

Application for Delegation to Haiti Spring 2016

Contact Information:

Please email your application to Professor Nicole Phillips at phillipsn@uchastings.edu before 11 p.m., September 30, 2015.

Purpose of Application:

This application is for students who wish to be considered for participation in the annual *delegation to Haiti in March 2016*. Students who wish to enroll in the Human Rights and Rule of Law in Haiti *course*, but who do not wish to be considered for participation in the annual delegation, do not need to fill out this application. Instead, those students should simply send an email to Professor Nicole Phillips at phillipsn@uchastings.edu indicating their interest in enrolling in the course. Students who have participated in the delegation in the past may be considered for participation again. All students participating in the delegation *must* enroll in the course or work out alternative arrangements.

First year students cannot enroll in the course; however, they can be considered for participation in the delegation. If a first-year student is selected for participation in the delegation, s/he will be expected to participate in the weekly seminar even though s/he will not receive academic credit. Pro bono hours may be available for those who participate in Hastings to Haiti but are not enrolled in the course.

Course Description:

The Human Rights and Rule of Law in Haiti course is meant to prepare students for conducting human rights and rule of law work in collaboration with partners in Haiti. The course will provide an overview of Haiti's legal, social, economic, and political systems (past and present). In addition, it will consider the role of lawyers and legal education in developing the respect for rule of law and assess strategies for legal empowerment and a rights-based approach to community lawyering. This course will not substitute for core courses in international and comparative law and human rights, but it will introduce students to basic international and comparative law and human rights concepts. While the course is focused primarily on Haiti, the hope is that topics covered in the course can be applied to a range of contexts, including domestic public interest and social justice work.

Delegation Description:

We anticipate that students will be traveling to Haiti during Spring break, March 5-13 (exact dates TBD). The delegation will spend their time in Jérémie working with the *École Supérieure Catholique de Droit de Jérémie* (ESCDROJ), Haiti's first law school dedicated to preparing

students to serve the public interest. Students may also visit human rights organizations in Port-au-Prince, including the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), Haiti's main public interest law firm.

The substantive focus for this year's delegation has not been finalized, but will support the founding of a criminal and social justice clinic at the Jérémie law school, which aims to provide legal services to indigent defendants and survivors of gender-based violence. Some topics in discussion are access to justice for indigent clients, legal ethics, police brutality and discrimination (including Ferguson and other related matters), and comparative law (civil law vs. common law).

Last year's delegation focused on gender-based violence (consent for sexual assault) and nationality laws and discrimination against people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic, as well as a human rights training at a local LGBT group in Port-au-Prince.

Application Process for Delegation:

Please answer the following questions and **email them to Professor Nicole Phillips at phillipsn@uchastings.edu by 11 p.m., September 30**. Answers should not exceed 1,000 words. Students selected for an interview will be notified about participating in an interview. Interviews will be conducted at Hastings the week of October 5. Selection will take place prior to spring course registration. Slots on the delegation are limited; students who are not selected for the delegation are encouraged to enroll in the course and otherwise participate in Hastings to Haiti's on-campus efforts and apply again next year!

1. Please explain why you are interested in participating in the Haiti course and delegation. In answering, please describe your involvement in the Hastings to Haiti Partnership student organization and the program priority(ies) for spring 2016 that interest you most. Please feel free to include anything else you think pertinent such as relevant past experiences (including human rights and travel-related), interests, future goals, and how participation may fit into the reason you came to law school.
2. The Hastings delegation to Haiti seeks students who offer diverse perspectives and experiences to enrich and inform our exchange with our Haitian partners. Please explain how your background and experiences contribute to this goal.
3. Please explain any other special skills, expertise (*e.g.*, counseling, technical, computer, grant writing), attributes, or personality traits that will enable you to make a distinctive contribution.
4. Please describe your knowledge of French and/or Haitian Creole, both written and oral, if any?
5. Please describe extracurricular, work, or other time commitments for the spring of 2016 and how these commitments may or may not impact your ability to participate in the delegation, including intensive preparation in the weeks prior to the trip.
6. Please copy and paste your resume at the end of your answers (do not attach separately).