Students will study the appellate process, including the goals of appellate review and the nuts and bolts of the appellate process (e.g., consultation with trial counsel and preparation, filing and retrieval of the appellate record). In addition, students will learn techniques for record review, development of factual statements; legal research, legal analysis, and preparation effective written argument as they draft an answer brief in at least one criminal case pending the Colorado Attorney General’s appellate division case files. The final draft will be filed with the appropriate appellate under the instructor’s name.

Students will also perform at least two moot courts — one in their own case and the other side in another student’s case

If cases advance to the state supreme court, postconviction review or federal habeas corpus, students may volunteer to continue participating, although the course will conclude with the filing of the answer brief and moot courts.

The course may also include guest speakers from the judiciary, trial prosecutors specializing in interlocutory appeals, and the public defender’s appellate section.