

Elon University Criminal Law Lab

2023 Winter Trimester

Section A

Professor Kelly Thompson, Assistant District Attorney, Guilford County District Attorney's Office
Professor Brennan Aberle, Defense Attorney, Aberle & Wall, LLC
Class Meetings: Monday 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Room 204

Section B

Professor Holly Oner, Attorney, Legal Aid of North Carolina
Professor Jennifer Martin, Assistant District Attorney, Forsyth County District Attorney's Office
Class Meetings: Monday 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Room 206

Section C

Professor Anika Bailey, Assistant Public Defender, Guilford County Public Defender's Office
Professor Jacob Pryor, Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of North Carolina
Class Meetings: Monday 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Room 207

Section D

Professor Kate Shimansky, Assistant Public Defender, Guilford County Public Defender's Office
Professor Michael Silver, Training and Services Director, Administrative Office of the Courts Class
Meetings: Wednesday 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Room 204

Section E

Professor Johnna Herron, Assistant Public Defender, Guilford County Public Defender's Office Class
Professor Christon Halkiotis, Defense Attorney, Law Office of Christon Halkiotis
Meetings: Wednesday 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Room 206

Section F

Professor Onica Fuller, Assistant District Attorney, Guilford County District Attorney's Office
Professor ShaKeta Berrie, Assistant Public Defender, Guilford County Public Defender's Office
Meetings: Wednesday 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Room 207

Course Outcomes

Elon University's Criminal Law Lab gives you the unique opportunity to spend an entire trimester with two practicing criminal law attorneys with experience in criminal defense and prosecution. Your professors are going to take you through a simulated criminal law case while providing you with actual practical skills that will prepare you for a potential career in criminal defense

immediately upon graduation. This course will also include guest speakers and opportunities to ask real-world questions about the practice of criminal law to help you better gauge whether you are interested in this field.

By the end of the trimester, you will:

1. Understand the roles of prosecutors and defense counsel within the criminal justice system.
2. Appreciate the differences between those roles and how they can impact how an attorney within the system does her job.
3. Understand the criminal justice process at a basic level.
4. Interview a client or witness.
5. Negotiate a plea bargain.
6. Consider the purposes of punishment in the context of a simulated case.
7. Collaborate with peers to develop strategies and analyze problems.
8. Identify legally significant facts in a simulated case and consider how those facts can affect the outcome of a case.

Course Materials

All of the course materials will be available through the website of the course administrator: <https://www.aberleandwall.com/students>

You are expected to either bring your laptop to class or print the materials prior to class if you choose not to bring a laptop. Extra handouts will be available for students with any hardship.

Assignments

Most of the assignments in this course will be simulated exercises performed in class, however there will be a Bar Exam-style essay towards the end of the trimester.

Grading

This course will be graded on a scale of High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail. Your grade will be determined by your performance on individual and group assignments, your participation in class discussion, in-class, and out-of-class exercises, and your professionalism and attendance.

Working Groups and Roles

During this course, you will be divided up into working groups to complete some of the assignments. All members of the groups are expected to contribute to the group's work. In addition, you will be assigned to take on the role of a prosecutor or a defense

counsel. Take these roles seriously and think about what your role means in the context of each assignment.

Professionalism and Attendance

Lawyers are held to the highest standards of professionalism in their practice. Professionalism goes beyond ethical behavior to include characteristics such as preparedness, diligence, thoroughness, respectfulness, and courtesy. In addition, professionalism demands that lawyers punctually attend meetings and appear in court.

Students are expected to exhibit the same level of professionalism that will be expected of them in practice by: (1) attending all class meetings, (2) arriving on time for class, (3) being prepared for class meetings and out-of-class assignments, (4) participating fully in class discussion and group assignments, and (5) interacting with your classmates with civility and respect.

Under exceptional circumstances beyond your control, you may seek a waiver for an absence by submitting a written request to your professor or to Professor Friedland (sfriedland2@elon.edu) as soon as you become aware of the circumstances that require your absence.

Professors are practicing attorneys and if a conflict with class comes up that cannot be avoided, an in-class date may be switched with a jail or court visit day. Please check your email regularly for any potential scheduling changes.