

5.31 Preferred Clinic Model

From the inception of clinical programs at Stetson College of Law, the College has sought to maintain day-to-day supervision and control over its clinical programs and the activities of its clinic students through the involvement of a full-time faculty member. Also the general requirement of a weekly "on campus" two hour classroom component in our clinical program insures that students, as well as the agency to which they are attached, are cognizant of the primary purpose of the clinical program, which is the educational development of the student. A properly run clinical program, in the short run, will be a burden upon the agencies to which they are affiliated. It requires greater expenditure of resources, time and effort to supervise and guide student activities than would be incurred were the agency to handle the cases itself. In the long run, the agency receives substantial benefit from the clinic since it is a source of potential employees who are proven proficient and committed to public service. This proper balance insures the educational goal of clinical programs and prevents the exploitation of our students by an agency. For example, the relationships created insure that students are not restricted to "clerking positions" and simply used for research and drafting.

Stetson has resisted farming students to agencies in what has been described as "externship" programs. Stetson feels that such a program improperly relieves the law school of its obligation to provide for the educational development and training of its students by transferring that responsibility to the agency. It is felt that where such programs are utilized the uniformity and quality of instruction will likely vary considerably between agencies and between supervising attorneys within each agency. Stetson feels that the danger of exploitation of our students is greater in "externship programs."

Stetson also has resisted the totally "In House" model primarily for the reason of the lack of plant space, and the enhanced risks and expense associated with a college run law practice. The existence of local qualified agencies ordinarily makes it unnecessary to establish an "In House" program.

Stetson has decided to rely primarily upon a "Hybrid Model" which recognizes a full-time faculty controlled program where students are assigned to local agencies. These agencies provide the "hands on" experiences whereby the student acquires clinical skills and, under the watchful eye of full-time faculty, which provides some of the supervision. Both the quality of the experiences and the quality of supervision are monitored by Stetson Faculty. In most cases, Stetson Faculty provide much of the direct supervision of the students.

However, Stetson will deviate from this "Hybrid model" where unique clinical opportunities otherwise could not be obtained.