Self-Evaluation of Outplacement Clinic Students
Fall 2009

Background Information

1 What was your regular schedule (days and times) for participating in your outplacement activities? Monday thru Wednesday, Usually from around 9am til around 2:30

1 What sections of court were you regularly in? Sect. C of Juvenile Jeff. Court

2 Over the course of the semester who were your main supervisors? Joe McMahon- Chief of Juvenile; Ann Parnes- A.D.A. of Section C

3 Describe the top five activities you engaged in while in your outplacement and estimate what % of your time you spent in each. (1) Writing trial briefs (10%); (2) Speaking to Witnesses (25%); (3) Speaking with the A.D.A.'s regarding case issues and theories, as well as evidentiary issues (25%); (4) pre-trial preparation; i.e., prepping witnesses as to what they may encounter during trial and what to expect, gaining more insight as to what they remember the day of their trial, etc. (10%); (5) actual trial (30%)

4 How many motions did you conduct? zero

5 How many witnesses did you examine? I directed four witnesses and was able to cross one witness; the other two witnesses I was to cross took the 5th.

6 How many trials did you conduct? Two trials

- How many writs did you write? zero
Graded Self-Evaluation

7 Please give yourself a letter grade for each of the following components of your work this semester and explain how you arrived at that grade.

8 Did you do a journal every week and turn it in on time? B; I typically kept up with the weekly journal. I believe there was one week in which I was out of town and thus had nothing to report.

9 Did your journals document the extent and quality of your work? B; I generally highlighted the more substantial events that occurred during the week.

10 Did your journals reflect what you learned about yourself and the practice of law? B

11 Did you attend the clinic classes? A; I believe I attended every class that was held.

12 Did you participate in the clinic classes? B; I participated at times where I felt I may have been able to contribute.

13 How do you expect your outplacement supervisor will evaluate your work? Hopefully everyone at the office was happy with me and my work. However, I'm never good at projections, so I guess I won't put a grade here.

14 How would you evaluate the overall quality of your performance at your outplacement? Again, it's hard to put a grade here. I always feel I could do better and there's always improvement to be made.

15 What did you learn about yourself and the practice of law this semester? I learned prosecution is definitely what I want to be doing when I graduate. And I learned I can accomplish goals as long as I put myself out there to attempt to reach them.

16 What part of your clinical experience was most challenging to you? I would say sitting in court waiting to try my first case. It's nerve-racking to the point you almost just want the defendants to plea; but, it feels great to actually conduct a trial and succeed.

- What part of your clinical experience was most satisfying to you? Overall, I enjoyed all of it. It's difficult to really pinpoint a particular part that was most satisfying.
17. What part of your clinical experience was least educational for you? Actually, I felt the whole experience was very educational.

18. What do you think were your strengths? Work ethic

19. What do you think were your weaknesses? I need to gain more confidence in what I'm doing.

20. Do you have some suggestions about how I can do a better job as your Loyola supervisor? No; I've enjoyed this experience as a whole and I feel this has been a very organized and enlightening process.

21. Considering the above, give me your idea of what grade you think you should receive for this semester in clinic. Feel free to explain. Again, I'm pretty awful at self-evaluating. I don't like to give myself high scores because I know I'm always capable of doing better. But I also wouldn't want to give myself a low grade because I know I have worked hard to help as much as I could at the office. I know it sounds like I'm waffling, but it's just who I am.
Self-Evaluation of Outplacement Clinic Students
Fall 2009

Background Information

- What was your regular schedule (days and times) for participating in your outplacement activities?

I worked at the Jefferson Parish DA’s office from 8:30 until 4:30 or 5:00 Mondays and Wednesdays. I also came in on Fridays when I had work to complete or a trial for which to prepare.

- What sections of court were you regularly in?

Unlike Orleans Parish the DA’s office in Jefferson did not assign the clinic students to individual sections of court. So I sort of floated, but I was assigned to the felonies division and worked on cases with David Abdullah in Section “G” with Judge Pitre and Jennifer Rosenbach in Section “M” with Judge Sullivan.

- Over the course of the semester who were your main supervisors?

Charlene Enos is the administrative assistant to the Chief of Trials, Tim McElroy. She was the person I reported to as far as filling out my paperwork and getting set up in the office. She was also the person I would go to in order to find out what was happening in court that day. I also reported to her if I had to miss work or leave early for any reason.

While I was not assigned to a specific supervisor I worked with several attorneys throughout the semester. As I said in the question above I worked with David Abdullah and Jennifer Rosenbach. I also did a few assignments for Matthew Clauss. I did an assignment for Tim McElroy as well. I researched a few things for Mike Escudier as well as Scott Schlegel. I also researched a case for Terry Boudreaux in the Appeals division.

- Describe the top five activities you engaged in while in your outplacement and estimate what % of your time you spent in each.

While in Jefferson Parish most of my time was spent doing the following:

Observing in court 25%
Preparing for trials 25%
Research and Writing Assignments 50%

- How many motions did you conduct?

While I offered to conduct motions with several attorneys I did not actually get to conduct any. I did, however, get to participate in examining a witness in a bench trial in which the motions hearing and the actual trial were done simultaneously.
- How many witnesses did you examine?
  While I prepared for several trials including examinations of witnesses, only one of the cases for which I prepared actually went to trial. In that trial I got to examine one witness.

- How many trials did you conduct?

  Again, I prepared for four trials, but only one of the trials actually went to trial, so I conducted one trial.

- How many writs did you write?

  As part of my research and writing I assisted in researching for one writ.
Graded Self-Evaluation

- Please give yourself a letter grade for each of the following components of your work this semester and explain how you arrived at that grade.

- Did you do a journal every week and turn it in on time? B+

  I think I kept up with my journals pretty well. There may have been times when I turned them in a day or two late and I may have missed one, but I made up for it by including the past week's activity in the next week's journal and sometimes doing more than one journal per week, especially towards the end as I could reflect on my time in the DA's office more thoroughly.

- Did your journals document the extent and quality of your work? A

  I believe I accurately portrayed my work at the DA's office. I did not try to sugarcoat my experience or make it seem like I was doing more work than I actually was. I did, at times, have a difficult time getting work assigned to me and I shared that frustration in my journals. Whereas some students may have exaggerated the work they actually did in order to secure a grade, I very much tried to keep my experience as honest as possible.

- Did your journals reflect what you learned about yourself and the practice of law? A

  Again, I believe I included my frustrations and challenges as well as an accounting of what work I was doing so I think I did a good job in this area.

- Did you attend the clinic classes? A

  Yes, I don't believe I missed even one.

- Did you participate in the clinic classes? B+

  I don't feel like there were many opportunities to participate, especially when we had guest speakers, however I was always attentive and paying attention to the class.

- How do you expect your outplacement supervisor will evaluate your work? B+

  I think Jefferson Parish clinic students will have a little bit of a harder time getting evaluated than the Orleans Parish students because those of us in Jefferson did not have an actual boss or someone to report to. Many days I came into the office and felt as if no one knew whether I was there or not or whether I was doing work or not. Maybe I underestimate the attention I was paid, however that is my perception.

  As far as the attorneys who I worked with on trials, David and Jennifer, I believe they would
evaluate me very positively. I was always eager to take on trials and work. I was always on time and conducted myself professionally. I asked a lot of questions and got nervous, but I think that showed my level of commitment and the level of seriousness for which I took the tasks before me.

- How would you evaluate the overall quality of your performance at your outplacement? B+

I think I handled myself very professionally. I was always eager to take on more work. I was always offering my time and skills to the attorneys in the office. I was friendly and I believe a pleasurable person to work with.

- What did you learn about yourself and the practice of law this semester?

I learned how fast paced the DA's office can really be and how quickly matters get resolved. I learned how little I actually know about the practical side of the law. I learned that I have a lot to learn but I feel I can only learn that through experience. I learned that I am still a bit shy and need to overcome some of my fears. I learned that I am excited about next semester and getting a chance to do more trials and getting back into the courtroom.

- What part of your clinical experience was most challenging to you?

I found it difficult to put myself out there and get to know the attorneys and thereby get more work and more experience. I can definitely go into my shell in situations where I am uncomfortable. In the office work was not just assigned to me, I had to get out and ask for it, and this made me uncomfortable.

I also realized that speaking in court was terrifying! I was anxious to do it, but terrified as well. While I did examine one witness I look forward to doing more in court and really getting more used to it.

- What part of your clinical experience was most satisfying to you?

The most satisfying part was when I finally did get the opportunity to stand up in court. It was scary but it showed me that I was really able to do it and that was very satisfying.

- What part of your clinical experience was least educational for you?

The days when I had no assignments to work on or cases to prepare for in the office and there was nothing really going on in court were not very educational.

- What do you think were your strengths?

I think I am eager and willing. I am respectful and appreciative to the attorneys who take me under their wings. I am easygoing and get along with most people. I am also not the type of person who believes people should be locked up for everything and that every defendant is evil and terrible. I have a heart and while I can see that the job I do is an essential service to the community, I also believe in compassion and kindness. I want to learn and do my job well. I want to be a good attorney. And I think that when you combine that eagerness with a solid education it is a very
powerful thing.

- What do you think were your weaknesses?

My biggest weakness was my timidity. Like I said before, I tend to close up when I am uncomfortable and I am still a little uncomfortable around the office. I wish I had more of a personality where I could instantly feel confident and make my presence known, and that is something I need to work on.

Another weakness I had, but believe I corrected, was time management. Right when I started working at the DA's office I had just finished a summer at the US Attorney's Office. At the USAO the timeline of cases is much longer so you have more time to work on issues, and I was working 40 hours a week. Therefore I had plenty of time to work on an assignment and turn it in to the attorney, even when I was juggling many assignments simultaneously. I sort of took that feeling of having a lot of time to work on things with me to the DA's office and I found that working only 16 hours a week combined with the fast pace nature of the office proved to be very different than my summer job. I learned this the hard way when I did not turn in a written motion in time. While I think a lot of the problem was poor communication by the attorney (who went out of town without telling me and also would not give me a definite deadline), it was still a weakness of mine that I believe I corrected.

- Do you have some suggestions about how I can do a better job as your Loyola supervisor?

I think you have done a wonderful job as the clinic supervisor. You are such a nice person and easy to talk to! Because we are all placed in DA's offices, it is more of a hands-off role so there is not much for me to comment on. I think the speakers we had come in were very interesting and informative and I would like to have more of them this next semester because those were the classes I felt I got the most out of. I know it is a requirement to meet as a class once a week, but for our division of clinic it felt a little pointless at times. However I think you did an excellent job of letting the class get out early when we had covered everything we were supposed to cover and cancelling class when it was in our best interest as well. Thank you for your hard work and effort in securing those guest speakers and being mindful of the best interest of the class.

- Considering the above, give me your idea of what grade you think you should receive for this semester in clinic. Feel free to explain.

I would give myself a B+. I think I put a lot of effort into clinic: I attended all the classes, I always went into work and tried to get into court and work on assignments, I wrote in my journal pretty consistently, and I got into the courtroom and spoke on behalf of the State. I definitely need to improve upon some skills and I hope to have a trial of my own next semester, but for my first semester I think I did a pretty good job.
Self-Evaluation of Outplacement Clinic Students
Fall 2009

Fall 2009

Background Information

- What was your regular schedule (days and times) for participating in your outplacement activities?

  I worked on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 every week. I would also work on some Tuesdays and Thursdays, depending on the amount of trial preparation required for that particular week.

- What sections of court were you regularly in?

  Being that I was not assigned to work with a particular supervisor in Jefferson Parish, I was able to view a number of divisions. However, I did work closely with Michael Smith in Division O and David Abdullah in Division G. I also spent some time in Division M and Division C while working on various projects.

- Over the course of the semester who were your main supervisors?

  My main attorney supervisors were Michael Smith and David Abdullah. However, we would check in with Mrs. Charlene Enos every day to see what other attorneys were doing around the office.

- Describe the top five activities you engaged in while in your outplacement and estimate what % of your time you spent in each.

  It is a little difficult to determine the top five activities I engaged in while I was working in the Jefferson Parish DA's Office because my role in the office significantly changed as the semester went along. Thus, I will try my best to describe the top activities I participated in at the beginning and at the end of semester.

  At first, I would say that I spent around 50% of my time researching and writing memos and parts of written motions. I spent the other 35% of my time in the courtroom, watching various trial proceedings (everything from motion hearings to closing arguments). I would spend around 10% of the rest of my time talking to the ADA's about the proceedings. The other 5% of my time was spent walking around, trying to get to know everyone in the office and dig up work.

  Towards the latter part of semester, I would say that I spent about 65% of my time preparing for trial. Either David or Michael (especially Michael) would have a case that they were willing to give me and I would first work up the case, then discuss with the ADA particular issues in the case, the general theory of the case, what evidence was necessary, and how the trial should proceed. This took about 30% of my trial prep time. Also included in the trial preparation was a more primitive form of legal research to make sure that I understood all areas of the law concerning the case. This ate up about 15%-20% of my trial preparation time. I would also spend time working
up a “mock” opening and closing. This included making an outline for the direct examination of any witness so I would have something to fall back on if my mind went blank at trial. This took up about 50% of my time. The other 5% of my time was spent wrapping everything up, talking to the witnesses, and getting the case in order. Then of course, there was the one trial and the two plea negotiations that I took part in.

At the end of the semester, I would spend about 20% of my time working on various research memos about particular issues on a writ or motion argument that were given to me by an ADA or Tim McElroy. I started writing a writ at the end of the semester, which took up a substantial part of my time. I would say around 10%-15% of my research time. I didn’t get to finish due to exams, but I advised the ADA that I would be available on a limited basis and he was very appreciative of all the help I could provide. I also spent most of my time working for Tim McElroy on two or three procedural issues in memo form. That took up a good 60% of my research time. The rest of my time was spent in the courtroom watching other proceedings, trying to pick up little nuances and good habits here and there, and talking to ADAs about why they did particular things in the proceeding.

- How many motions did you conduct?
  - I was involved in numerous motions over the semester. However, I did not conduct or argue any motions in the court room on my own.

- How many witnesses did you examine?
  - I examined the lead occurrence witness in a PWITD of Cocaine and Possession of Marijuana.

- How many trials did you conduct?
  - I conducted one judge trial. I gave the opening statement, direct examination of the first examination (there was no cross-examination), and conducted closing arguments. The court held in our favor and eventually sentenced the defendant to three years. I also prepared for 8 trials over the semester and was involved in plea negotiations in two of the trials (the rest were continued).

- How many writs did you write?
  - I started writing a writ a few days before I left to get ready for exams, but didn’t get to finish. I researched the issue and started writing when I decided to talk to Mrs. Charlene about giving the assignment a new law clerk for their first assignment so I could get ready for exams and a last minute trial.
Graded Self-Evaluation

- Please give yourself a letter grade for each of the following components of your work this semester and explain how you arrived at that grade.

- Did you do a journal every week and turn it in on time?

  I would give myself an A- on my journal entries because I did one every week (I turned my first one in through e-mail because I was having trouble with clinciases.com). I did turn my journals in fairly timely, there was one week that I turned it in on Tuesday of the next week.

- Did your journals document the extent and quality of your work?

  I think my journals did document the extent of my work. However, I don't necessarily think I put the quality of my work in the journals. I thought I did pretty good work because I put a lot of time and effort into the assignments and everyone would compliment my work, but I don't think I reflected that in my journals. I would give my self a B-.

- Did your journals reflect what you learned about yourself and the practice of law?

  I believe my journals did reflect what I've learned. This experience has been one of the most challenging, frightful, and rewarding experiences of law school. It has changed my outlook on the practice of law (mostly good, some bad) and I did spend some time reflecting on what I've learned and how it will carry over to my practice. I would give myself an A.

- Did you attend the clinic classes?

  I attended all of the clinic classes except for the second one at the start of the semester because I had a family gathering in Seattle Washington on Friday night. I guess I deserve a B+.

- Did you participate in the clinic classes?

  I did participate in classes when called upon or in the few round table discussions. I probably wasn't as vocal in class as most teachers would like, but I did talk and I thought my commentary was somewhat informative... not ground breaking, but an opinion. Thus, I would give myself a B- or a C+.

- How do you expect your outplacement supervisor will evaluate your work?

  I expect that my supervisors will give me high marks. I think they understand that this is a learning experience and that I did not have the most experience, but I tried very hard, I learned a lot, I did everything asked, and I put in a ton of time to try to be a better student/attorney. I know that they were appreciative of my work and were more than happy to work with my (as I
with them) whenever the opportunity arose. I would expect that they would give me a B+ or an A.

- How would you evaluate the overall quality of your performance at your outplacement?

I believe that I did perform well at the Jefferson Parish DA’s Office. It was a difficult transition to come into an office where everyone has been working together, knows each other very well, and build up a rapport with the staff and the attorneys in the office. I believe not only did that but started to carve out a niche in the office through being available as much as possible, being open to take any assignment, and working hard.

I also believe that I did turn in quality work my supervisors. They appeared to appreciate the work and would often come back and ask me to join them on a particular case or issue. I believe that I would give myself an A for the quality of performance.

- What did you learn about yourself and the practice of law this semester?

I believe the most important thing I learned about myself was that I can manage and conduct a courtroom presence. The biggest question mark I had about my legal career was whether I could go into the courtroom and “act and talk” like a lawyer. It’s one thing to do legal research and write letters/petitioners, and briefs at the office. It’s another thing to get into the courtroom and “go to battle” with another attorney. Before this semester, I did not have any experience with it and, again, it was the biggest question mark about me as a lawyer. After this semester and my experience watching other attorneys, starting to practice in court, and “getting my feet wet,” I learned that with the proper guidance and hard work, I have the potential to become a trial lawyer.

I also have started to learn the practicalities of law. It’s one thing in law school and on exams to say what evidence you would have to prove, but it’s another thing to analyze how to get the evidence into trial and to actually try and get the evidence into trial. I’ve also started to understand or realize some of the burdens placed on lawyers and how difficult it actually is to conduct a very good direct examination and cross-examination. I can say on an evidence exam, on cross, we would enter this impeaching evidence. It’s another thing try and jump through the hurdles, while fighting an opposing counsel, to try and get that impeachment evidence into trial and then make it relevant for impeachment purposes. I’ve begun to try and learn and somewhat understand that it is a difficult game of strategy and competition against another party.

Moreover, there is a very real human element to the practice of law, especially criminal law. That human element extends to the reliability or believability of a witness to the pain and suffering of a victim. I believe in law school, we are very detached from that human element and our studies are generally focused on the cold letter of the law. When we talk about procedural issues and the effect of dismissing charges or actually causing a mistrial, or taking a writ or appeal, we don’t see the human element and how it affects people. Whereas, at the DA’s office, most of the actions we take (especially in crimes with victims) are governed by that human element. There are many crimes that we could bring against the defendant, but the human element of a victim wishing forgiveness reduces the state action. Moreover, there are times that we may over extend ourselves because of the nature of the crime and the lack of evidence. It was refreshing to see a human side because I often get bogged down in the black letter of the law and lose sight of the purpose of law, man’s attempt at justice.

Another thing I began to learn is the stress of practicing law. It takes a lot of preparation to get ready for a motion argument, much less a trial. To do a competent and complete job, we have to
be at the top of our game day in and day out. It is very difficult and time consuming, often to the
point of being impossible. This was one part of law that concerned me, but I learned that with
proper guidance, time management, and work ethic, it is possible to manage.

- What part of your clinical experience was most challenging to you?

The most challenging part of the experience to me was familiarizing myself with the proper
courtroom procedures, such as introducing evidence, not asking leading questions, battling
objections. As I discussed in my “weaknesses,” I had very little courtroom experience, that’s the
primary reason I joined the clinical program, and it was challenging to familiarize myself with all of
the procedures before we went to trial. I spent an enormous amount of time reading the trial
practice book that you recommended, reading articles on the subject, creating “mock” directs,
practicing at home, going through the motions in my head a thousand times over. I was very
nervous about getting into trial and looking like a fool for trying to admit evidence in an improper
way or asking an impermissible question that would lead to a mistrial. Thus, I found that to be the
most challenging aspect of the clinical program.

- What part of your clinical experience was most satisfying to you?

The most satisfying part of my clinical experience, hands down, was getting a conviction in
my first trial after the trial judge decided to (what it felt like) “initiate me.” I was to take the lead
witness and enter evidence of the cocaine, marijuana, and other things. My plan was to let the
witness tell his story and when he got his description of the search (there were multiple searches of
his person, truck, and home), introduce the evidence (lay the foundation).

Almost right after I started, the judge stopped the direct and told me that didn’t want me to
question the witness; he requested that I introduce the evidence and leave it at that. He grilled me
about not having the evidence numbered and ready to present (I was planning to number, present,
try to introduce as we went along with the story – didn’t number because the officer might (which
he did) talk about evidence in an unpredictable order). Nonetheless, I felt as if the case was turned
on my head, but I was able to get the evidence in with the necessary testimony. Mind you, the entire
time, the judge was telling me to hurry up because he was ready for the weekend (it was Thursday
afternoon and they courtroom was closed on Friday). It was an interesting experience, but I got the
evidence in, and the judge held in our favor, found the defendant guilty on the PWTD of cocaine
and simple possession of marijuana. The judge also gave me a “semi” vote of confidence by telling
me to “keep swinging.”

After the trial, the officers and a few ADAs took me out for a drink. It felt like it was an
initiation that I passed and was incredibly rewarding to put in a lot of work on a case and get the
conviction with many congrats afterwards. Even the courtroom staff congratulated me in the
subsequent days after the trial. It was very satisfying to go through that experience.

- What part of your clinical experience was least educational for you?

The first couple of weeks of the clinical experience were the least educational because I was
given very basic research assignments by the ADAs. It’s understandable that the ADAs gave me
basic assignments because I did not have a relationship with anyone prior to the clinical experience
and they did not know my work. Nonetheless, for a couple of weeks, I would just sit in the office
for most of the day, working on research assignments, and writing memos. It was somewhat
educational because they were issues that were mostly practical and helped develop my understanding of the criminal prosecution. It also gave me an opportunity to see the courtrooms and to spend some time watching trials (when I was done with the assignments). However, it was not nearly as educational as getting ready for trial and going to trial.

- What do you think were your strengths?

I feel like I had groups of strengths that stood out and made my work or transition into a new office a good one. The first was my work ethic and availability. I spent most of my time this semester at the DA’s Office three and sometimes four days a week. I tried to be as available as possible to the ADA’s so they would give me assignments. Once I received the assignment, I did work very hard to finish it in a quick, yet comprehensive and thorough fashion. When I was at the office, I worked. There were many times that I would walk around and just chat with the ADA’s, but when an assignment was due, or I was getting ready for trial, I would really put a lot of energy in completing the assignment in a comprehensive fashion.

I think my other strength was my flexibility or ability to work with others on various assignments. After I got my feet wet and completed a few assignments, I generally was juggling two or three assignments at once. This was especially true at the end of the semester when I was getting ready for trial and working on research assignments on various motions. I accepted just about anything thrown my way because I wanted the experience and I was able to work very well with the ADA’s and staff on these assignments. I tried very hard to communicate as much as possible, be as open as possible, and work through whatever difficulty that was presented. I believe that my supervisors did see that and that the effort made it so we had a very good relationship.

- What do you think were your weaknesses?

I think my largest weakness was inexperience. Before entering the clinical program, I had very little courtroom experience. Most of my legal experience has been writing memos at civil defense firms, working with clients in a bankruptcy firm, and writing a few appellate briefs at the Orleans DA’s Office. While working in the private firms, I had absolutely no courtroom experience. I was allowed to go see a deposition and sit in on a few at the firm, but I never went to court (I don’t think we participated in any trials while I was at either firm). At the Orleans DA’s Office, I wrote briefs and spent all of my time working on memos in the office.

Furthermore, I didn’t participate in Trial Advocacy or even Moot Court (I took the class, but we only participated in a total of 7-8 arguments). Thus, I had little experience in the courtroom and to be honest, I’m still adjusting. I think I’ve made great strides and I’m getting more comfortable in the courtroom, but it is certainly my biggest weakness.

I think my other largest weakness was my unfamiliarity of the terminology and the understanding of the criminal process in its entirety. There is lingo used at the trial level that isn’t used anywhere else at the ADA’s office or anywhere else in the legal field. It took a little time to get used to that and it sometimes made communication a little difficult. However, it wasn’t a huge obstacle. My understanding of the trial process was also something that I had to work on while I was there. As expected, there are tons of procedural intricacies that are second nature to experienced ADA’s and it’s taking some time to understand and use those intricacies in the proper situation.

- Do you have some suggestions about how I can do a better job as your Loyola supervisor?
I'm a huge supporter of the clinical program and I believe that y'all have done a fantastic job throughout the semester. There wasn't a single time that I didn't have the proper support. The only suggestion I would make would be to bring in a few judges or experienced trial attorneys at the beginning to talk about the proper procedure to introduce evidence, examine witnesses, etc. It would be good to have something like a "skills" class on that material before we actually go to trial because that's what made me most nervous. I would watch practicing attorneys do it and try to replicate what they do, but practice would have been nice before we went into court and tried to actually do it when it matters.

- Considering the above, give me your idea of what grade you think you should receive for this semester in clinic. Feel free to explain.

I believe that I should receive an A for this semester. I put a lot of time and effort into my work at the DA's Office. There were countless days where I would stay late and work with an ADA on a case, or stay late to see the verdict on a particular case. I feel like I put in quality work that helped the ADA and the office. Most importantly challenged myself and I feel that I'm a better lawyer and a better person. I pushed myself far outside of my comfort zone this semester. This made me work to become a better lawyer. I forced myself to start to learn, understand, and use trial theory and practices. I forced myself to learn how to prepare a case and actually go to trial. Before this semester, I would not have known where to begin or how to handle a criminal case. Now, I feel comfortable that I could at least manage a case and take it to trial. I know that I have so very much more to learn and understand but my knowledge and confidence as a soon-to-be lawyer has grown exponentially through putting myself out there and working hard in the clinical program.
Self-Evaluation of Outplacement Clinic Students
Fall 2009

Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office
Section F

Background Information

- What was your regular schedule (days and times) for participating in your outplacement activities?
  - The first half of clinic I went on Thursday from 9-2:30 and Friday 9-5
  - The second half of clinic, I went on Tuesday 9-1:00, Thursday 9-1:00 and Friday 9-1:00
    - Many of these days I stayed later than 1. Though I was scheduled to 1, I usually stayed at work until 2:30 or 3:00.

- What sections of court were you regularly in?
  - Section F

- Over the course of the semester who were your main supervisors?
  - Lynn Schiffman, Matt Lastrapes, and Oliver Smith

- Describe the top five activities you engaged in while in your outplacement and estimate what % of your time you spent in each.
  - Ordering evidence 20%
  - Filing 10%
  - Observing Motions and Trials
    - Taking notes on the proceedings 50%
  - Preparing and Participating in Motions 15%
    - Also prepared for trials that never took place
  - Learning the computer system on how to look up rap sheets, hearing dates, charges, etc 5%

- How many motions did you conduct?
  - 3

- How many witnesses did you examine?
  - 4

- How many trials did you conduct?
  - 0
    - I had two trials scheduled and the day of the defendants both plead

- How many writs did you write?
  - 0
Graded Self-Evaluation

- Please give yourself a letter grade for each of the following components of your work this semester and explain how you arrived at that grade.

- Did you do a journal every week and turn it in on time?
  - A
    - I did a journal every week detailing what I did that week and my personal thoughts of what I observed.

- Did your journals document the extent and quality of your work?
  - A
    - Every week I gave a detail description of what I did at work.
    - My journal entries discussed my thoughts of my work performed.
    - Not every journal entry specifically address the quality of my work, however I always performed each task to the best of my abilities.

- Did your journals reflect what you learned about yourself and the practice of law?
  - A
    - I definitely reflected on the practice of law, especially the lack of professionalism in the court room.
    - When I first started clinic I was skeptical. My journal entries reflected my views and opinions on how that skepticism changed throughout the semester.

- Did you attend the clinic classes?
  - A
    - The only clinic class that I may have missed was the week of the MPRF. but I think that class was cancelled

- Did you participate in the clinic classes?
  - A
    - Not only did I participate when the classes that allowed participation but one of the classes specifically address my journal comments about professionalism in the court room

- How do you expect your outplacement supervisor will evaluate your work?
  - I have no idea, but he should evaluate my work with a grade of an A
    - My senior in the section was Matt Lastrapes. However, I was given most of assignments by the junior Lynn Schiffman. Lynn and I developed a great working relationship, which I learned much from. Unfortunately, Lynn is not
doing my evaluation. Matt is doing my evaluation. I do not think he had ample time to spend with me as Lynn did. When I first started working, he was the junior in the section as was promoted to senior a week later. From my perspective, Matt was adjusting to his role as senior and delegated the duties of supervising me to Lynn. I am not sure what input he had from Lynn on the evaluation. If he did receive input from her, there is no doubt that they will evaluate my work at a very high level. If he did not seek her input then he will be doing me an injustice because he did not have the opportunity to interact with me and evaluate my work.

- I did all task assigned, asked follow up questions about the task, kept them informed of progress, and asked for more responsibility. I presented myself in a very professional manner and always showed respect to my co-workers, the DA's Office, the judiciary, and the clinic.

- How would you evaluate the overall quality of your performance at your outplacement?
  - A
    - Every project that I worked on was with the utmost diligence and accuracy. I consistently asked follow-up questions to insure the work performed was within the objectives of the assignment.
    - On my motion hearing, I prepared in a way that I knew every detail of the police report, and spoke to the police officers about the concerns I may had.
    - At the advice of my senior, I used a boilerplate form questionnaire for my first motion. It turned out to be a mistake using that.
    - On my next two motions, one of which was on the same day as my first motion, I prepared a circular diagram that had certain issues I wanted to discuss. This diagram was suggested by Prof. Ciolino in a class I took during the summer. It basically started out at 12 o'clock and went clockwise back to 12. This helped me tremendously. Instead of having specific questions, it was limited to specific issues.

- What did you learn about yourself and the practice of law this semester?
  - First and foremost, I learned that the NOPD can be trusted (something that was the complete opposite at the beginning of the semester).
  - Going into the clinic I had doubts that I could work in criminal law, either as prosecutor or defense.
    - I know see that I can with good conscience work on either side.
    - On the prosecution side, you only have so much to work with. You also have the ability to determine for yourself if the events surrounding the arrest constituted a crime or even if the arrested person committed the crime. My problem at the beginning of the semester was that I did not want to put an innocent person in jail. Well it turns that that may not happen as much as I thought. Most of the police officers I dealt with seemed to be very sincere. There was 1 motion that I was not sure if I could win the probable cause but after speaking to the police officer I learned a lot more information than what was in the report.
  - I learned that a lot of people who are practicing law do not take it seriously.
    - As my journal entries reflect, I believe that a court of law should be a place
that commands respect. I saw many attorneys showing up unprepared, dressed in ways that most people would not leave their house, and had poor court room manner, such as chewing gum in the court.

- On the flip side, I did see many attorneys who cared very much their clients, being the state or the defendant. They were not there just to collect a pay check.

- I guess in a perfect world attorneys would show up on time, ready to provide their client with the best representation they could provide. The client deserves no less. Though I saw a few attorneys that did this, most did not. It is hard to describe the feelings this makes me have. On way side, it makes me ashamed that I am going to be part of this profession. On the other hand, it tells me I have a lot to offer the legal community.

- What part of your clinical experience was most challenging to you?
  - The most challenging experience was holding my tongue and not giving the people I work with constructive criticism. My background is in human resources and management. There is ample room for improvement in handling case loads and overall efficiency of time. For instance, on any given day there are 3 ADAs in court for Section E and usually only 1 of them has a trial or motion to do that day. I understand having an extra person in there to take care of incidental matters, but the third person could be back in their office preparing cases.
    - This is just one example of the suggestions I wanted to make, but from my experience suggestions of change from an outsider are not taking so well.
  - Another challenging experience was getting over the nerves to speak in court. At first I was really nervous but after my first direct examination, it was a rush to state my objections and the basis. After my first motion, the nerves were gone. It was actually night and day. I went from being nervous to being excited and eager to do another more.
  - But the nerves came back the week I was suppose to conduct my two trials. The nerves were not from having to speak in court, but being unprepared. I knew my report inside and out, but I was unsure about my opening and closing arguments. What made me nervous was that I never received any guidance from supervisors on what I had to present or how to present it. I received vague examples but never an actual conversation. It wasn't until I met with you that I had a clear understanding what I had to present in my opening and closing arguments.

- What part of your clinical experience was most satisfying to you?
  - The most satisfying experience was getting over my nerves and getting some time to take the podium in open court. That was one of the reasons why I signed up for clinic. Moor Court was a horrible experience for me and I wanted the opportunity to shake the nerves, which I did.
  - It was also satisfying seeing that lack of trust in the criminal judicial system was misplaced. Though it is not a perfect system by any means, it still functions with somewhat success. I worked in the St. Tammany DA's Office in the past and at first I was expecting a similar experience. I realized that is comparing apples and oranges. The crime in St. Tammany is nothing like Orleans. We don't have the large.
widespread social economical problems as Orleans, which of course leads to more serious crimes being committed. I can only assume that with the NOPD fighting what seems to be losing battle that their experiences are different than St. Tammany deputies. I have had great experiences with St. Tammany deputies and not so great with the NOPD (both times I was the victim). From my experience with clinic, it has been satisfying to regain the trust in NOPD. I can understand why my experience with them in the past wasn’t so great. Not that I think the particular actions of the officer was justified, but being able to see more clearly what kind of people they deal with on daily basis has allowed me to have a better understanding of the stress and morale that they must be under.

- What part of your clinical experience was least educational for you?
  ○ The least educational experience was pulling files and filing. There was no educational experience in that. Any person with at least a second grade education could pull files and then refile them.

- What do you think were your strengths?
  ○ While working at the DA’s Office my strongest strength was paying attention to detail. I saw many motions that were decided on simple matters such as sentence structure in the police report. When briefing a case for a class I usually skim over it just pulling the important facts. When preparing for a motion and trial, all the facts are important.
    - I was responsible for ordering evidence. I was told not to worry about evidence for motions. However, when pulling the files for upcoming motions I had to question why evidence, such as photograph lineup, would not be ordered. I took it upon myself to start reading the files for the upcoming motions and made judgment calls on what evidence should be ordered. After relaying this to my supervisor, he agreed that I should order evidence for all identification motions and violent crimes. However, there were many cases that needed evidence for motions that were not violent crimes or identification. I had to pay attention to the details of the report and determine when it would be necessary to order evidence.
  ○ Another strength was asking questions. I constantly asked Lynn many questions relating to her job as a prosecutor. I wanted to insure that I delivered a work-product that was beyond the expectations of my supervisors.
    - I also wanted to know the fine details that separate the great trial attorneys from the average. I saw a few trial attorneys that were horrible to say the lease and others that were great. I wanted to know from a prosecutors point of view what makes a good trial attorney just that and how to overcome it. The basis answers I received was to just keep paying attention to details and asking more question.
  ○ My preparation for motions was extremely intense. As stated, I went over the file with a fine-tooth comb. I played devil’s advocate and tried to figured out where the holes in my case where and how to overcome them. Also as stated, I prepared circular flow charts to ensure I covered each and every detail that I wanted to address.
In doing so, I had to speak the police officers and ask them questions about inaccuracies in their reports, lack of detail in reports, and try to get the actual occurrence of what events actually took place. This was a bit awkward at first. However, I found it necessary to prevail in my motions and my co-workers motions. At times it seemed that the officers would just say that the report was accurate and when I pointed out problems with the report, they would tell me the report should have been written in a different way. I found that framing questions in a certain way would bring out why the reports and my conversations had deviations. The reason behind this is that I wanted to ensure that I had a creditable witness on the stand and that I could get out the entire story, including why there were discrepancies in the report and testimony.

- I spent countless hours of my own time preparing for motions, and thus, I never came to work unprepared.
- I feel that I had great organizational skills that served my community in which it deserved.

- What do you think were your weaknesses?
  - A weakness I found was that I could not think quickly on my feet. Especially when the defense's objection was sustained. This usually happened when I asked a leading question and the problem I had was hesitating in order to think of how to reword the question I asked. By my third motion I was able to reword my questions but not as fast as I wanted to. In representing Loyola, I have a duty to continuously show why Loyola is a top law school in the country. By having the minor setbacks in open court, I did not represent Loyola in which it deserves. Though I had minor setbacks, I was still able to represent Loyola in a very positive way to the extent it deserves.
  - On occasion I found myself performing task that I didn't think I should be doing. A few times when I was at work I was an errand boy. I was asked to do things like run back to the office to get note pads just in case they were needed when we had plenty in court, run back and forth from the office and court house when they forgot a file or the laptop computer, make copies when the attorneys had down time, and do filing when they had down time. I don't think any of these tasks furthered the objective of my participation in clinic. I also think that if the attorneys took the time to retrieve the files or computers they left at office they would make sure they will have everything the next time they left. I would hate for a situation to arise that a file was left behind that was needed which the consequences were dire.

- My weakness came in when I did not express my thoughts and concerns that having me do these projects were not in the scope of the clinic program. Now, I am all for being a team player and helping each other out. It was the manner of the way the assignments were given that I object to. It was never an assignment to help out a co-worker, but more of an assignment that I am just a Rule XX, and therefore I should submit to the request of my supervisors no matter how little of importance it was. I hope I am being clear that I don't mind doing assignments when needed, but I do mind when people can act carelessly when performing their job duties because there is somebody in a lower position that can clean up the mess.
- Do you have some suggestions about how I can do a better job as your Loyola supervisor?
  - Overall a great job. I really enjoyed having the prosecutor come in and speak on jury selection. I would like to see more presenters on different subjects pertaining to trial practice, such as opening and closing statements.

- Considering the above, give me your idea of what grade you think you should receive for this semester in clinic. Feel free to explain.
  - I should receive an A for the class.
  - In evaluating my grade for the semester I did an evaluation of my performance throughout the semester as follows:
    - During my time at the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office I was assigned a number of assignments and duties. I took each assignment very seriously, no matter how small or large the assignment was. When working on assignments I consistently asked questions when something was vague or I was unsure about the particular problem. While my assignments were ongoing I kept my supervisors updated on the progress and completed each project on time.
    - When I did not agree with the assignment (i.e., running errands during the attorneys down time) I still completed the assignment to the best of my ability without any protest. I did not protest because I wanted to ensure I did not cause any friction in the office and to maintain a stable and peaceful work environment for all. I did this because it was beneficial towards my learning experience and the overall objective of the clinic program.
    - I came to an agreeable work schedule with my supervisors. When I had to modify my schedule for school or MPRE, I kept them informed and took preventative measures to make sure my absence on a particular day was detrimental to my co-workers. Each week I worked at the very least 12 hours per week, with the exception of the week of the MPRE and my last week there when I was preparing for exams. Before reducing my time for the MPRE I sought permission from both you and the ADA’s office. For my last week I also sought permission to work less.
    - I attended each and every class period. If the class called for interaction, I participated. When in class I took notes from the guest speakers so I could review them at a later time with the goal of gaining insight to being a successful trial attorney.
    - Each week I submitted my journal. In my journal I discussed how much time I spent at work, what my job duties were, my thoughts on my duties, and thoughts of the overall experience of what I participated in.
    - During my time in clinic I always presented myself in a very professional way. Each day I showed respect to my co-workers (not just those in my section), to the court, and to the clinic. I did this by being courteous, polite, and never wore my emotions on sleeve when they were negative. I made sure that as I representative of the citizens of Louisiana, especially those of Orleans Parish, and as a representative of Loyola College of Law that I dressed in a professional manner, did not participate in “gossip talk”, balanced my time effectively and efficiently, and demanded perfection from myself. As such a representative, I always kept appearance in a way that
should respect to the court and to the profession. My clothing was neatly pressed, shoes polished, hair fixed daily, and kept a close shave. Some may say this is expected, but I was shocked to see how many men and women do not display this professionalism.

- Overall I met and surpassed the requirements of the class. Not only did I do the required work but I also made a strong emphasis to complete my obligations to the clinic by going beyond what was expected. For this reason and the reasons stated above, I will present myself with an A grade.