THE EXPERIENCE IN ORGANIZING OF THE LEGAL CLINIC AND CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION IN KUTAFIN MOSCOW STATE LAW UNIVERSITY (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

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The article deals with special aspects of organizing of the legal clinic and clinical legal education in Kutafin Moscow State Law University. The author analyzes the legislation and the best Russian experience in the field of the legal clinics activity.

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INTRODUCTION

The role of the legal clinic in Russian Federation can hardly be overestimated. Social services and free legal aid rendered by legal clinics throughout the country are highly sought. The legal clinic in Russia fulfils functions of both legal aid center and advocacy and submissions.

I. STUDENT CENTER FOR LEGAL AID “PRO BONO” DESCRIPTION

The Student Center for Legal Aid “Pro Bono” was founded in 2008, based on an agreement signed by the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (Russian Federation) and the Moscow Bar Association “Yuracademia: Kutafin and partners.” The Center for Student Legal Aid “Pro Bono”—Law Clinic of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (Russian Federation). Our center is a legal clinic where our students receive practical skills of legal activity under the supervision of our professors and advocates. Since February 2011 the Center has become known as the Center for Student Legal Aid “Pro bono”. The name of the Center derives comes from the Latin

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term *pro bono publico*-for the public good and this statement captures the essence of work of the Law Clinic.

The Center for Student Legal Aid “Pro bono” is a division of the University. But there is a customary format of legal clinic and we have our own identity in organizing of legal clinic activity, which reflects the best Russian experience of legal aid system organizing.

The Law Clinic of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (Russian Federation) is a free legal aid center providing free legal aid to vulnerable individuals and non-governmental organizations, in particular, legal advocacy organization. The free legal aid and the activities of law clinics in Russia are regulated by the law and other regulatory acts.

II. LEGISLATION IN THE FIELD OF LEGAL CLINIC

The law regulating legal aid and the activities of law clinics in the Russian Federation is The Federal Law of the Russian Federation from November 21, 2011 of No. 324-FZ “About the free legal aid in the Russian Federation”;

Procedure for establishing law clinics in higher educational institutions.../Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation from November 28, 2012, № 1994;

Federal government educational standards for higher professional education aimed towards the preparation 030900 Jurisprudence(qualification (grade) “Bachelor’s degree”)/Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation from May 04, 2010, № 464.

Federal government educational standards for higher professional education aimed towards the preparation 030900 Jurisprudence (qualification (grade) “Master’s degree”)/Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation from December 14, 2010, № 1763.

III. DOCUMENTS, DEFINING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER

Documents, defining the activities of the Center:

- Provisions about the Center for Student Legal Aid are approved by the Rector of the University;
- Rules for providing free legal aid;
- Code of conduct for a trainee of the Center for Student Legal Aid.
- Structure of the Center:
- Director of the Center
- Deputy Director of the Center
- Inspectors

Participants of the Center:

- Trainees;
- Students of the University - Bachelor, Master, Specialists;
- Curators;
- Professors of the University;
- Civil, Employment, Land, Criminal Law and Civil and Criminal litigation Departments;

IV. TYPES OF THE CENTER'S ACTIVITY

The most important thing for the field of legal aid is real legal aid to real people who apply to the Law Clinic with a wide range of problems regarding family law, real estate law, criminal law, inheritance law etc..

Members of the Clinic provide legal assistance in different ways, such as face-to-face consulting and preparing a written conclusion (legal opinion). Students of the Clinic draft pleadings and discovery motions, interview and counsel clients, mediate complex disputes and work under the close supervision of their clinical professors.

The unique features of the clinical legal education in Russia consist in necessity for reception of the experience in the field, which students approve.

The Law Clinic of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (Russian Federation) is a legal aid center of one of the leading law Universities in Russian Federation—Moscow State Law University named after O.E. Kutafin, which is a co-reinstitution of the Legal Educational Alliance that significantly contributed to establishing Educational and Methodological Organization within the purview of law.

The main areas of the Center's activities are:

- Educational;
- Consulting;
- Awareness-raising;
- Investigational;
- Formation of professional skills;

Consulting- providing free legal aid which concludes preparation of legal conclusions, case analysis, interviewing.

Educational activities - teaching students practical skills of working as a lawyer for different categories of issues, teaching professors interactive methods of teaching students (e.g. case studies), teaching about planning and holding lessons for legal education/enlightenment.

Educational-investigative purpose—preparation of analytical materials for different categories of issues by students;

Awareness-raising activities—participation of students in events for the formation of legal knowledge, informing citizens about actual legal issues, preparing publications about the activities of the clinic and providing explanation for various legal matters.

Awareness-raising activities of the Center:

- Holding lessons with school children, college students and universities about the programme “Live Law”;
- Preparing themed publications about legal issues;
- Holding seminars and conferences.

One of the interesting features of the University Law Clinic is the project “Live law”. The students spread law into the primary and secondary school giving lectures, providing role-plays etc.

Main aim of the lessons—teaching how to solve complex situations in life which a young person could be faced with, with the help of the law.

The theme of lessons will be determined by legal areas which already actively involve young people: property, employment, family, consumer law as well as liability for breaching the law, judicial remedies, rights upon detention by government authorities etc.

Lessons will be actively conducted using interactive methods such as: role play, working in small groups, lectures & presentations, “brain storming” etc.

Legal information is illustrated by real life situations (cases).

Those learning are offered the chance to use independent decision making skills to solve the problem which has been put in front of them, applying the legal knowledge they have acquired during lessons.

Students develop special study materials for lessons which are supervised by the professors and teachers of the University.

The developed materials can be used by teachers to conduct lessons for raising legal awareness of those taking part in the classes.

Lessons are conducted on the following topics:

- If you cause grievance/harm;
- Getting employed;
- What can be done if you buy goods which are a poor quality;
- How to defend your rights in court;
- Constitution - The main law of the state;
- If you are detained by government authorities;
- If you want to receive education;
- The Internet and the Law;
- Other current/ relevant topics;

Clinic is efficiently integrated into educational process.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the Russian experience in organizing of the legal clinic and clinical legal education shows the close link of legal clinic and higher education institution. Free legal aid, advocacy and awareness-raising activities are exercised by legal clinic in Russia for purposes of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitutional state's consolidation.