

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS LEGAL CLINIC  
MEDIATION CLINIC  
PROFESSOR STEPHEN SHIELDS**

**The Basics**

**COURSE NUMBER & NAME:** Mediation Clinic

**GRADED CREDIT HOURS:** Four (4) **REQUIRED:** No **ELECTIVE:** Yes

**PREREQUISITES (Required):** Professional Responsibility.

**PREREQUISITES (Advised):** None.

**Course Description**

Guided by Professor Shields, a Listed Rule 31 General Civil Mediator and Tennessee Supreme Court Approved Rule 31 General Civil Mediation Trainer, students in the University of Memphis Civil Mediation Clinic study mediation from the inside-out, analyzing in detail the communicative, strategic, and ethical dimensions of specific interventions that mediators make in the context of particular cases. The Clinic primarily focuses on the students as the mediators, but the students are also be asked to consider the issues from other points of view: as the disputant, as an attorney representing a client in mediation, and in the capacity of advising an organizational client about dispute resolution options. In addition, the training also borrows insights from other disciplines, such as neuroscience and psychology, which often strongly influence the strategy that a mediator may employ.

**Course Enrollment and Credit**

The Mediation Clinic is open to a maximum of five (5) students. In order to be eligible for enrollment, a student must have completed at least one-half of the legal studies required for graduation and be in good academic standing. Students earn four (4) hours of graded academic credit for their satisfactory completion of the Clinic.

**How is the Mediation Clinic Course Designed?**

The University of Memphis Civil Mediation Clinic will have four primary components: (1) The training that is required by Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 before one may become listed as a Rule 31 Mediator; (2) Ongoing student

observation of mediations conducted by Rule 31 Mediators in General Sessions Court cases, Federal Court cases, workers compensation cases, and EEOC administrative proceedings; (3) Student participation as co-mediator with Rule 31 Mediators in Shelby County General Sessions Court cases and EEOC administrative proceedings (if permission is granted by the parties); and (4) Weekly classroom seminar and case rounds designed to give students further training and feedback throughout the course of the semester, which will include simulations with students acting as mediator and/or advocate.

### **Time and Other Requirements**

Over the course of the Clinic semester, Professor Shields will administer the 40-hour training as part of the requirement to become a Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator in Tennessee. (See Rule 31, Section 17(d) for list of other requirements to be listed.) The training will cover all Rule 31 required topics. While the training will be administered over the course of the academic semester, approximately 30 hours will be included in a front-loaded series of Clinic orientation sessions spread over the first four weeks and Saturdays of the semester:

Following the four-week Clinic orientation described above, Clinic students will be required to spend an average of four-to-six hours a week working on Clinic matters. This weekly hour requirement will be comprised of the classroom seminar, student observation of mediations, and student participation in co-mediations or simulations with the student acting as mediator and/or advocate.

*IMPORTANT: In addition to general law school tuition costs, each Clinic student will be required to pay a fee of \$100 to cover costs related to the Rule 31 training. The ADRC also charges at the time of application an additional fee of \$100.*

### **What are Some Other Benefits of Enrolling in the Mediation Clinic?**

The University of Memphis Civil Mediation Clinic trains students to understand the dynamic of disputes, illustrating the complexities inherent in human interaction better than any textbook can. The Clinic is instrumental in developing skills that can apply to all aspects of their professional lives. Throughout the course, Professor Shields guides the students through different strategies that hopefully change the way they listen, speak and interact with others.