**Comenius University / International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference**

**ENCLE - IJCLE 2019 Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society**

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| Title of Proposal  | Filing cases: what role for future lawyers? |
| Summary of Proposal | In a new world of professionalism, where lawyers are experiencing a serious crisis of skills and roles, clinical legal education can provide the pedagogical tools to draw a new profession for lawyers, connecting everlasting ethical values to new skills (handling technology, preferring mediation, finalisng negotiations), in order to provide a high quality public service. |
| Abstract Proposal | We are currently experiencing substantive changes in legal profession, often leading to a complaint of crisis. What is registered is a macro-level socio-economical modification of the lawyers’ identity: in a globalized society, European lawyers are transforming their socio-economic status as well as their regulatory bylaws. The challenge is how to maintain the quality of their services, preserving traditional values and enhancing new functions. The first revolution in the legal professions’ framework has started with a different social composition: by the end of the 1980s, the number of women in Italy and BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) in the United Kingdom, has increased significantly, against a social composition that was - until then - limited to lawyers male, white and belonging to upper social classes. The number of lawyers has also significantly increased. A further change in the professional abilities of lawyers is the request for a rational professionality’, that privileges outputs instead of processes; together with managerial and accounting competences. These new abilities and knowledge lead to a ‘hybrid’ legal professionalism, bleaching out of ethical values from the relationship client/professionals. What can be, then, the role of clinical education in tackling the above-mentioned challenge, that is: to pursue a high quality of legal professional services, preserving traditional ethical values and enhancing the lawyers’ functions? As assumed in this paper through the presentation of two different clinical cases (medical malpractice and bank/investors relationship), clinical legal teaching consists of a a pedagogical methodology to improve legal teaching and learning, and to enhance the role of practitioners in the current and changing context, in order to contribute to renegotiate the profession’s ‘social contract’ . As shall be argued clinical teaching provides the tools to discover new professional competences (to solve problems, to choose among alternative dispute remedies, to set up strategic litigation, to prefer mediation, to conduct negotiations) and improve the overall abilities and skills of future lawyers Prof. C. Amato is a Clinical Teacher at Brescia University since 2009. She deals mainly with cases concerning conusmer protection and medical malpractice. |