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STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC : DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CHAMPIONS

Manila, June 1 - 5, 2015

SESSION TEN : ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINICS

**Professor Rob Fowler and
Grizelda “Gerthie” Mayo-Anda**



THE PURPOSE OF LEGAL CLINICS

- To enable students to develop problem-solving and decision-making skills
- To provide practical experience through working on real legal cases or real-life environmental issues
- To develop ethical skills and judgment through engagement with “social justice” issues
- To contribute to the advancement of advocacy (legal/political) within a particular social and legal context

Activities undertaken in a Legal Clinic



Interviewing Clients



Activities undertaken in a Legal Clinic



- Preparation of sworn statements or affidavits
- Writing letters or submissions on behalf of clients on legal or policy issues
- Drafting written arguments for submission to courts

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN A LEGAL CLINIC

- Representing clients in public hearings or court proceedings
- All such activities are undertaken under the close supervision of a teacher/mentor (usually an experienced lawyer)
- Can involve **placement** of students in a legal aid office, law firm, justice institution or NGO
- Many environmental law clinics (especially in USA) operate from within a Law School

MODELS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINICS IN USA

- Law firm model – clinic has its own clients
- Co-counsel model – clinic is in partnership with a public interest law firm that provides clients
- In-house counsel model – clinic is situated within an environmental NGO (e.g., Earth Justice of National Wildlife Federation)
- Think tank model – clinic conducts research, scholarship and community/professional education (e.g., through conferences)

See further, Saporita, CL and Yoder, C., *“Practicing for the Earth: Training Law Students Through Environmental Law Clinics”* (Indiana University School of Law, 2002)

Law Internships in the Philippines

- Summer law interns are assigned with public interest law groups
- Law interns undergo a basic orientation seminar and immersion
- Some law interns who become lawyers work with public interest environmental law groups



ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINICS WORLD-WIDE

- Survey conducted in 2012 for IUCN Academy of Environmental Law by Professor Maria Marquès i Banqué from Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain:
 - 44 in USA (including in all of the top 18 environmental law programmes)
 - 5 in Latin America (3 in Argentina, 1 each in Chile and Colombia)
 - 3 in Europe (2 in Spain, 1 in Netherlands)
 - 3 in Canada
 - 1 each in Australia, China, India and Israel.

POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

- To: Envlawprofessors@lists.uoregon.edu (Friday 20 March 2015)
- Subject: Interested in Starting a Clinic in the Philippines?

“The International Senior Lawyers Project is looking for the pro bono assistance of an environmental clinical law professor or a clinical law professor with significant expertise in environmental law for a project with a **graduate-level law clinic in the Philippines**. We are particularly interested in finding someone with expertise as to the impacts of environmental issues on marginalized communities (e.g., farmers, fisher-folk, etc.), and a background working on community-driven initiatives. The volunteer would help faculty develop the clinical programs at the school (no teaching). The approximately 6 week project would ideally begin in mid- to late May and run through June, depending on the availability of the volunteer. Travel, accommodation and other costs would be provided for. For additional information please contact Andra Moss at ISLP (amoss@islp.org).”