

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

COURSE CODE:	MDR 966
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CONTACT:	Pat Caralis or JoNel Newman
LENGTH OF ELECTIVE:	2/4 weeks (preferably 4 wks)
PREREQUISITE:	Internal Medicine and Surgery Clerkships
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	6
AVAILABLE:	BLOCKS 3B-6A and BLOCKS 8B-11A
INTERVIEWING TIME:	No
TYPE:	Clinical

It is mandatory you contact one of the course directors two weeks prior to your start date to make arrangements for your rotation.

Overview:

Medical-Legal Partnership clinic presents issues of health in the broader social context of people's lives, providing knowledge and skills from both disciplines to the advancement of health through joint medical-legal advocacy and interdisciplinary solutions to complex problems.

During the course, students from medicine and law will be partnered to focus on basic legal issues in the context of medical care. They will have the opportunity to work in this unique clinic which focuses not only on medical care of actual patients but on the elimination of social determinants that adversely affect patient health, such as income and employment, housing, education, legal status, and personal safety. The Medical-Legal Partnership clinic has several sites of practice: Miami Veterans Administration Medical Center (Medical and Psychiatric clinics), Jackson Memorial Hospital Special Immunology clinics and Jefferson Reeves Ambulatory clinics. Students will learn about the complex intersection of poverty, health and law, develop insight into how the law may be used as a tool to improve health, and how health care providers and lawyers can work together to invoke more effective and preventive remedies for patients and clients. They will explore practical remedies and innovations both within and outside of the health care system.

Course Design:

Medical and law students will be partnered as a team in the medical clinics alongside Medical Residents and Attendings seeing patients in the clinic. Each team will evaluate patients from the perspective of their individual discipline and formulate a comprehensive management plan for their patients. Each team at each of the sites is supervised by both a Medical Attending and Law Professor at the bedside. Medical Students will rotate through each of the clinics, which are held on different days. The different clinical sites assure that the students will be seeing cases which include capacity assessments, disability evaluations, advance care planning (living wills, powers of attorney), restoration and termination of rights, confidentiality requirements, poverty and benefits applications, immigration and health status. They will attend weekly interdisciplinary lectures that are offered



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once or twice a week on the law school or medical campus on the intersection of medicine and law such as: capacity and guardianship, end-of-life care planning, Medicare and Medicaid entitlements, insurance advocacy, disability assessments and Social Security, Confidentiality and HIPPA. They will have the opportunity to attend a session at the Probate courts, Mental Health courts (Voluntary/Involuntary treatments), and Social Security Disability hearings. They will attend an academic half day skills session which will be provided for in depth leaning and practice of skills to include expert witness and deposition techniques, where they will act as the physicians.

Additionally, each team will be assigned topics, based on their cases, which they will present during their rotation. They will be responsible for the research and presentation. Because of the shortened length of their rotation, students may not be able to accompany patients at any court hearings, but they would be welcome to attend and participate in the development of the advocacy issues for their patients. The law students over a semester course represent these patients in various courts, and will be able to share with the involved medical students the conclusions of any hearings.

After the presentation of their sessions, each of the student teams will turn in their powerpoint/paper presentation on their assigned topic. Additionally, a short paper will be required reporting on their field experiences.

Schedule Template

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Supervision	JMH Special Imm	VA Clinic Hours	Jefferson Reaves	Case Work in Law
10:00	Meetings with Faculty	Clinic Hours* (9:00-12:00)	(9:00-12:00)	Clinic Hours* (9:00-12:00)	Office/Courts/ Administrative
11:00					Agencies
12:00					
1:00	Case Work in Law	Clinical Follow Up	Seminar (1:30-4:00)	Clinical Follow Up	
2:00	Office/Courts/ Administrative				
3:00	Agencies				
4:00					
5:00					

*Dates and times subject to confirmation and possible change.

Goals:

1. Establish a foundation in medicine and law in health care for subsequent clinical experiences.
2. Build on basic issues in medicine and law that students will encounter in their future endeavors as practitioners of medicine and law.
3. Teach students about the collaborative relationship between medical ethics and law and professional identity formation.

Objectives:



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1. Students will develop interdisciplinary strategies for medical and legal decision-making to approach clinical problems and issues.
2. Identify appropriate resources (books, relevant journal articles and case law that deals with the topic).
3. Experience opportunities for collaboration of medicine and law.

Location:

- Medical Campus (clinics) and Law School (Coral Gables) Campus (for lectures although faculty anticipate a rotation between campuses)

Participating Faculty:

- Medical school and law school faculty

Prerequisite:

- Internal Medicine and Surgery core clerkships

Expectations:

- The students will be expected to attend and participate in all clinics and complete written assignments on time. The rotation coordinator will be informed of all unavoidable absences and reserves the right to not assign full credit for the course. Professionalism as mandated by the Schools of Medicine and Law is expected.

Student Evaluation and Grading:

Students will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis based upon:

1. Attendance to all mandatory sessions.(clinics, court sessions, academic half day)
2. Assigned Team presentation

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