

2026 SPRING TERM

COURSE NAME: CLINICAL CRIMINAL LAW (OR CRIMINAL CLINIC)

COURSE NUMBER: LAW 490.001

INFORMATION SHEET

2025-2026 Fall, Spring, and Full-Year Clinics: Deadline to apply is 11:59pm (PST) on May 20, 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The UBC Criminal Clinic has operated for 50 years. It runs in Winter Session, Term 2 with a maximum of 16 JD students and provides students with the opportunity to learn criminal procedure, appear in court, and handle files, under the close supervision of experienced lawyers. Students are each assigned to a principal and paired with another student to work on their files collaboratively. Up to four students work with Crown counsel (two at Vancouver Provincial Court, two at Surrey Provincial Court), while most work with defence counsel. Students are asked to indicate in their application any preference for Crown or defence work, and confirm their ability to arrange personal transportation to and from all courthouses in the lower mainland.

Court appearances occur weekly at dates, times and locations arranged between the principal and their student. On a busy week, up to 2 days may be needed to review files, meet with the principal and the client, discuss matters with opposing counsel, and prepare for court proceedings. Students are also encouraged to watch court proceedings at all levels of court whenever possible.

Seminars are held at 5 pm each Wednesday at 222 Main Street. They are led by the clinic director Judge Nancy Adams, supervising lawyers and guest judges. In person attendance is mandatory for students. The cases that were handled by the students that week set the agenda for wide ranging discussions about the criminal justice system.

An orientation will be held in early September (usually on a Wednesday at 5 pm) to discuss students' applications to the Law Society of BC for temporary articles required for participation in this clinic.

CLINIC DIRECTOR/INSTRUCTOR – BRIEF BIO

After obtaining an LLB from Queen's University at Kingston in 1985, Judge Adams articulated then worked as associate counsel at Harper, Grey, Easton (as it then was). Eager to pursue her interest in criminal law, she joined the Crown Counsel in 1989, and then moved to private practice in 2006. After more than 30 years of trial work, mainly in criminal law, Judge Adams was appointed to the BC Provincial Court in March 2017 with Chambers at 222 Main Street. A supervising lawyer in the clinic at the time of her appointment, she became clinic director when Judge Joseph Galati stepped down in 2022 after more than 18 years at the helm.

Judge Adams enjoys working with the senior counsel who are dedicated to the clinic and with the students, who bring energy, enthusiasm and fresh perspectives to the seminars and to the practice of law.

ELIGIBILITY

JD students who will be in their second or third year of studies in the 2025-2026 (2025W) academic year are welcome to apply.

PREREQUISITES OR COREQUISITES

Successful completion of two law courses:

1. LAW 476 Evidence
2. LAW 400 Advanced Criminal Procedure OR an Upper Year Criminal Law Course*

*Upper Year Criminal Law Courses (note that some courses are not always offered every year):

LAW 401D Penal Policy
LAW 402D The Law of Sexual Offences
LAW 403 Principles of Sentencing
LAW 404 The Law of Homicide
LAW 405C Topics in Criminal Law
LAW 406D Topics in Criminal Justice
LAW 471D Preventing Wrongful Conviction
LAW 511D International Criminal Law

COURSE UNITS AND GRADING

6 credits graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Final acceptance into the Criminal Clinic is conditional upon the student being granted “Temporary Articled Student” status by the Law Society of British Columbia.

If selected for the course, you must complete the Temporary Articles Enrolment Form and the Temporary Articles Agreement Form available on the [Law Society's website](#). You must present them to your principal for approval and signature and file them with the Law Society by the deadline provided at orientation. Failure to obtain your principal's approval or to file by deadline may result in your selection for the clinic being rescinded by the clinic director.

Please note that the status of “Temporary Articled Student” confers upon you the same responsibilities to the Court, to the profession and to your clients, as other members of the profession. Withdrawing from the course after the start of the term may place your clients in jeopardy and could result in you being reported to the Law Society for unprofessional conduct.

The temporary articling period does not count towards your regular articles.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students do not register for this course by the normal route, but apply for entry via the [Clinic Application Form](#). Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 Criminal Clinic.

Please direct any questions by email to Patricia Penaflorida, Coordinator, Student Academic Services (penaflorida@allard.ubc.ca).

As the Clinic Director and Course Instructor, Judge Adams will review all applications and make decisions regarding the students to be selected for the 2026 Criminal Clinic, their compliance with the articling application process and final acceptance into the clinic.

Applicants are notified of Judge Adams' decisions by email.