

# Tech Project Guidelines - Spring, 2015

## Technology and Legal Innovation Clinic, Loyola College of Law

You are required to produce a technology-related project on or before **May 7, 2015**. The project should focus on using technology to provide access to legal services or information for members of the general public or legal practitioners. It should demonstrate your familiarity with the skills we have learned this semester and your ability to learn and apply new technological skills.

You should submit a written proposal for your project on or before **April 8, 2015**. The proposal should specify:

- The name of your project
- A brief description of what your project will do and what legal issues it will address
- A list of the technologies you will use (e.g., Wordpress, javascript, etc)
- A list of project milestones: what are the components of the project and how will you complete them?
- If you are working in a group, a clear statement of which members of the group will be responsible for which components of the project.

## Grading

Projects will be graded on:

- First and foremost, originality and creativity. Have you identified a problem this is relevant to the law and the legal profession and provided a working solution?
- The amount of effort you have put in to the project, judged 1) on the number of hours you have logged in putting it together and 2) the completeness of your source code.
- Does it actually work? Although it is acceptable to submit a project with some remaining technical issues, highest grades will be awarded to those projects which have successfully implemented all proposed functionality.

## Project Suggestions

Please keep your proposals and your projects **simple**. You only have a month to work with and you are unlikely to create the next Google in that time. The best projects are likely to use basic HTML and Javascript to solve one single problem.

If you are having difficulty thinking of a project, here are some hypothetical law-based problems looking for a solution:

- A lawyer notices that reports of DWI arrests (including names and addresses of the subjects and location of the arrest) are **regularly published in the newspaper**. He would like a way to collect all that data for marketing purposes and to determine generally where in town DWI arrests occur. How would he do that? [Hint: he needs a **scraper**. You can see some useful scrapers **here** and **here**.]
- Another lawyer represents developers who remodel and sell foreclosed homes. He would like a way to quickly view which properties are available for sale and to see the property's location on Google Maps. He notices that **data.nola.gov** publishes this data and even has an API. (Note that data.nola.gov is great source for other tech project ideas).
- A lawyer has a solo practice and is moving to **unbundled services** (meaning she charges a fixed fee for each service she provides). She would like to add a page to her practice website which allows clients to select from a list of services she provides and to be given an estimate of total cost.

Feel free to pursue one of these projects or choose your own.

To start out your project, your best bet is to do a mockup using **JSBin**. If you have a UI, have one project member work on the html, another one work on the javascript, another on the data modeling, etc.

## Agreement

The best projects will be further developed and released under the LoyolaLawTech brand. Although you will retain full copyright for your contributions to the project, you agree that all software your produce will be offered under the **MIT License**, unless otherwise agreed by your professor.