

**2018 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
APPLICATION**

Name: Sue Schechter

Department: UC Berkeley School of Law

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Amount Requested: \$5,939.00

Short Title of Proposal: International Legal Education Clinical and Legal Ethics Conferences:
Australia Proposal

* The "Short Title" for your proposal should be a unique way that the Committee can refer to your project. For example: "Nigeria Travel Grant Primary Schools Second Language" would be helpful, "Boston Conference Expenses" would not.

Abstract (2-3 sentence description of proposal):

This proposal is a request for funds to help sponsor Sue Schechter, UC Berkeley School of Law Field Placement Director and Lecturer-in-Residence, attend two conferences and conduct related professional development work. Sue plans to present in collaboration with colleagues from around the world on three topics – reflection, supervision and experiential education/legal ethics at the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference and the International Legal Education Conference – both conferences are in Melbourne, Australia, during the months of November – December 2018.

**International Legal Education Clinical and Legal Ethics Conferences: Australia Proposal
November –December 2018 – Melbourne, Australia – 2 Conferences
Letter of Application: Sue Schechter**

April 9, 2018

Dear Professional Development Fund Grant Committee,

I am writing to apply for a \$5,939.00 grant to support professional development activities that I plan to conduct in Melbourne, Australia. Having served on the Grant Committee for 2-3 grant cycles from 2013-2015, I am acutely aware of how limited your funds are and how many worthy applications you receive. I have never received a PDF grant, large or small. The funds will be used during November & December of 2018. Thank you for your good work on this Committee.

I plan to use the funds to attend two conferences in Melbourne, Australia:

1. International Journal of Clinical Legal Education (IJCLE), November 28-30, 2018
2. International Legal Ethics Conference (ILEC), December 6-8, 2018

My plan is to travel to Australia to present at both Conferences and to use the time around the Conferences to visit placement agencies and law school clinics. I am not asking for funds to support the placement agency or clinic visits. I will use funds from my law school budget to support those activities. I know attending and presenting at these two Conferences will make me a more effective teacher in preparing my presentation and collaborating with colleagues on the following three topics:

1. IJCLE: Reflection as a Lifelong Learning Skill with Catherine Campbell, Queensland University of Technology Law School (Brisbane, Australia), and Peggy Maisel, Boston University School of Law (Boston, MA)
2. IJCLE: Supervision: Supporting the Site Supervisor's Role as Teacher and More with Jeff Giddings, Monash University Law School (Melbourne, Australia)
3. ILEC: Ethics and Legal Education Stream – Teaching Legal Ethics in an Experiential Way with Peggy Maisel, Boston University School of Law (Boston, MA)

In each of these presentations, we plan to add 1-2 other presenters from other parts of the world. Beyond my specific presentations, the contents of both Conferences are directly relevant to my work and provide great learning opportunities for me. Since the deadlines for all of the proposals are forthcoming, I have not been able to secure commitments for my presentations, but I have been assured that if I am able to get to Australia, I will be invited and encouraged to present.

In my role as Field Placement Director and Lecturer-in-Residence, I direct and teach in a Program where about 70-80 students each semester participate in academic credit field placements with non-profits and government agencies locally, domestically, and internationally. Over the past few years, I have seen an increase in student demand for international field placement and specifically have had a student almost every semester in Australia doing field placements. I know very little about the Australia clinical/field placement world and I am eager to learn more for my own professional development and to assist my students. From my participation in GAJE (Global Alliance for Justice Education), I am aware that the law school clinicians/lecturers in Australia are doing some of the most reflective and intensive work around fieldwork learning.

One of the many reasons I am especially interested in applying for this grant now is that I plan to write an article on Supervision – The Role of Site Supervisor as Teacher. Over the years, I have worked with many site supervisors who serve as supervising attorneys. I am always impressed by how interested

many of them are in creating a meaningful learning environment for the students and I know there is more support I could be providing from the school side to help them. I believe the field placement pedagogy is desperate for an article on what it means to be a good supervisor and suggestions for operating a good law student field placement/internship program. I want to contribute to this need and produce an article that will be useful and helpful for field placement directors and site supervisors. As experiential learning becomes more central for all law schools, as evidenced by the American Bar Association recently passing a standard that all law students must do six units of professional skills learning before they graduate. There is a need to ensure that the experiential learning provided by law students meeting this requirement does so in a way that prepares students and provides service in productive and supportive learning environments.

Here in the United States, I am active on a national, regional, and local level in the field placement world. Currently, I volunteer to co-chair the AALS (Association of American Law Schools) Clinical Section's Externship Committee. In addition, I helped to found and currently serve as one of the main leaders for BACE (Bay Area Consortium on Externships) which includes all the Law School Field Placement Directors in Northern California. We collaborate on materials, placement ideas and issues, and conduct trainings for site supervisors/supervising attorneys. At the Law School, I serve as faculty advisor to our student Mindfulness Group and as a founding member of our school's Climate Committee, as well as other volunteer activities that work on building community at the law school. Last week, we held the first Blood Drive at the Law School since the 90's and in August, I helped to organize a backpack drive to collect backpacks and school supplies for students living in a nearby shelter – we have to do something to keep ourselves sane these days!

As a proud member of Unit 18, I am honored to be eligible for these funds and assure you that if I receive a grant, I will be happy to provide a follow up report, assist in publicizing the Grant Fund in the future, and volunteer (or agree to help find someone from the law school) who would be willing to serve on the Grant Committee. From my experience on the Grant Committee, we did not have many applications from the law school and I think this is an important mechanism to support lecturers, field coordinators, and other Unit 18 faculty from all departments.

Finally, while some may view the Law School as doing okay financially, we have been hit by the same hard fiscal times as many other units on campus. Over the past few years, we have had money removed from our law school budget each year and all departments at the law school have been asked to limit their expenditures. While my Dean is supportive of this endeavor and has agreed to help me with the agency and clinic visits out of my program budget, I am not able to come close to covering the cost of this trip on my own budget.

If you have any questions or I can provide any more information to support my application, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much (again) for your hard work on this Committee and I look forward to hearing from you.

In solidarity,



Sue Schechter

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510-643-7387

**International Legal Education Clinical and Legal Ethics Conferences: Australia Proposal
November–December 2018 – Melbourne, Australia – 2 Conferences
Budget Breakdown: Sue Schechter**

Airfare: \$3,081 – Qantas airline ticket attached

Conference Registrations: \$668
IJCLE – November 28-30, 2018 – 3 days - \$308
ILEC – December 6-8, 2018 – 3 days – \$360

Per Diem: \$2,190
6 days at State Department per diem maximum of 365\$/day = \$2,190 to cover transport to/from airport, stay at hotel, and food while I am at the conferences

Total: \$5,939.00

As I mentioned, I anticipate taking money out of my law school budget for per diem (lodging, food) and travel around dates of Conference to cover agency and law school clinic visits.