THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS LEGAL CLINIC

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP CLINIC

(Faculty Approval Pending)

The Basics

COURSE NAME: Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic

GRADED CREDIT HOURS: Four (4) REQUIRED: No ELECTIVE: Yes

PREREQUISITES (Required): Evidence; Professional Responsibility.

The Background

As described by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, “medical-legal partnership (MLP) integrates the expertise of healthcare, public health and legal professionals and staff to address and prevent health-harming social and legal needs for patients, clinics and populations. By partnering together, healthcare, public health and legal institutions transform the healthcare system’s response to social determinants of health.”

The Memphis Children’s Health Law Directive (Memphis CHiLD) is a medical-legal partnership between the University of Memphis School of Law, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, and Memphis Area Legal Services. Memphis CHiLD will aim to improve health outcomes for low-income patients through the provision of legal services; interdisciplinary education involving healthcare providers, lawyers, and other professionals; broad-based legislative and policy-focused advocacy; and ongoing assessment of and research focused on MLP-related initiatives.

Course Description

Housed in both devoted hospital space and the law school Clinic offices, law students participating in the MLP Clinic will provide free legal assistance to the low-income patients of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital under the supervision of experienced MLP faculty, lawyers, and healthcare providers. Among other case-related assignments, MLP Clinic students will conduct intake interviews, develop case strategies, conduct legal research, prepare legal documents, counsel clients, and provide representation in court and
administrative proceedings pursuant to applicant student practice rules. Among other areas of focus, it is anticipated that the MLP Clinic will assist clients in cases involving housing and landlord-tenant issues, public benefits, public and private health insurance, wills and health power of attorneys, guardianships, and consumer and educational services.

To complement their casework, Clinic students will participate in a weekly classroom session designed to explore the legal work they will be performing, the legal, policy, and ethical issues that affect patients' health, and the ways that health outcomes and health care access for low-income children can be enhanced by bringing health and legal professionals together. Throughout their Clinic semester, students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the faculty and staff of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and to participate in joint class sessions with medical students and students from other health disciplines.

**Course Enrollment and Credit**

The Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic will be open to a maximum of four (4) students during the Fall 2015 semester. In order to be eligible for enrollment, a student must have completed at least one-half of the legal studies required for graduation and be in good academic standing. Students earn four (4) hours of graded academic credit for their satisfactory completion of the Clinic course.

**Time Requirements?**

The Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic will meet for two (2) hours of regularly scheduled classroom time each week. Extra orientation sessions will be scheduled during the first four weeks of classes to ensure proper introduction to the Clinic’s work. Clinic students will be expected to spend fifteen (15) hours per week on case-related activities.