

Law and Social Change: Clinical Seminar

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FACULTY OF LAW

**CML 3351/DCL 7033 Law and Social Change:
Clinical Seminar**

Term:

Type: Clinical Course

Class Meetings:

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Diego Rivera

Course Description and Objectives

This Clinical course offers students the opportunity to gain a legal practice experience for clinical credit in special areas of interest that are related to social justice and human rights issues. In working closely with a variety of national and international NGO settings, students observe the law's impact on civil society and experience the realities and the needs of grassroots advocacy. Some of the themes students may wish to pursue include International Childhood and Rights, Gender-Motivated Violence and Globalization, Community Action for Social and Economic Rights, International Reproductive/Sexual Health Rights, and International Labour Rights in the Global Economy. In addition to classroom instruction and simulations, there will be four combined sessions where students come together to present their ongoing work or interact with a speaker who is an experienced activist in the field. Some of the clinical research papers will involve a short internship on the field (1 to 3 weeks), possibly in Haiti, Senegal, Brazil, Burkina Faso and Ghana. Clinical placements currently include la Fondation Paul-Gérin Lajoie, Le Cirque du Monde and Jeunesse du Monde. Clinical enrolment is limited to 10 students.

The Fondation Paul-Gérin Lajoie, created by the first education minister of Quebec's history, is a humanitarian organization devoted to fostering access to education in developing countries. Mainly active in Sub-Saharan Africa and Haiti, the Fondation has

mounted hundreds of volunteer-driven projects to strengthen the education system in the poorest regions of the world. (see <http://fondationpjl.ca>)

Jeunesse du monde is a community organization that undertakes various social interventions among poor and marginalized groups. For instance, it organizes soup kitchens, actions to remove blade weapons from schools, intergenerational buddy programs, visits in shelters, etc.

Cirque du Monde is a social program created by *Cirque du Soleil* and *Jeunesse du Monde*. Through circus performance activities, it aims to provide novel ways of intervening among poor and marginalized youth, in partnership with local community organizations. It has provided support and tailored intervention to HIV affected youth in South Africa, juvenile inmates in Mongolia, truant students in Quebec and women facing sexual violence in Australia. (See <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/about/global-citizenship/social-circus/cirque-du-monde.aspx>)

To be enrolled in the *Law and Social Change Clinical Seminar*, students must submit a personal statement expressing their interest in the course and have their application approved by the common law section, la section de droit civil or the graduate program. Students will be notified by email of approval and will be automatically registered for clinical credits.