The Experiential Advocacy Program’s mission is to provide a small and collaborative environment for self-starters to develop the creative skills and legal knowledge to solve real-world problems. By bridging the gap between the theoretical world of law school and practice, our program provides self-starters with the prowess and philosophy to become legal entrepreneurs, advocates and activists. Our classes are designed for a maximum of 16 to 20 students; as we believe that smaller class sizes promote creativity, active discussion and collaboration. All classes focus on developing the proficiency and expertise necessary to solve the types of problems that a new lawyer is likely to encounter in several different substantive areas of law. Our professors are experts at practicing law in the fields in which they teach, providing for a wide breadth of knowledge in the subject matter being presented. The exposure to multiple lawyering styles and strategies encourages the development of a student’s professionalism and confidence. Students leave the program with the capacity and insight to engage the law as a powerful tool of enterprising advocacy.

**CURRICULUM**

To receive a Certificate in Experiential Advocacy, students must apply (see reverse for application instructions) and be accepted into the program during their first year of law school, and then complete 16 approved credits in their remaining semesters. Certificate students are also encouraged to participate in an externship, an internship, a Semester in Practice, or a Legal Clinic and these experiences fulfill up to 4 credits of the 16 credit requirement. Below is a list of the anticipated courses for the 2015-2016 academic year:

### 2015 Fall Semester Courses:

- **Criminal Procedure: Bail to Jail**
  2 credits, Professor Kruska
- **Commercial Transactions**
  2 credits, Professor Brooks
- **Representing Entrepreneurial Business**
  2 credits, Professor Mullaney
- **International Intellectual Property**
  2 credits, Professor Audia
- **Corporate Finance**
  2 credits, Professor Mullaney
- **Family Law w/ Optional Lab**
  2/4 credits, Professor Apel
- **Criminal Practice and Procedure**
  2 credits, Professor Saxman
- **Trial Practice**
  2 credits, Professor Levine
- **Negotiation**
  2 credits, Professor Powers
- **Impaired Driving**
  2/3 credits, Professor Sand

### 2015 Summer Courses:

- **Hackticvist BootCamp**
  2 credits, Professor Eicks

### 2016 Spring Semester Courses:

- **Estate Planning**
  2 credits, Professor Brooks
- **Municipal Law**
  2 credits, Professor Richardson
- **Bankruptcy, Foreclosure & Collections**
  2 credits, Professor Emens-Butler
- **Legal Activism: Lawyering for Social Change**
  2 credits, Professor Carter
- **Criminal Practice and Procedure**
  2 credits, Professor Saxman
- **Trial Practice**
  2 credits, Professors Gagnon or Griffin
- **Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiation**
  2 credits, Professor Barry
- **Mediation Advocacy**
  2 credits, Professor Powers
- **Negotiation**
  2 credits, Professor White

*Please keep in mind that a number of our approved courses might have prerequisites to consider.*
APPLICATION PROCESS

It is our goal to provide a top-quality program for students who understand the commitment required of a professional and are willing to extend themselves. Therefore, as any former student will tell you, the program requires much more than passing an exam at the end of the semester. Students must produce a variety of written and oral assignments over the course of a semester. Furthermore, students must be willing to work collaboratively with their peers to advance the understanding of the whole class. The program challenges students to develop strategies to learn on their own and to benefit from interactions with associates while processing new material.

All students interested in applying should submit a résumé and cover letter addressed to the Director, Professor Jessica West. The cover letter should identify the student’s reasons for wanting to participate in the program as well as their ability to contribute to the richness of the classroom. We are looking for students who will excel in a program of experiential learning and who can demonstrate the likely ability to take advantage of experiential learning opportunities. Similarly, we seek students with the ability to work both collaboratively and independently, and to actively engage with new material. Thus, the cover letter should include an example or examples from the student’s life or education that illustrate why the student believes himself or herself to be a suitable candidate. A copy of a current résumé must be included, and must indicate the applicant’s current GPA. In order to apply for admission into the certificate program, an interested student must submit the cover letter and résumé to the VLS Experiential Advocacy website by 5PM on Friday, March 20, 2015. See website for more information.

Applicants to the program must have a grade point average of at least 2.2. All factors; GPA, career goals, ability to work collaboratively, prior work experience, and quality of the application statement will be considered.

Students will be notified whether or not they have been accepted into the program by 5PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

WHO WE ARE

Director: Professor Jessica West, (802) 831-1290, jwest@vermontlaw.edu
Program Coordinator: Heather Fernandes, (802) 831-1221, hfernandes@vermontlaw.edu

If you have any questions please reach out or stop by our offices in Waterman.