

Area of Concentration in Criminal Prosecution & Defense Practice

The Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice area of concentration offers advanced training in trial advocacy skills and constitutional theory, and “hands on” practical experience essential to becoming a capable practitioner in the criminal justice area.

To graduate with a Concentration in Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice, students must meet these requirements:

1. Meet with the Managing Director of the Criminal Justice Programs early in the second year.
2. Submit the **Application for Area of Concentration in Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice** before registration for the fourth trimester begins. Proposals submitted after the fourth trimester will be considered; however, completing a Concentration requires good planning. Thus, the earlier a student submits a Proposal the more likely it is the student will successfully complete the Concentration.
3. After completing the requirements for the Concentration and receiving grades for all the courses, students must submit to the Managing Director the following forms: the **Certificate of Completion** and the **Supervisor’s Certification of Completion of Requirement**. A Supervisor’s Certification is required for the pro bono and practical work experience requirements, and for the practical writing requirement, if that requirement is not fulfilled as part of a course. Students often fulfill the practical writing requirement during the pro bono or practical work experience requirement. These forms must be signed by your supervising attorneys. The forms are attached to this document. Please submit all Certificates in one package after recording your grades for all required courses.

Overview of Requirements. Students who wish to have their transcript show “Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice” as an area of concentration must earn a minimum grade of B- or higher in each of the five required courses selected from the courses in Groups A through C below. The area of concentration will carry an Honors distinction where the combined average of the grades for the five required courses is B+ or higher. Students must also satisfy the major research paper, practical writing, pro bono, and practical work experience requirements set forth below.

Professional Development Activities. Students are encouraged to actively participate in national, community, and/or school-sponsored organizations, which address criminal justice issues. Suggested organizations include: Amnesty International; American Civil Liberties Union; National Legal Aid & Defender Association; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; National District Attorneys Association; California Attorneys for Criminal Justice; California Public Defenders Association; Death Penalty Focus; the ABA’s Criminal Justice Section, and its Section on Individual Rights & Responsibilities; and California Western’s Association of Trial Lawyers of America Chapter, the Criminal Law Society, and the Public Interest Law Foundation

The Managing Director of the Criminal Justice Programs shall make all decisions concerning whether a student has satisfied the requirements for the Concentration.

Application for Area of Concentration in Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail _____

Number of Trimesters remaining before graduation: _____

Date of Application: _____

I. Required Courses.

Students must take the basic required bar courses, which include Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure I, Evidence, Constitutional Law I, and STEPPS. Students must also take Trial Practice or Trial Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates or Appellate Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates.

Five additional courses are required. Students must take at least one practicum or experiential learning core course from Group A and two substantive courses from Group B. The remaining two required courses may be selected from either Group A, Group B, or Group C (Closely Related Courses). Select from the three groups below the required courses you intend to take and specify the trimester and year each course will be taken.

Core Required Courses

Trimester	Year	Course
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Criminal Law
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Criminal Procedure I
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Constitutional Law I
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	STEPPS (EXP)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Trial Practice (Exp)
		or
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Trial Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates (Exp)
		or
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Appellate Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates (Exp) --Note: Students enrolled in the Appellate Skills Training for Distinguished Advocate Course may take Trial Practice as a Group A Practicum or Experiential Learning Course

Group A - Core Practicum or Experiential Learning Courses. Check at least one course and specify the trimester and year course will be taken.

Trimester	Year	Course
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Advanced Criminal Litigation (Prac)+
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Advanced Prosecution Function (Prac/Exp) +
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Appellate Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates (Exp) – For Appellate Distinguished Advocates who took Trial Practice as a Core Required Course
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	California Innocence Project (Prac/Exp)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	California Sentencing (Prac)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Culture and Criminal Justice (Prac/Exp)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Evidence Advocacy (Prac/Exp)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Forensic Evidence (Prac)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Trial Practice (Exp) – For Appellate Distinguished Advocates who did not take Trial Practice as a Core Course
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Wrongful Conviction Seminar (Prac/Exp)

+ satisfies Practical Writing Requirement

Group B - Core Substantive Courses. Check at least two courses and specify trimester and year courses will be taken.

Trimester	Year	Course
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Constitutional Law II
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Criminal Law Theory (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Critical Race Theory (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Federal Crimes
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Problem Solving and Preventive Law (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Regulation of Vice (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	White Collar Crime

Group C - Closely Related Courses. Check no more than two and specify trimester and year course will be taken.

Trimester	Year	Course
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	ADR Competition Practicum (Exp)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Administrative Law (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Advanced Legal Research (Prac/Exp)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Advanced Negotiation (Exp)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Accounting for Lawyers
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Current Issues in Constitutional Law (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Domestic Violence Seminar
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Federal Income Tax
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Human Rights Seminar (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Immigration Law
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Jurisprudence (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Juvenile Law
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Law and Literature (SW)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Mental Health Law
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	Spanish for Lawyers

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

(Note: Submit this only after you know your grade for ALL courses)

I _____ certify that I have completed the following requirements for an Area of Concentration in Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice.

I. Core Required Courses

- A. Criminal Law _____ Grade _____
- B. Criminal Procedure I _____ Grade _____
- C. Evidence _____ Grade _____
- D. Constitutional Law I _____ Grade _____
- E. STEPPS (EXP) _____ Grade _____
- F. Trial Practice (Exp) _____ Grade _____
- or**
- G. Trial Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates (Exp) _____ Grade _____
- or**
- H. Appellate Skills Training for Distinguished Advocates (Exp) _____ Grade _____

--Note: Students enrolled in the Appellate Skills Training for Distinguished Advocate Course may take Trial Practice as a Group A Practicum or Experiential Learning Course

II. Other Required Courses

- A. Required Practicum/Experiential Courses(Group A) _____ Grade _____
- B. Required Substantive Courses (Group B) _____ Grade _____
- C. Required Substantive Courses (Group B) _____ Grade _____
- D. Required Course (Group A, B or C) _____ Grade _____
- E. Required Course (Group A, B or C) _____ Grade _____

III. Major Research Paper

Title: _____

Course _____ Grade _____

IV. Practical Writing Requirement (Choose One)

- Course (Prac)+ _____ Grade _____
- Memorandum of Points & Authorities (attach certification form signed by supervisor)
- Appellate Brief (attach certification by supervisor)

V. Pro Bono Requirement (50 hours) (attach certification form signed by supervisor)

_____ agency/firm & trimester

VI. Practical Work Experience Requirement (Choose One)

- CWSL internship
- Other (attach certification form signed by supervisor)

With _____ agency/firm

VII. Professional Development Activities: List criminal justice organizations in which you participated or held office _____

Approved: _____ Date _____
 Managing Director of Criminal Justice Programs

Verified by: _____

SUPERVISOR'S CERTIFICATION of COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENT

I certify to the Dean of California Western School of Law, San Diego, California, that
_____ has completed under my supervision:

Student

(check v)

50 hours of pro bono assistance

280 hours of practical work experience

A memorandum of points and authorities of a quality equal to that of a competent practitioner

An appellate brief of a quality equal to that of a competent practitioner

Other: _____

Signed: _____

Name of Supervisor

Date

Agency/Firm

Telephone

E-mail