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Legal Clinical Education: the Experience of National Academy of Internal Affairs

According to law of Ukraine «On higher education» legal clinic as the key element aimed to solve problems of ministerial higher education is the structural unit of higher educational establishment which is driven pro bono.

In the conditions of intensification of training process organization intensification legal clinic's format allows securing students' participation in court hearings, procedural acts preparation, interviews with clients, real juridical situations assessment; this consequently means enhancing the authority of educational establishment (and Ministry of Interior at all), efficient professional practice and professional orientation measure. Issues of legal clinics activity were studied during different times by native and foreign researchers. Most of them considered legal clinical education as a part

of higher education. Unfortunately the legal definition of it is non-existent today although there are a lot of doctrinal interpretations in scientific sources.

There are six legal clinics functioning in National Academy of Internal Affairs. Free legal assistance is given by senior cadets, undergraduate and post-graduate students under the lecturers' and researchers' supervision. The main purpose of legal clinics is to create condition to provide free legal assistance to social insecure segments of population and to maintain continuous practically oriented professional education.

Legal clinical education as a way of legal clinics functioning has a powerful potential to secure the realization of students' theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Functioning of legal clinics can secure the embodiment of civil right to free legal assistance although this activity demands further legal regulation.

Keywords: legal clinics education; free primary legal assistance; legal clinic; higher education; higher educational establishment; European space; student-jurist.