

B-2090-1
Student Practice Rule

(a) **Purpose.** Effective legal service for each person in the Northern District of Indiana, regardless of that person's ability to pay, is important to the directly affected person, to our court system, and to our whole citizenry. Law students, under supervision by a member of the bar of the District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, may staff legal aid clinics organized under city or county bar associations or accredited law schools, or which are funded pursuant to the Legal Service Corporation Act. Law students and graduates may participate in legal training programs organized in the offices of United States Attorneys.

(b) **Procedure.** A member of the legal aid clinic, in representation of clients of such clinic, shall be authorized to advise such persons and to negotiate and appear on their behalf. These activities shall be conducted under the supervision of a member of the bar of the District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. Supervision by a member of this bar shall include the duty to examine and sign all pleadings filed on behalf of a client. Supervision shall not require that any such member of the bar be present in the room while a student or law graduate is advising a client or negotiating on his or her behalf nor that the supervisor be present in the courtroom during a student's or graduate's appearance. In no case shall any such student or graduate appear without first having received the approval of the judge of that court for the student's appearance. Where such permission has been granted, the judge of any court may suspend the trial proceedings at any stage where the judge in his or her sole discretion determines that such student's or graduate's representation is professionally inadequate and substantial justice so requires. Law students or graduates serving in a United States Attorney's program may be authorized to perform comparable functions and duties as assigned by the United States Attorney subject to all the conditions and restrictions in this rule and the further restriction that they may not be appointed as Assistant United States Attorneys.

(c) **Eligible Students.** Any student in an accredited law school who has received a passing grade in law school courses and has completed the freshman year shall be eligible to participate in a legal aid clinic if (1) the student meets the academic and moral standards established by the dean of that school, and (2) the school certifies to the court that the student has met the eligibility requirements of this rule.