

To whom it may concern:

My name is Carter Gannon, and I am a third-year law student at the University of Oregon. I am writing because I am very glad that I took both the Domestic Violence Protective Order Clinic and the Domestic Violence Civil Clinic last year. It is my sincere hope that the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Oregon will receive the funding that it needs under HB 5024. First, through the clinics I participated in, I learned a great deal through the court proceedings we observed. Second, I found the client interviews that I carried out as a clinic participant to be challenging and stretching in a very positive way. Third, I learned a lot from the various trial preparations that I completed. And finally, I truly enjoyed our class discussions in the clinic; I found them to be both informative and inspiring. I am thankful that I decided to take this clinic, and I have frequently recommended it to my classmates. For these reasons and more, I believe the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Oregon should receive the funding it needs under HB 5024.

I enjoyed the court observations primarily because my general lack of experience and knowledge about the practical side of the law was probably the most glaring shortcoming in my legal education. In my first year of law school especially, I learned a great deal about how to read cases and how to write like a lawyer. But, I still knew almost nothing about how to be a lawyer in real life, and frankly I was embarrassed by it. It can be humiliating to not know the names of certain documents and proceedings, for example. I gained a lot of this sort of knowledge through my times in court last year. I am also grateful for the court experiences because they gave me more of a grasp of what effective litigation looks like. I learned a lot about the type and style of argument to which judges seem most receptive. I also received an excellent review of evidence and the rules of hearsay. And finally, I saw the importance of pre-trial preparation and client communication firsthand. For these reasons and more, I am thankful for my experiences in court this semester.

The client interviews were also quite valuable in that they forced me out of my comfort zone. I think this is essential, because, if left to my own devices, this is probably something I would have put off for as long as possible. I also appreciated the opportunity to gain some experience in a safe environment. It was good to know that my clinic supervisor was there to step in if I did not know what to do or say next. In retrospect, I also really appreciate how, towards the end of the semester, my supervisors let us take charge of the interviews for our cases. While I was a bit nervous at first, I am very thankful for the experience. Also, the sense of personal ownership that I felt over the case was an amazing feeling. The interviews were also valuable in that they forced me to confront and overcome my implicit biases and assumptions about people. I believe such an experience would be hugely beneficial for anyone, but especially for lawyers.

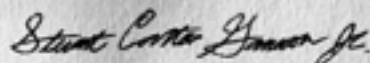
Third, I am thankful for the trial preparation exercises we did in the middle of the semester and for the preparation we did with our real clients towards the end. One particular exercise in the middle of the semester was something of a wakeup call for me. I realized that I still had a lot to learn, and that really spurred me on for the rest of the semester. My biggest takeaway was that I needed to rehearse my closing arguments more in the future. When working with our real clients, I was surprised by how rewarding and different it felt to actually help a real person. I found myself really invested in the case, and I felt more personal ownership over the process than I had felt in a while. My most practical takeaway was that I needed to hone in on the details of the events that would come up in my direct examination. For me, the trial

preparation was probably the most beneficial part of the clinic, because, I imagine that is what it's like to be a lawyer in practice. I was encouraged to find that I really enjoyed it.

Finally, my favorite part of the clinic was our classroom discussions. I enjoyed how my supervisors facilitated our sessions while still allowing ample time for questions. Our discussions were particularly enjoyable for me because they helped me get back to why I wanted to go to law school in the first place. In a word, they were revitalizing. Also, the environment was very welcoming in my opinion. I never felt hesitant to ask a question or introduce a topic. Having my classmates in the clinic was wonderful as well. I feel like we started from an understanding that we were both there to learn how to make a difference and that led to a mutual respect that shouldn't be taken for granted in law school or elsewhere.

In conclusion, it is my sincere hope that the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Oregon will receive the funding that it requires under HB 5024. The clinic has been invaluable in my development as an aspiring attorney, and I want future students to have the same amazing opportunities that I have enjoyed. Please ensure that this important clinic receives the funding it needs so that I can continue to recommend it to my classmates and friends.

Very Respectfully,



Stuart Carter Gannon Jr.