COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Using the Theory of Defense as the guide by which all else follows, this course will explore the components of an effective defense of the criminally accused, with special consideration being given to the unique problems presented when representing the indigent defendant. Beginning with the initial accusation and going up to the eve of trial, the course will address the various components of an effective defense. These include brainstorming, developing the Theory of Defense, client interview, witness interviews, effective case investigation, aggressive pursuit of formal discovery, and pre-trial motions practice. As the various topics are covered, the ethical issues commonly occurring will also be discussed. Students will be required to apply the lessons of the class in a final project where they act as defense counsel.