skills of interviewing, counseling, negotiating, and trial advocacy, you can learn the basics of running a practice, tickler systems, file management, ethical considerations such as conflicts, confidentiality, and the interpersonal aspects of lawyering.



## Bringing law to life

For many law students, the ability to provide services to the elderly whose pharmacare has been unfairly terminated; the disabled who cannot access services; and the single mother who is facing eviction or termination of social assistance due to discrimination, is an experience that is otherwise unparalleled in the context of their legal education.

You can also participate in all aspects of family law from divorce to child protection as well as representing accused in the Criminal Justice System. Your experience and education are enriched through our work with the community where we develop social justice initiatives and launch law reform test cases.

We appear, along with students in all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada as well as many administrative tribunals.

A term at the clinic can provide you with a broader outlook on how the legal system operates and affects those living in poverty. It gives you a unique perspective on access to justice and your professional obligation to promote and protect the same.

In the final analysis, it provides you with the ability to bring the law to life, to experience law in action as opposed to in a book.

## Program Requirements

In addition to the formal seminar and skills training program, there is a requirement for the student to submit a paper. The program is worth 13 credits and runs throughout the year in three terms: winter, summer and fall. The student's performance is rated pass/fail/honours.

For further information, please refer to our website at: [www.dal.ca/law](http://www.dal.ca/law)

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*Inspiring Minds*