Access to Justice in Mississippi
Alternative Law Spring Break 2017

DESCRIPTION
The Access to Justice in Mississippi alternative law spring break trip is a collaboration between Georgia State University’s Center for Access to Justice and the Office of the State Public Defender in Mississippi. Selected students will carpool to Jackson, Mississippi and devote spring break to conducting court-watching research in Mississippi criminal courts. Beau Rudder, Training Director for the Office of the State Public Defender will provide training and supervision for students engaged in courtwatching and the recording of their observations and will be on hand to discuss the students’ findings and debrief regarding their experience. Students will also benefit from a presentation by a local history professor and discussion with fellow participants and other attorneys regarding issues facing indigent defendants. As time allows, students may also help develop a bench card for future distribution to judges and low-income defendants regarding the right to counsel in certain criminal cases.

DATES
The trip begins on the morning of Sunday, March 12, and concludes on Saturday, March 18, 2017. Participants will spend the morning and afternoon of Sunday, March 12 carpooling to Jackson, Mississippi. The trip kicks off with dinner on Sunday, March 12 and concludes on Friday evening, March 17. Participants should expect to carpool back to Atlanta Saturday, March 18.

GSU COLLEGE OF LAW, CENTER FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE MISSION
The Center for Access to Justice seeks to shine a light on the obstacles to access facing lower-income people in the South and to convene regional stakeholders — including academics, legal practitioners, government actors, and other policymakers — committed to increasing access to justice. The center connects Georgia State University faculty and students with those working in the field to engage in collaboration, research, and education to improve access to justice across the South.

PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT
Participants commit to fully participate in all activities throughout the week. The trip begins with a kickoff dinner on March 12, runs from roughly 9am-8pm on March 13-16, and from 9am-5pm on March 17.

Prior to the trip, participants commit to completing limited assigned background reading.

TRIP COST
The cost per participant is $200 (other costs will be subsidized by the Center). The trip payment will cover lodging in shared hotel rooms, dinner Sunday-Thursday, and some lunches. Payment can be made via check made out to the Center for Access to Justice and must be received by February 17, 2017. Participants are independently responsible for breakfast every day, lunches Tuesday through Thursday, dinner Friday, transportation to and parking at local courts, and required reading. Students are expected to carpool to Jackson; up to three student drivers (agreed upon in advance) will be reimbursed for mileage to/from Jackson, Mississippi.

Please direct all questions concerning the application process and the trip to Darcy Meals at dmeals@gsu.edu.