To: Praxis Certificate Program Entrants

From: Maureen Aidasani, Director of Experiential Learning

Date: April 15, 2015

Re: Praxis Certificate Program Objectives and Requirements (Updated for 2015-16)

Objectives

In today’s competitive legal market, prospective employers and clients are calling for new lawyers to be “practice-ready” from the moment they walk in the door. While successful practicing attorneys must have a command of relevant doctrinal law, this is only one component of effective law practice. A competent and ethical attorney must develop and master a wide array of professional skills, from oral negotiation skills to problem-solving and project management.

Chicago-Kent offers a wide array of experiential learning opportunities, including clinics, externships, and simulation and skills-based courses, that can help students to develop and practice essential professional lawyering skills. The Praxis Certificate is for students who wish to prepare for practice with a truly experiential course of study. Students in the Praxis program design an elective course of study that incorporates **24 credits in approved experiential coursework**, including at least one **live client clinic or externship**. In addition, you will learn about **core practice competencies** that distinguish successful practicing lawyers in their first years of practice, and work with the program director to assess and articulate how your experiential coursework is helping you to develop skills in these core areas, and identify what further development is needed. You will complete **one “Praxis workshop” a semester** where you will learn how to **package and present your experience** to potential employers, and complete a **capstone professionalism course** that uses experiential learning to explore the changing business of law practice.

Requirements

To earn the Praxis Certificate, students must complete an online enrollment form, available at [http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/jd-program/certificate-programs/praxis-program/enrollment](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/academics/jd-program/certificate-programs/praxis-program/enrollment). Students are encouraged to sign up as early as their third full semester of law school. At a minimum, students must have three full semesters of law school remaining in order to enroll in the Praxis Certificate program. Both full-time and part-time students are welcome to participate in the program.

Once enrolled in the Praxis Certificate program, students must complete the following:

- **Complete 24 credits in approved experiential coursework, including at least one “live client” clinic or externship.** Clinics, externships, and approved simulation/skills-
based courses and activities all count toward this requirement; a list of approved courses and for-credit activities is attached as Exhibit A. Note that all Legal Writing courses, except the seminar, count toward this requirement.

- **Each semester, attend one interactive “Praxis” workshop aimed at enhancing your career and business development skills.**¹ Praxis students are expected to apply lessons learned from the workshops in order to develop or enhance an effective online profile, such as a LinkedIn profile. Each workshop will last no longer than two hours and the date and time will be announced to Praxis students at the beginning of each semester.

- **Each semester, complete a “scorecard” assessing how your experiential learning is helping you to develop skills in core practice competencies of a successful practicing attorney, and what additional development is needed.** Professor Aidasani will introduce the competencies at the first Praxis workshop, and you will meet with her at least once during the program to assess your progress. A sample scorecard can be found on the Praxis web site at https://sites.google.com/a/kentlaw.iit.edu/praxis/. A list of the core competencies is also attached to this memo as Exhibit B.

- **Complete the class “Practice and Professionalism.”**² This course meets in the fall; it meets the school’s Professional Responsibility requirement and counts toward the 24-credit Praxis requirement. The class provides an introduction to the business of law practice, including how economic pressures and technological innovations are changing the profession, and how new lawyers can position and market their unique value while adhering to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

**Requests for modifications to approved course list and requests for exceptions**

The approved list of experiential courses, attached as Exhibit A and available online at http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/Documents/Academic%20Programs/Praxis/experiential-learning-offerings.pdf, may be updated at Professor Aidasani’s discretion. If a course does not appear on this list, but you believe it should qualify for Praxis credit, you may petition Professor Aidasani by sending her an e-mail at maidasan@kentlaw.iit.edu.

Professor Aidasani will also consider granting exceptions to the “live clinic” clinic/externship and Practice and Professionalism course requirements, on a case-by-case basis. Students must show extenuating circumstances and commensurate coursework and/or experience that meets the Praxis program objectives.

---

¹ This workshop requirement applies only to students who begin the Praxis Program in Fall 2015 or after.
² Students who are interested in taking one of the school’s other experiential professional responsibility courses, Ethics and Advocacy or Business Ethics, in lieu of the Practice and Professionalism course, should contact Professor Aidasani to request an exception.
Responsibility to adhere to regular Chicago-Kent course policies and graduation requirements

Students enrolled in the Praxis program are still responsible for adhering to all Chicago-Kent course scheduling policies and graduation requirements, as set forth in the Registration Bulletin or Student Handbook. These policies include but are not limited to credit hour limitations on Pass/Fail coursework, moot court programs, clinics, externships, and non-classroom coursework. For example:

- Chicago-Kent policy prohibits students from electing pass/fail for any course that counts toward a certificate program, including Praxis. This rule only applies to elections; if a course is offered pass/fail only, it **will** count toward the Praxis requirement. *See* Chicago-Kent Student Handbook §2.4.

- Per Chicago-Kent policy, students may receive credit for no more than 19 credit hours graded pass/fail, whether elected or not. *See* Chicago-Kent Student Handbook §§ 2.4 and 2.7.

- Per Chicago-Kent policy, students may receive no more than 16 credits for the following courses combined: in-house clinical courses, Legal Externship, Business Entity Formation, Judicial Externship, and Interviewing and Counseling (Advice Desk). Students also may not enroll for more than two semesters of judicial externship. *See* Chicago-Kent Student Handbook §2.6.

- Per Chicago-Kent policy, students may receive no more than 5 hours of credit for moot court programs, including but not limited to the Appellate Advocacy course, Moot Court Honor Society, BLSA Moot Court, Environmental Moot Court, International Moot Court, and Intellectual Property Moot Court. *See* Chicago-Kent Student Handbook §2.5.

Requests for exemptions to any Chicago-Kent policy must be made **before** enrolling in a course that would otherwise violate these policies. Any student with questions or encountering limitations that would prevent you from obtaining the Praxis Certificate should contact Professor Aidasani immediately.  

A sample course load for a student enrolled in the Praxis Certificate program, as well as a student concurrently enrolled in the Intellectual Property Certificate program, is attached as **Exhibit C**. The Praxis certificate is designed to be compatible with other certificate

---

3 Students already exempt from certain course credit policies, such as LADR students, do not need to seek a separate exemption for Praxis.
programs and eligible Praxis courses that already count toward another certificate may be used toward the Praxis certificate as well.
Exhibit A

Chicago-Kent Experiential Learning Offerings

Note: All offerings are subject to restrictions as set forth in the Registration Bulletin or Chicago-Kent Student Handbook, including but not limited to course pre-requisites, instructor permission requirements, and credit limits on pass/fail, externship, and clinical courses, and other non-classroom activities. Offerings may be added or deleted to this list at the discretion of the Director of Experiential Learning.

List of Simulation/Skills/Experiential Classes

ADR in the Workplace (2 cr.)
Advanced Legislative Advocacy (2 cr.)
Alternative Dispute Resolution (2 cr.)
Appellate Advocacy (2 cr.)
Business Entity Formation (3 cr.)
Business Entity Transactions (3 cr.)
Business Legislation Practicum (1 cr.)
Client Counseling (2 cr.)
Commercial Real Estate Transactions (3 cr.)
Complex Business Litigation (2 cr.)
Criminal Litigation 1 (2 cr.)
Criminal Litigation 2 (2 cr.)
Domestic Violence Courthouse Practicum (2 cr. fall/1 cr. spring) Full-year course
Employment Litigation (3 cr.)
Ethics & Advocacy (3 cr.)
Intellectual Property & Tech. Licensing – Dicig section (2 cr.)
Intensive Trial Advocacy 1 (3 cr.)
Intensive I.P. Trial Advocacy (3 cr.)
Justice & Technology Practicum I(4 cr.)
Justice & Technology Practicum 2 (2-3 cr.)
Labor & Employment for Start-ups (2 cr.)
Lawyer as Investigator (3 cr.)
Legal Writing I (3 cr.)
Legal Writing II (2 cr.)
Legal Writing III (1 cr.)
Legal Writing IV (3 cr.)
Legislative Advocacy (2 cr.)
Litigation Technology (3 cr.)
Mediation (2 cr.)
Negotiations (2 cr.)
Persuasion Theory (non-seminar version only) (2 cr.)
Pretrial Litigation (3 cr.)
Professional Responsibility: Business Ethics (2 cr.)
Practice and Professionalism (3 cr.)
Strategic Problem-Solving and the Law (3 cr.)
Strategies in I.P. (3 cr.)
Exhibit A

Trial Advocacy 1 (3 cr.)
Trial Advocacy 2 (3 cr.)
U.S. Supreme Court Theory and Practice (2 cr.)

Clinical Courses and Externships

In-House Clinic (3 or 4 cr.)
- Center for Open Govt Clinic 1
- Civil Litigation Clinic 1 and 2
- Criminal Defense Clinic 1 and 2
- Entrepreneurial Law Clinic 1 and 2
- Family Law Clinic 1 and 2
- Health & Disability Law Clinic 1 and 2
- Intellectual Property-Patents 1 and 2 (3 cr. only)
- Mediation and Other ADR Procedures
- Plaintiffs Employment Clinic 1 and 2
- Tax & Probate Clinic 1 and 2
- Advanced Clinic – Laser
- Environmental & Energy Law Clinic (1-4 cr.)

Judicial Externship (4 cr.)
- Judicial Externship 1
- Judicial Externship 2

Legal Externship (4 cr.)
- Legal Externship 1
- Legal Externship 2

*Legal Externship 1 and 2 relate to a variety of subject matters, including but not limited to criminal litigation, environmental law, and intellectual property

Labor & Employment Externship (4 cr.) *(includes 1 cr. graded class; Labor & Employment Cert students only)*

Semester Law Firm Associate Program (6 cr.)

International Rule of Law Externship (3 cr.)

Intra-Curricular Activities

AAJ Competition (Trial Advocacy) (1 cr.)
AALSA Moot Court (Thomas Tang Competition) (1 cr.)
BLSA Moot Court (1 cr.)
BLSA Trial Team (1 cr.)
Environmental Law Moot Court (1 cr.)
Exhibit A

Intellectual Property Moot Court (1 cr.)
International Law Moot Court (1 cr.)
Moot Court Honor Society (1 cr.)
National Trial Team (1 cr.)
CORE PRACTICE COMPETENCIES

I. Initial Case Development
   1. Fact development and investigation
   2. Legal research and analysis
   3. Problem-solving

II. Communication – Written and Oral
   4. Objective analysis – written and oral
   5. Advocacy – written and oral
   6. Negotiation – written and oral

III. Case/Project Management
   7. Personal work management
   8. Collaboration/teamwork

IV. Practice Management and Professionalism
   9. Client service and counseling
   10. Understand and work within the Code of Professional Conduct
   11. Business of law and practice management
   12. Networking/client development
# CORE PRACTICE COMPETENCIES AND SAMPLE PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

## Core Practice Competency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Initial Case Development</th>
<th>Sample Performance Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Fact development and investigation | - Conduct a client interview in a professional manner; establish rapport and elicit necessary information.  
  - Identify the client’s perceived problems, objectives, and limitations, and identify legal and practical issues outside the client’s awareness.  
  - Identify additional sources of facts relevant to the client’s problem, including documents and witnesses.  
  - Collect evidence and conduct interviews to elicit facts in support of a client’s case.  
  - *Litigation examples:* identify sources of information/facts that support legal and factual theories of the case; draft written discovery requests, including document requests, interrogatories, and requests for admission; plan and conduct witness interviews and depositions.  
  - *Transactional examples:* understand and identify the potential areas of due diligence relevant to a client’s transaction; identify and interview parties in connection with a transaction; read and understand corporate documents. |
| 2. Legal research and analysis | - Analyze facts and identify legal issues.  
  - Identify scope of legal research needed commensurate with client’s and supervising attorney’s needs.  
  - Conduct cost-effective legal research using available print and computerized tools.  
  - Locate “on-point” authority as well as persuasive authority to support creative lines of argument on client’s behalf.  
  - Identify, update and check validity of authority. |
| 3. Problem-solving | - Identify the client’s legal and practical problem(s).  
  - Take ownership of the client’s problem and the attorney’s role in solving it.  
  - Generate multiple alternative solutions and strategies to solve |
**Exhibit B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II. Communication – Written and Oral</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Objective analysis</td>
<td>- Draft clear and concise letters, memoranda, and emails explaining legal analysis and conclusions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Convey complex information clearly, avoiding legal and technical jargon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Employ appropriate tone for audience, including client, supervising attorneys, opposing counsel, and third parties, consistent with case strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Advocacy</td>
<td>- Draft persuasive motions, pleadings, and briefs, at trial and/or appellate levels, organized in a logical and effective manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Speak articulately, precisely, and persuasively on behalf of client in court and non-court settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- In a litigation practice, make professional court appearances on behalf of client; argue trial and appellate motions, understanding different techniques for each; examine witnesses; deliver opening and closing arguments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- In a non-litigation practice, effectively advocate for client’s interests in administrative or transactional settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Negotiation</td>
<td>- Negotiate with opposing counsel to reach agreement that achieves client objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Employ empathy and active listening to arrive at solutions that meet multiple parties’ objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Identify, understand, and draft essential parts of a contract (including commercial contracts, settlement contracts, etc.) to memorialize a solution to client’s problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Review and provide effective comments on a contract or agreement, in redline form and/or in an e-mail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Case/Project Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Personal work management</td>
<td>- Track and manage project deadlines, including deadlines imposed by contracts, court rules, court orders, and/or supervising attorneys.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Exhibit B

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Manage time and caseload effectively and efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete tasks independently while meeting team goals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8.</th>
<th>Collaboration/teamwork</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Delegate and communicate assignments clearly to others; seek clarification on assigned tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Take ownership for project and understand how delegated assignments work into overall team goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Provide prompt responses to requests from co-workers and updates to supervising attorneys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Treat all co-workers with fairness and respect, including legal administrative and support staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV. Practice Management and Professionalism</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Client service and counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Responsive, effective, prompt, and respectful oral and written communications with client (and/or supervising attorneys in service of a client’s problem).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Regular and timely updates to client (and/or supervising attorneys in service of a client’s problem).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Apprise client of various options. Provide advice and predictions where appropriate, but avoid imposing own values.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10.</th>
<th>Understand and work within the Code of Professional Conduct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Understand and articulate rules governing attorneys and legal service providers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Apply rules to solve problems in practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11.</th>
<th>Business of law and practice management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Understand basic accounting practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Understanding the pricing of legal services and alternative fee arrangements to the “billable hour.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Manage fees and costs as appropriate per case per client.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Identify appropriate marketing and practice development opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12.</th>
<th>Networking/client development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Identify opportunities to meet new people and develop connections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Engage in events or activities to develop and strengthen connections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sample Course Load for Praxis Certificate Alone *(Praxis credits in italics)*

**First Year:**
- Contracts - 5
- Torts - 5
- Crim - 3
- LWI - 3
- Property - 4
- Civ Pro - 5
- Legislation - 3
- LW2 - 2

**Second Year:**
- Evidence – 3
- Con Law - 4
- International Law - 3
- LW3 - 1
- *Strategic Problem Solving* - 3
- Commercial Law - 3
- *Negotiations* - 2
- Employment Relationships - 3
- Bus Orgs - 4
- LW4 - 3

**Third Year:**
- *A2J* - 4
- Tax - 3
- Remedies - 3
- Family Law – 3
- Administrative Law - 3
- Clinic – 3
- *Externship* - 4
- *Practice and Professionalism* - 3
- Seminar – 2

**Total Credits:** 87

**Total Praxis Credits:** 28 *(24 required)*

### Sample Course Load for IP and Praxis Certificate

**First Year:**
- Contracts - 5
- Torts - 5
- Crim - 3
- LWI - 3
- Property - 4
- Civ Pro - 5
- Patents - 3
- LW2 – 2

**Second Year:**
- Legislation – 3
- Con Law – 4
- Bus Orgs - 4
- Copyright – 3
- LW3 – 1
- What Every Lawyer Should Know About Business – 1
- Trademark and Unfair Competition – 3
- *IP Clinic* – 3
- *Negotiations* – 2
- *Strategic Problem Solving* – 3
- LW4 – 3

**Third Year:**
- Evidence – 3
- Remedies – 3
- *IP Trial Ad* – 3
- *IP Strategies* - 3
- Tax – 3
- IP Seminar – 2
- *Practice and Professionalism* – 3
- Administrative Law - 3
- International IP - 3

**Total Credits:** 87

**Total IP Credits:** 26 *(20 required)*

**Total Praxis Credits:** 25 *(24 required)*