

## **BUSINESS LAW CLINIC - KEY INFORMATION**

The Business Law Clinic serves many small businesses, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and start-ups each year. Don't hesitate to contact Clinic Director Emily Buchholz ([buchholz@umn.edu](mailto:buchholz@umn.edu)) anytime with additional questions or for more information.

- A) **The Clinic works on most transaction-based business legal matters.** This includes almost all aspects of starting or running a business (including nonprofits, social benefits companies, and individuals in business). The Clinic does not handle disputes or patents. The Law School & Clinic Director retain sole discretion to select matters for the Clinic as they see fit.
  
- B) **Potential Clinic clients must complete an application.** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and the Clinic maintains a waiting list. Completed applications should be emailed to Emily Buchholz at [buchholz@umn.edu](mailto:buchholz@umn.edu).
  
- C) **Clients who wish to work with the Clinic must:**
  - a. Attend one in-person meeting at the Law School.
  - b. Communicate promptly with their student attorneys by email.
  - c. Request legal services that address one or more of the Client's present, rather than solely future, needs.
  
- D) **Clinic timeline:**
  - a. Potential clients submit an application to the Clinic Director, Emily Buchholz, at any time. The application demonstrates that the client has a present, transaction-based legal need.
  - b. Emily communicates with potential clients regarding timeline and likelihood of selection.
  - c. Prior to the start of the semester, Emily confirms client selection and the client's willingness to proceed.
  - d. After the semester begins, one or two student attorneys reach out to schedule the initial, in-person meeting. At the meeting the group develops a scope of work.
  - e. The student attorneys provide legal services under the guidance of a licensed business attorney within the time constraints of the semester.
  - f. Clients may re-apply to the Clinic for future semesters in the event that they have additional legal needs.



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- E) **Fall Clinic begins in early September.** A cohort of 16 students join the Clinic in early September and new matters are assigned to students at that time. Fall Clinic work is typically completed by the end of November.
  
- F) **Spring Clinic begins in late January.** A new cohort of students join the Clinic in late January and approximately 16 new matters are assigned to students at that time. Spring Clinic work is typically completed by the end of April.
  
- G) **Attorney-client privilege is waived.** Because this is a learning experience for the student attorneys, they discuss the representation in seminar with other Clinic students and with the Clinic director. Student attorneys will keep all information strictly confidential unless they are court-ordered to disclose it.
  
- H) **The Clinic strengthens our communities.** Clients get high-quality legal services at no cost. Communities get the benefit of stronger small businesses who serve and employ them. Law students learn essential practice skills for supporting small businesses after graduation.