**Promoting the Sustainability of University Law Clinics**

**Checklist**

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1. **Incorporate the clinic into the law school curriculum**

Most clinics start operating before they have been accredited as courses. While many clinics continue in this fashion for one or more years, efforts to satisfy the requirements for an accredited course and obtain accreditation should begin immediately.

\_\_\_ Seek course credit for students participating in the clinic;

\_\_\_ Seek teaching credit for professors teaching and supervising students in the clinic;

\_\_\_ Develop a syllabus and course description that meets university standards

\_\_\_ Develop a system for evaluating student work and evaluate students;

\_\_\_ Other ideas?

1. **Generate student interest and support**

Student interest is critical, without it, the clinic will not be sustainable.

\_\_\_ Conduct periodic “open houses” where students can tour the clinic and speak to current clinic students about their work;

**\_\_\_** Ask supportive professors to publicize the clinic in their classes

**\_\_\_** Publicize the establishment of the clinic and clinic developments in student media;

**\_\_\_** Develop a Facebook group or other social networking site for current and former students to interact (and for you to share the clinic’s accomplishments with clinic alumni);

**\_\_\_** Develop a system for keeping in touch with clinic alumni and invite them to give back to the clinic by donating their time, expertise, and/or funds;

**\_\_\_** Other ideas?

1. **Generate support among the law faculty and university-wide**

Think strategically—who at the university can help the clinic become sustainable and how can they be persuaded to support the clinic.

\_\_\_ Bond with other clinical professors, issue a joint newsletter, hold joint promotional events

\_\_\_ Invite professors with relevant expertise to present in the clinic class as experts;

\_\_\_ Invite all law professors and university leaders to come observe a clinic class and/or case rounds session;

\_\_\_ Regularly update the faculty about clinic development through email updates or presentations;

\_\_\_ Invite law and other university professors and leaders with relevant expertise to sit on the clinic advisory board;

\_\_\_ Host national and international clinic trainings and conferences;

\_\_\_ Present at conferences and publish academic articles on the substantive work of the clinic and/or clinical teaching methods;

\_\_\_ Ensure that the clinic has a presence on the university website;

\_\_\_ Present to students in other departments about the clinic (eg. social work, psychology)

\_\_\_ Bring Fulbright Scholars to your university to provide additional training to clinic faculty and students

\_\_\_ Other ideas?

1. **Generate external support**

The more that the community becomes reliant on the clinic, the more likely it is that the clinic will continue operating.

\_\_\_ Involve judges, legislators, prominent lawyers, ombudsmen, attorneys from NGOs, and bar association leaders in the clinic’s work by inviting them to serve as guest speakers and/or sit on the clinic advisory board;

\_\_\_ Use local media and the internet (blogs, twitter, facebook) to publicize the establishment of the clinic and clinic developments;

\_\_\_ Partner with NGOs on cases and projects;

\_\_\_ Make a film about the clinic;

\_\_\_ Ask satisfied clients for letters of support;

\_\_\_ Other ideas?

1. **Assess the impact of the clinic on students, clients, the community, and the university**

This information will be useful when advocating for your clinic with the university and with funders

 \_\_\_ survey students at the beginning of their clinic experience to collect baseline data

 \_\_\_ survey students at the end of their clinic experience to measure the impact it had on them and continue to survey former clinic students after they have graduated

 \_\_\_ periodically survey former clients

 \_\_\_ periodically survey NGOs and other community partners