

**Intensive Program in Poverty Law
at Parkdale Community Legal Services**

Learning Objectives

**Approved by PCLS Board of Directors &
Clinical Education Committee of Osgoode Hall of York University
2012**

By the end of the program, students will be able to:

- identify dimensions of oppression (including social, economic and political exclusion and marginalization, cultural imperialism and violence) and their impact on the lives of the community members with whom PCLS works
- analyze competing conceptualizations of ‘poverty’
- critically evaluate law’s role and contribution in regulating, reinforcing, inhibiting and eliminating poverty and oppression
- explain the historical, social and political contexts of the substantive law and of state and social policies in at least one area of PCLS practice
- situate problems experienced by individuals within these contexts as appropriate
- analyze various models of lawyering that seek to facilitate positive social change
- engage in practices consistent with the principles of “community lawyering” a self-reflective style of lawyering that aspires to ally the lawyer with individuals, communities and social movements in common cause to effect positive social change
- demonstrate sound ethical judgment, and knowledge of the rules and concepts of professional conduct, and of the responsibilities of lawyers to clients, to the administration of justice and to the public at-large
- evaluate professional norms and their implications for marginalized clients and communities
- carry out effective client interviews
- engage collaboratively with clients in holistic problem-solving respectful of their agency and their status as ‘principal’ within the lawyer/client relationship
- demonstrate ‘cultural competence’, including an awareness of his or her own ‘cultural’ lens
- work appropriately with interpreters
- identify relevant legal issues

- recognize the potential limitations of legal interventions
- demonstrate awareness of alternatives to individual case work
- make appropriate referrals
- apply the substantive law in the area of practice of his/her division
- formulate a sound theory of the case
- undertake research relevant to the development of case files, the pursuit of policy reforms, and the practices of change-oriented lawyering
- design and deliver public legal education workshops
- capably manage client and community work files
- plan work obligations and priorities appropriately
- work collaboratively with other students, staff and community partners
- communicate appropriately and effectively, both orally and in writing, with various audiences
- effectively engage in formal and informal advocacy
- improve his or her practice through reflection
- identify and assess the interplay of professional and personal boundaries