Alexander Blewett III School of Law
Clinic/Field Placement Offerings
(Including Pre- and Co-Requisites)
Academic Year 2021-2022
(Note that placement options may vary from year to year
and are subject to change)

**ACLU of Montana**
(1 summer placement/1 academic year placement or 1 placement each semester)

*Work focuses on constitutional issues and the defense of individual freedoms.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice

**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure – Adjudicative

**Areas of Emphasis:** Constitutional law; civil rights; anti-discrimination law; identification of legal issues; legal research, analysis, and writing; factual investigation and development; objective and persuasive oral and written communication; client interviewing and counseling; complex civil litigation; *pro bono* service; access to justice.

**Appellate Defender Division of the Montana State Public Defender**
(1 summer placement/1 academic year placement)

*Assist with criminal appeals of clients on a variety of cases.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice

**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative

**Recommended:** Appellate Advocacy

**Areas of Emphasis:** Appellate procedure; constitutional law; criminal law; criminal procedure; professional responsibility, appellate practice, criminal practice, research and writing.

**ASMSU Legal Services – Bozeman (2 Credits to Full Semester)**
(1 academic year placement or 1 placement each semester)

*Represent and assist Montana State University-Bozeman students with legal issues in a variety of disciplines, including landlord-tenant, family, criminal defense, immigration, business and non-profit, negotiations, and mediation. Office is located in Bozeman, MT. Student is required to work in the office on a weekly basis. UM Motor Pool vehicle available for travel upon request and/or some travel costs reimbursed. Amount of time required to be in the office will vary depending on the number of credits taken.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility

**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure – Adjudicative, Family Law

**Areas of Emphasis:** Family Law, Landlord/Tenant, Consumer Law, Torts, Contracts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, employment law, immigration law, mediation
**ASMSU Legal Services/Blackstone Launchpad – Bozeman (2 Credits to Full Semester)**

(1 academic year placement or 1 placement each semester)

Represent and assist Montana State University-Bozeman students with business and non-profit law, tax advice/counsel, entity formation, and intellectual property protection (through ASMSU Legal’s partnership with MSU’s Blackstone Launchpad). **Office is located in Bozeman, MT.**

**Student is required to work in the office on a weekly basis.** Amount of time required to be in the office will vary depending on the number of credits taken.

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility

**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Business Organizations

**Areas of Emphasis:** Business and non-profit law, tax advice/counsel, entity formation, and intellectual property protection (through ASMSU Legal’s partnership with MSU’s Blackstone Launchpad)

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**ASUM Legal Services**

(1 summer placement/3 academic year placements)

Represent students of The University of Montana in civil and minor criminal defense matters.

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility

**Recommended:** Family Law, Criminal Procedure - Investigative, and Criminal Procedure – Adjudicative

**Areas of Emphasis:** Family law; landlord/tenant law; consumer law; torts; contracts; civil procedure; criminal law; criminal procedure; identification of legal issues; legal research, analysis and writing; factual investigation and development; problem-solving; objective and persuasive oral and written communication; client interviewing and counseling; office practice and procedure; professional ethics; negotiation; plea bargaining; civil litigation; criminal defense litigation; cross-professional collaboration; access to justice.

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**Office of Legal Affairs/Child Support Enforcement Division**

(1 academic year placement)

Represent state agency in administrative hearings and district court.

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Family Law

**Recommended:** Administrative Law

**Areas of Emphasis:** Family law; administrative law; civil procedure; ADR/mediation; public benefits law; professional responsibility; identification of legal issues; legal research and writing; civil litigation.

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**DNRC Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forestry and Trust Land Management Division**

(1 summer placement/1-2 academic year placements)

Assist the DNRC in prosecuting and defending lawsuits, conducting administrative hearings, and conducting legal research and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility,

**Recommended:** It is strongly recommended that students in this placement take Introduction to Environmental Law, Public Lands, and/or Administrative Law.
Areas of Emphasis: Public land law; environmental and natural resources law; administrative law transactional law; legal research and writing; transactional drafting; regulatory drafting; legislative research; litigation support; potential courtroom work.

**DNRC Water Resources and Trust Lands Management Divisions (Helena Office)**
(1 summer placement/1 academic year placement)
Assist the DNRC in prosecuting and defending lawsuits, conducting administrative hearings, and conducting legal research and projects.
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility
**Recommended:** It is strongly recommended that students in this placement take Water Law, Introduction to Environmental Law, Public Lands, and/or Administrative Law.
**Areas of Emphasis:** Water law; environmental and natural resources law; administrative law transactional law; legal research and writing; transactional drafting; regulatory drafting; legislative research; litigation support; potential courtroom work.

**Federal Defenders of Montana**
(1 academic year placement)
Represent indigent criminal defendants in federal court.
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice
**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure – Adjudicative
**Recommended:** Appellate Advocacy
**Areas of Emphasis:** Federal criminal law; appellate litigation; legal research and writing; access to justice.

**Independent Field Placement (IFP)**
Allows a student to propose and secure approval for a field placement experience not offered as an in-house clinic or field placement.
**Application Deadline is February 15 of the year prior to placement.**
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility.
You must also schedule a meeting with the Clinic Director to discuss possible Prerequisites for an IFP
**Areas of Emphasis:** Variable

**Judicial Placements (Federal Court)**
(1 placement each semester for each of the 3 judges; 6 total placements-4 credits each placement)
(1 summer placement with Judge DeSoto)
Work with U.S. District Court Judge or Magistrate Judge on cases pending in federal court in Missoula.
Students applying for this clinic should attach a resume and an anonymous writing sample of no more than five (5) pages to their clinic preference sheet. Please note the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees outlined in the full clinic description on the law school’s
web site and contact Professor Burke or Professor Johnstone with any questions or concerns.

**Prerequisites:** Professional Responsibility.

**Recommended:** Criminal Procedure – Investigative or Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative

**Areas of Emphasis:** Criminal law and a wide range of civil matters; legal research and writing; oral and written advocacy; litigation strategy.

**Judicial Placements – Fourth Judicial District Court**

(1 placement each semester -4 credits/1 placement summer)

*Work with Fourth Judicial District Court and Justice Court Judges on cases pending in district court and justice court in Missoula.*

**Prerequisites:** Professional Responsibility.

**Recommended:** Criminal Procedure – Investigative or Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative

**Areas of Emphasis:** Criminal law and a wide range of civil matters; legal research and writing; oral and written advocacy; litigation strategy.

**Land Use & Natural Resources Clinic**

(6 academic year placements)

*Work with government agencies and non-profit organizations on public lands issues, wildlife law, and conservation issues affecting communities in the West. Clients may include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, Missoula Parks & Recreation, and Montana Water Court.*

**Pre-requisites:** Professional Responsibility

**Recommended:** It is strongly recommended that students in this placement take Administrative Law and one or more of the following: Public Lands; Wildlife Law; Water Law; Introduction to Environmental Law; or Land Use Planning & the Environment.

**Areas of Emphasis:** Public lands; natural resources law; water law; wildlife law; environmental law; land use; regulatory drafting; legal research and writing; problem-solving; presenting to governing bodies, the public, and other organizations; interacting with scientists, elected officials, planners, and other professionals in interdisciplinary settings.

**Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic**

(2 summer placements/8 academic year placements)

*Assist tribal governments, courts, organizations, and attorneys on Indian law issues.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, and either Federal Indian Law, Tribal Courts/Tribal Law, or comparable Tribal/Indian law courses from the Summer Indian Law Program as prerequisite. Upon approval of the Clinic Director, Federal Indian Law can be taken as a co-requisite if Tribal Courts/Tribal Law or Summer Program courses have been successfully completed.

**Areas of Emphasis:** The intersection of federal Indian and tribal law with all substantive areas of law; problem-solving; legal research and writing; civil litigation; limited criminal work; client interaction; factual investigation; alternative dispute resolution; cross-cultural lawyering; effective time management, identifying/resolving ethical issues; access to justice.
Missoula City Attorney's Office
(1 summer placement/1 placement each semester 4-15 credits)
Prosecute traffic and other misdemeanor offenses in the Missoula Municipal Court. **Required**
background check with fingerprinting.
Students in this placement need to be available either Mondays or Fridays for court at 8:30
a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice
**Pre- or co-requisites:** Criminal Procedure – Investigative; Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative
**Areas of Emphasis:** Criminal law (primary); civil law; litigation; legal research and writing;
negotiation; oral and written communication

Missoula County Attorney's Office
(2 summer placements/2 placements each semester 4-15 credits)
Work with mentor attorney on felony cases and dependency and neglect proceedings, assist with
land-use litigation, appear in court, communicate and negotiate with opposing counsel and pro
se defendants, work with county departments, interview witnesses, perform legal research, draft
motions.
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice
**Pre- or co-requisites:** Criminal Procedure – Investigative; Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative
**Areas of Emphasis:** Criminal law; dependency and neglect proceedings; land use planning;
litigation; legal research and writing; negotiation; oral and written communication; cross-
professional collaboration.

Montana Domestic Violence Field Placement
(1 summer placement/3 academic year placements)
Provide direct holistic civil legal representation to survivors of domestic violence and sexual
assault.
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility
**Areas of Emphasis:** Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Family Law; Housing and
Landlord-Tenant Law; Estate Planning; Immigration; Crime victim’s rights; Negotiations;
Research and writing; Civil litigation; Interviewing and counseling; Problem solving.

Montana Innocence Project
1 summer placement/3 academic year placements
Students assist in identifying and advancing credible claims of innocence made by Montana
inmates.
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice
**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative
**Recommended:** Habeas Corpus
**Areas of Emphasis:** Criminal law; post-conviction litigation; fact investigation and
development; legal research and writing; complex post-conviction litigation; client
communication.
Montana Legal Services Association  
(2 academic year placements)  
Represent low-income clients in family, public benefits, administrative law.  
Prerequisite: Professional Responsibility  
Recommended: Family Law, Consumer Law  
Areas of Emphasis: Family law; domestic violence; victims’ rights; housing law; professional responsibility; public benefits; business law; negotiations; research and writing; civil litigation; interviewing and counseling; problem-solving.

Montana Legal Services Association-Consumer Protection  
(2 academic year placements strong preference for 4 credits each semester)  
Represent low-income clients in family, public benefits, administrative law.  
Prerequisite: Professional Responsibility  
Recommended: It is strongly recommended that students in this clinic take the Consumer Protection course  
Areas of Emphasis: Consumer Law; Professional Responsibility; Housing, Public Benefits; Bankruptcy, Negotiations; Research and writing; civil litigation; interviewing and counseling; problem-solving

Office of State Public Defender  
(1 summer placement/2 academic year placements)  
Work with court-appointed attorneys on a variety of criminal cases.  
Prerequisite: Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice  
Pre- or Co-Requisite: Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure – Adjudicative.  
Areas of Emphasis: Criminal law; appellate advocacy; full representation of defendants in criminal cases, appellate representation in the Sentence Review Division of the Montana Supreme Court.

Powell County Attorney's Office  
(1 placement each semester/ 1 placement summer)  
Represent the State of Montana in criminal, civil, and quasi-criminal cases in Justice and District Court; prosecute all felonies and high misdemeanors committed by inmates at the Montana State Prison, as well as all escape charges in the state of Montana. Office is located in Deer Lodge, MT. Student is required to work in the office on a weekly basis. Amount of time required to be in the office will vary depending on the number of credits taken.  
Prerequisite: Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice  
Pre- or Co-Requisite: Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative  
Areas of Emphasis: Criminal law; land use planning; litigation; legal research and writing; negotiation; oral and written communication; cross-professional collaboration.
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
(2 summer placements/2 academic year placements)
Work with in-house counsel on a variety of corporate matters in non-profit conservation organization.

Prerequisite: Professional Responsibility, Business Organizations, Introduction to Environmental Law (only if the student enrolls in this field placement for the purpose of satisfying the Environmental Law Certificate clinical requirement)

Areas of Emphasis: Taxation law; tax-exempt organization law; conservation easement law; water rights; employment law; trademark law; business law; professional responsibility; research and writing, contract drafting; business planning.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
(1 academic year placement or 1 placement each semester)
Work on active court cases and receive instruction and guidance from the Judge and court staff.

Prerequisite: Professional Responsibility, Bankruptcy Law

Area of Emphasis: Bankruptcy Law

Lawyering Skills: Legal research and writing, oral and written advocacy by observing the lawyers or lawyers’ work products that come before the judge.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of General Counsel
(2 academic year placements) Transactional (1 placement) or Environmental (up to 2 placements).
Assist with civil matters involving the Forest Service and other agencies of USDA.
This field placement requires an extensive background check and security clearance. The security clearance application process begins approximately three (3) months prior to the start of the semester in which the student is enrolled. Students must be in the top 50% of the class.

Prerequisite for both Transactional and Environmental: Professional Responsibility

Transactional: Assist with civil and transactional matters involving the U.S. Forest Service and all USDA agencies, including Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development (RD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Prerequisite: Business Organizations

Recommended: It is strongly recommended that students in this placement take Administrative Law.

Areas of Emphasis: contract drafting, contract litigation, tort law, business law, secured transactions, administrative law.

Environmental Law: Assist with environmental and other litigation involving the USDA Forest Service, as well as assist with day-to-day legal advice and counsel to Region 1 Forest Service.

Recommended: It is strongly recommended that students in this placement take Public Lands, Introduction to Environmental Law, and/or Administrative Law.

Areas of Emphasis: Research, analysis, oral and written communication, problem-solving, and client-counseling on subjects related to wildfire, forest planning, endangered species, hazardous
waste management and cleanup, water law, mining law, administrative procedure, civil procedure, civil litigation.

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
(2 academic year placements)  
*Assist attorneys in civil and minor criminal matters on behalf of the U.S. government.*  
This field placement requires an extensive background check and security clearance. The security clearance application process begins approximately three (3) months prior to the start of the semester in which the student is enrolled.  
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice  
**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative  
**Recommended:** White Collar Crime.  
**Areas of Emphasis:** Federal criminal and regulatory law (primary); may include some civil law; litigation, research and writing, negotiation, communication.

**U.S. Department of Justice – Billings Office**  
(1 placement each semester)  
*Assist attorneys prosecuting federal violent crimes in Indian Country; litigation, research and writing, negotiation, communication.* This field placement can satisfy the Indian Law Certificate clinic requirement. This is a single-semester field placement. Students enrolled in this field placement must live in Billings during the semester they are enrolled.  
This field placement requires an extensive background check and security clearance. The security clearance application process begins approximately three (3) months prior to the start of the semester in which the student is enrolled.  
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Trial Practice  
**Pre- or Co-Requisite:** Criminal Procedure - Investigative, Criminal Procedure - Adjudicative  
**Recommended:** White Collar Crime.  
**Prerequisites for Indian Law Certificate Students:** This Placement can satisfy the clinic component of the Indian Law Certificate if a student meets one of the prerequisite for an Indian Law Clinic (Tribal Courts/Tribal Law, Federal Indian Law, or approval and waiver of the prerequisite by the Indian Law Clinic Co-Directors).  
This Placement is not limited to Indian Law Certificate students. But priority will be given to Indian Law Certificate students who have satisfied the Criminal Justice Clinic prerequisites.  
**Areas of Emphasis:** Federal criminal and regulatory law (primary); may include some civil law; litigation, research and writing, negotiation, communication.

**The University of Montana Legal Counsel's Office**  
(2 summer placements/4 academic year placements)  
*Work with the University's general counsel, advising the administration and assisting in administrative and judicial proceedings.*  
**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility  
**Areas of Emphasis:** The intersection of higher education law and substantive areas of law, including technology transfers matters, affirmative action, diversity and equal opportunity issues, federal research compliance, contracts, tort cases and counseling various UM groups on legal issues; problem-solving, legal research; written and oral communication; litigation;
administrative proceedings; draft contracts, legislation and policies; interpersonal skills; client counseling; and identify/resolve ethical issues.

**The University of Montana Legal Counsel's Office-Blackstone Launchpad**

(1 summer placement/2 academic year placements)

*Work with Launchpad participants to develop client counseling skills in the areas of business formation, licensing, intellectual property and other legal issues faced by the entrepreneur.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility, Business Organizations

**Areas of Emphasis:** Business and non-profit law, tax advice/counsel, entity formation, and intellectual property protection (through the UM Legal Counsel Office’s partnership with UM’s Blackstone Launchpad).

**The University of Montana Office of Tech Transfer**

(1 summer placement/1 academic year placement)

*Work with the Office of Tech Transfer on intellectual property issues involving UM faculty or staff.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility

**Pre- or Co Requisite:** Introduction to Intellectual Property

**Recommended:** Advanced Intellectual Property


**Veterans Advocacy Clinic**

(2 summer placements/4 academic year placements)

*Develop lawyering skills in a complex administrative law setting by providing pro bono legal services to Montana veterans before the VA Regional Office, Board of Veterans Appeals, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or Department of Defense boards addressing military discharge upgrade.*

**Prerequisite:** Professional Responsibility

**Areas of Emphasis:** Administrative law setting involving VA claims for service-connected disability benefits, VA claims for increased disability rating, applications for discharge upgrade, and consultation with practitioners on various legal issues for veterans, including family law.

For more information about any of the ABIII School of Law clinical offerings please visit the [ABIII School of Law Clinic web page](https://www.umt.edu/law/academics/students/clinics/default.php)

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