

AALS CLINICAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

Welcome to the January 2025 AALS Clinical Section Newsletter. We are pleased to bring you exciting information and updates from both the Section and from schools and programs around the country.

- *The AALS Clinical Section Communications Committee*
Sabrina Balgamwalla (co-chair), Alexi Freeman, Jennifer Prusak, and Jane Stoever (co-chair)

From the Clinical Section Chairs

It has been an absolute honor to serve as co-chairs of the Clinical Section's Executive Committee this year. We are so grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with our fellow board members Priya Baskaran (American), Norrinda Brown (Fordham), Julie Dahlstrom (Boston), Nira Geevargis (UC Law San Francisco), Anne Gordon (Duke), Allison Freedman (New Mexico), Susan Hazeldean (Brooklyn), Beth Locker (Vermont), Natalie Nanasi (SMU), and Anita Sinha (American). With nearly 1,800 members, our Section—the largest in the AALS—thrives because of the dedication of the Executive Committee and 14 committees working together to foster our vibrant community of experiential educators.

We are proud to have continued the Section's commitment to excellence in teaching and scholarship, the pursuit of justice, and building an inclusive and dynamic community. Of course, our flagship event is the Conference on Clinical Legal Education where more than 700 of us gathered in St. Louis this past year. Recognizing the value of in-person conference participation and the unique challenges faced by some Section members, the Executive Committee launched a program to provide stipends for emerging and international clinicians from schools that do not fund conference travel to attend the annual clinical conference and the bi-annual Externships conference. The Section's work to support its members extends far beyond the May conference by providing financial support for smaller regional or specialty conferences and offering webinars throughout the year.

Our Section remains a leader in exploring the future of legal education. Workshops on cutting-edge topics like AI in legal education, compliance with ABA Standards 303(b) and 303(c), and innovative teaching methodologies provided our members with tools to meet the challenges ahead while enhancing student learning. This year, we took important steps to deepen support for members' scholarship by collaborating with

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Association of American Law Schools

the *Clinical Law Review* to publish papers presented at the 2024 AALS annual meeting focused on the theme *Collaborating to Defend Democracy in Communities Under Attack*.

Fostering our members' professional growth is central to what we do, and we've found creative ways to support junior faculty while continuing to elevate the status of experiential faculty. At the same time, we've strengthened our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion—whether through the groundbreaking work of the Clinicians of Color Committee, the Externships Committee Anti-Racism Think Tank webinars, or ongoing efforts to ensure our internal processes and practices reflect our values.

This is just a small snapshot of the Section's work, most of which happens through you, our members, volunteering on committees. Your commitment, creativity, and impact do not go unnoticed. At the board level, we reinvigorated the Section's committees by strengthening communication between the committees and the Executive Committee, recruiting new members, and developing organizational guidelines. Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community. Although in January we will hand the gavel to our fabulous incoming co-chairs Natalie and Julie, we look forward to seeing you at regional conferences, the Clinical Conference, and online, and celebrating the amazing work you do every day.

—Sarah Shalf and Kele Stewart, Outgoing Section Chairs

Below is the slate for the 2025 AALS Clinical Section Executive Committee, which will be presented to members for a vote during the Section Business Meeting at the AALS Annual Meeting, on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

2025 AALS Clinical Section Executive Committee Slate

Julie Dahlstrom, Co-Chair

Natalie Nanasi, Co-Chair

Allison Freedman, Co-Chair elect, Secretary*

Nira Geevargis, Co-chair elect

Susan Hazeldean, Treasurer

Anne Gordon, Member

Priya Baskaran, Member

Beth Locker, Member

Gautam Hans, New Member

Sherley Cruz, New Member

Sarah Shalf, Past Co-Chair *ex officio*

Kele Stewart, Past Co-Chair *ex officio*

*By appointment

Program Updates

American University Washington College of Law

Students in the Decarceration and Re-Entry Clinic represented a client in a Maryland court where a judge ordered his release from prison after 38 years. The Juvenile Restoration Act allows individuals who were children sentenced as adults to file petitions seeking resentencing. The clinic's client was 17 years old when he set a fire in an establishment, resulting in the unfortunate death of a firefighter. The judge granted the motion, finding, among other factors, that "Mr. Ball has demonstrated his pursuit of redemption and dedication to community while incarcerated."

The Immigrant Justice Clinic secured citizenship for Henry, an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor who was in legal limbo since he arrived in the United States in 1951. IJC clinic students worked tirelessly to uncover defects in the original proceedings and restore his permanent residence status. In September, Henry was officially sworn in as a U.S. citizen.



Ryan Durazo '21 (left) and Professor Jayesh Rathod (right) with Henry just after he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen

The Janet R. Spragens Federal Tax Clinic presented an information session to faculty, staff, and students on filing federal income tax returns, including information on who should file, common credits and deductions, and available resources to assist taxpayers.

Boston University School of Law

The BU Law Clinical and Experiential Programs launched two new clinics under the Civil Litigation & Justice Program in Fall 2024—the Appellate Clinic and the Consumer Economic Justice Clinic. The Appellate Clinic is taught by Clinical Associate Professor Madeline (Maddie) Meth. In the year-long clinic, students take the lead in researching and writing complex appellate briefs in public interest cases. The second addition, the Consumer Economic Justice Clinic, is a year-long clinic that gives students the opportunity to represent low-income clients unfairly denied credit or who face unfair debt collection practices and other barriers to wealth accumulation. The clinic is taught by Clinical Associate Professor Jade Brown.

These new clinics round out the Civil Litigation & Justice Program, which also includes the Access to Justice Clinic and the Civil Litigation Clinic, which combines the work of the former Individual Rights Litigation and Employment Rights clinics.

Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Kendall McPherson joined the Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic at Case Western Reserve University School of Law as our new Environmental Law Clinic Fellow. Julia Aromatorio joined the program as our new Health Law Clinic Fellow.

Laura McNally, Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Director of the Kramer Law Clinic, and Sarah M. Polly, Managing Attorney of the

Kramer Law Clinic, are co-teaching the Second Chance Reentry Clinic at Case Western Reserve University School of Law during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Columbia Law School

The Appellate Litigation Clinic was founded in summer 2024 by Dennis Fan, with its first group of students starting in the spring 2025 semester. The clinic handles state and federal appeals across a range of economic-justice issues, from consumer law to workers' rights to housing. This coming semester, the clinic plans to have two cases in the New York Court of Appeals, one on the requirements for subsidized housing and another on the scope of local-government zoning powers.

The Environmental and Climate Justice Clinic, launched in 2023 by Camille Pannu, represents front-line communities facing the disproportionate effects of climate change. Students have worked in partnership with clients to create new models for community solar projects, address flooding risk, and build capacity for community organizations.

Cornell Law School

This fall, Cornell Law School inaugurated its Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Clinic, led by Clinical Professor of Law G.S. Hans. Students in the clinic engage in civil litigation, policy, and advocacy, working with clients to protect and promote individual rights and liberties, with a particular focus on free speech. In its first project, the clinic submitted an appeal on behalf of a long-term California resident who was refused re-entry to the United States because of the images tattooed on his body. The clinic also drafted an amicus brief supporting the Colorado Universal Preschool Program's requirement that schools admit students regardless of a child's gender identity or the sexual orientation of their parents. The third project has the clinic working with EveryLibrary, a nationwide nonprofit that helps public libraries, school libraries,

and librarians defend against book bans and threats of closures, defunding, and firings.

George Washington University Law School

The George Washington University Law School Clinical Program is thrilled to announce the launch of three new clinical offerings starting in Spring 2025. The new clinics are divisions of the [Access to Justice Clinic](#). The Access to Justice clinical model allows GW Law to leverage the expertise of our faculty and deans across the Law School, provides flexibility to be responsive to emerging community needs and student interests, and increases seats in our over-enrolled program.

The GW Law Clinical Program launched the [Administrative Law Issues and Appeals \(ALIA\) Clinic](#) under the direction of Dean Aram Gavoor in Fall 2024. ALIA Clinic student attorneys work on cases ranging from federal administrative and constitutional law issues to emerging fields like AI and cybersecurity. These cases bring students before the U.S. Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, and federal agencies, engaging with complex legal challenges. The Clinic's first project, an amicus brief for a First Circuit human rights case, exemplifies its wide-ranging approach to engaging with complex administrative law issues and training students in legal drafting, coalition building, and appellate practice. The Clinic's additional projects this inaugural semester address Transportation Security Administration cybersecurity rules, Federal Communications Commission regulatory petitions, and DC parolee rights.

Georgetown University Law Center

Georgetown Law is thrilled to announce the creation of the Harrison-Stumberg Quasi-Endowment for Clinical Innovation, a \$1 million fund that will continue to support our path-breaking clinical work for years to come. The fund was established to celebrate Prof. Robert Stumberg's 48 years of service to Georgetown Law and the Harrison Institute for Public Law's immeasurable

impact on generations of students and the communities they served. The quasi-endowment will permanently fund innovative new clinical projects that are grounded in community service and create an opportunity to leverage additional external support. The Georgetown Law Clinics remain grateful for the Law Center's leadership for supporting this initiative and for Prof. Stumberg's efforts over the years to generate the funding for the endowment and his stewardship of the program's resources for these many years. Stay tuned for future updates about the new initiatives this fund will be supporting!

Harvard Law School

The Health Law and Policy Clinic (HLPC) recently launched the Medicaid 1115 Reentry Tracker. The Clinic is tracking the release of approved and pending 1115 waivers for pre-release Medicaid coverage in carceral facilities and analyzing which states' waivers will expand access to HIV and hepatitis C treatment and prevention. The Reentry tracker breaks down these complex waivers into three key focus areas: (1) Waiver Status, Primary Sources, and Key Deadlines, (2) The Scope of the Approved Waiver and Covered Services, and (3) Coverage of HIV and Hepatitis C Treatment and Prevention.

The Global Food Donation Policy Atlas (The Atlas), a collaboration between Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic and The Global FoodBanking Network, has been longlisted for the 2025 Food Planet Prize. The Atlas evaluates food loss and waste policies around the world and offers recommendations to expand food donation. This year's Food Planet Prize longlist contains initiatives from 23 countries across six continents – from Uganda to the UK, China to Colombia. They illustrate how innovations can be technical in nature, but also social or nature-based.

Penn State Dickinson Law & Penn State Law

Penn State's clinical education program will be undergoing changes as the American Bar Association's Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar granted conditional approval for Penn State University to reunify its two law schools, Penn State Dickinson Law (in Carlisle, Pennsylvania) and Penn State Law (in University Park, Pennsylvania). Penn State will deliver legal education by a single, unified, two-location law school known as Penn State Dickinson Law. The reunified law school will have 14 clinics: the Arts, Sports & Entertainment Law Clinic; the Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic; the Children's Advocacy Clinic; the Civil Rights Appellate Clinic; the Community Law Clinic; the Criminal Appellate and Post-Conviction Services Clinic; the Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic; the Family Law Clinic; the Indigent Criminal Justice Trial Clinic; the Intellectual Property Clinic; the Manglona Lab for Gender and Economic Equity; the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic; the Rural Economic Development Clinic; and the Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic. Michele Vollmer will serve as the Associate Dean for Clinics and Experiential Education for the reunified law school.

Many clinicians from both locations were part of a working group to discuss the reunified law school's experiential education program, and several clinicians are on the curriculum committees considering the program. The reunified faculty should finalize the experiential education program in Spring 2025. Changes will likely begin to be implemented in Fall 2025.

Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law

Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law students recently volunteered in vital disaster relief efforts for Hurricanes Helene and Milton, bringing their legal expertise to support communities in west-central Florida. Collaborating with Stetson College of Law, the students provided legal research and analysis to help community members

navigate complex FEMA relief rules, ensuring accurate, timely access to resources. Guided by Professor Peter Fendel, a dedicated team collaborated to conduct legal research, verify facts, analyze FEMA protocols, and draft memorandums summarizing their findings for Stetson's Clinical Education team, led by Professor Christine Cerniglia, Director of Clinical Education at Stetson College of Law, who praised the swift, efficient response to ensure clinical faculty had access to the correct information during the disaster recovery process and as they serve their local community.

Rutgers Law School

Rutgers Law has added the following clinical programs: a new Mediation Clinic at the Newark campus, led by Visiting Assistant Professor Felicia Farber; a new Criminal Defense clinic at the Camden Campus, led by Assistant Professor of Law Jessica Frisina; and a new Medical Legal Partnership at the Camden Campus, led by Visiting Associate Professor Jeremy Speigel.

Stetson University College of Law

Stetson University College of Law welcomed Michael Vastine as the Distinguished Visiting Director of Clinical and Experiential Education for 2024-25, as Professor Christine Cerniglia left for a sabbatical research year, as part of her appointment as Leroy Highbaugh, Senior Chair. Professors Cerniglia and Vastine incepted and co-taught a new Remote CLI Clinic in Summer 2024, enabling clinic students to work, in role, in geographically diverse offices.

Stetson was directly impacted by the Fall 2024 landfalls of two major hurricanes upon the Gulf Coast of Florida. The Clinical and Experiential Education program served as community leader and convener for subsequent disaster-related education and advocacy, with an on-campus and virtual/hybrid seminar series led by Professor Cerniglia, and off-campus outreach facilitated by the department.

The Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment, headed by Assistant Professor Jaclyn Lopez, hired staff attorney Rachael Curran. The Clinic's achievements include a settlement agreement to protect Florida biodiversity; data analysis of corporate giving to Florida-based political action committees; a legal treatise on nitrogen pollution; a petition for administrative rulemaking to address water pollution; a notice of intent to sue for a coalition fighting industrial pollution; and a white paper on the environmental impacts of a Supreme Court decision on wetlands.

Stetson's Immigration Clinic placed students at Gulfcoast Legal Services, where they represented survivors of human trafficking on immigration relief and other civil legal needs under the direction of Adjunct Professor Lisa Murray. This work contributed to GLS's inclusion in the U.S. DOJ Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign, United Against Labor Trafficking: Spotlight on Organizations Leading the Charge, and inclusion by a joint committee of the DOJ/DHS in drafting the guidance for Survivor Screening and Identification Protocols for Law Enforcement.

Suffolk Law School

In response to the groundswell of self-represented litigants and back-log of cases in family courts, Suffolk Law has partnered with the American Arbitration Association to launch a new [Online Dispute Resolution Clinic](#). The Clinic will provide free alternate dispute resolution services to self-represented litigants seeking low-contest divorces in Massachusetts.

This summer, Suffolk Law launched the [Center for Housing Justice and Policy](#) (CHJP), building on the solid foundation of its nationally leading Housing Discrimination Testing Program. CHJP will bring together faculty, staff, and students across Suffolk University to tackle a wide range of housing issues, from affordability, supply, and accessibility to

environmental sustainability, housing discrimination, and community development.

Suffolk's Legal Innovation and Technology (LIT) Center will bring together Suffolk's long-standing [LIT Institute](#), award-winning LIT Clinic, and curricular programs such as the LIT Concentration, which have collectively earned Suffolk a reputation as a leading law school in legal tech. Clinical students working with the Center are learning to combine design thinking, process improvement, legal technology, and coding skills, creating tools that are helpful for users and courts.

The USPO certified Suffolk Law's Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic to handle both trademark and patent matters and represent clients before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Assistant Professor Darrell Mottley and his students are excited to represent clients in their trademark and patent matters.

University of Baltimore School of Law

The University of Baltimore School of Law is hiring its first social worker! The UBalt clinics thank the clinical community for helping us think through possible structures. Piloting this effort will be the Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic (directed by Professors Katie Kronick and Jonny Kerr), Immigrant Rights Clinic (directed by Professors Valeria Gomez and Emily Johanson), and Innocence Project Clinic (directed by Professor Erica Suter, as a joint effort of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender and UBalt Law).

In the first UBalt Law initiative of its kind, six students in the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (directed by Professor Janice Shih) traveled last summer to the U.S. territory of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands to assist over 90 taxpayers in settling their outstanding tax liabilities and to meet with the local judiciary.

Looking ahead, UBalt Law will hire Fellows this spring for the Veterans Advocacy, Mediation for

Families, Innocence Project, and Family Law Clinics. The Fellowship is a three-year training program in teaching and scholarship ("hello" to the 29 of UBalt's former Fellows now in long-term teaching positions, most of whom will receive this newsletter!). Detailed postings will be circulated soon.

UC Law San Francisco

The UC Law SF Clinical Program is excited to share updates. The Individual Representation Clinic added curriculum to address issues arising for today's students. One session focused on helping students improve executive functioning skills (including procrastination and time and stress management). Another class encouraged students to experiment with AI responsibly to jumpstart idea generation for factual development, interview plans, and writing projects.

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) presented a paper proposing additional funding models to provide state funding so federally-funded LITCs can assist taxpayers with their state tax issues, which they are not permitted to do using their federal funding, to the state tax agencies and key government workers in Sacramento in October 2024, as part of the Sacramento Delegation organized by the Taxation Section of the California Lawyers Association.

In the Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors Clinic, 210 low-income seniors were served last academic year. One case involved a gentleman who had successfully hidden the symptoms of his early-onset Alzheimer's Disease from his family. Students realized that he was facing eviction, had unpaid bills, and had been unable to care properly for himself. He still had sufficient capacity to execute a power of attorney, which permitted his son to step to prevent the eviction and provide the support that the client needed to stay safe.

The U.S. Embassy in Haiti has awarded UC Law SF a second grant to support its longstanding

partnership with the Catholic Law School of Jérémie, Haiti (ESCDROJ). Led by Professors Bookey, Vapnek, and Bloch, this initiative will support Haitian colleagues in revising and enhancing ESCDROJ’s ethics curriculum and developing ethics modules for training myriad actors in the judicial system. ESCDROJ faculty will visit UC Law SF for a week-long symposium joined by other scholars, practitioners, and jurists from around the world.

University of Detroit Mercy Law

Detroit Mercy Law has partnered with the Coalition for Property Tax Justice to form a new Housing Law Clinic and provide legal representation to low-income homeowners to file appeals and challenge inflated property tax assessments in Detroit. Students will represent homeowners in tax appeals and engage in client interviews, gathering evidence, and conducting property research, legal research, community education, and more. The Housing Law Clinic will launch in winter 2025.

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

This fall, UDC Law launched its Post-Conviction Criminal Defense Clinic directed by Professor Ngozi Ndulue. During the clinic’s inaugural semester, students represented several clients challenging felony convictions in state post-conviction and federal habeas proceedings. They focused on various challenging legal and procedural issues, including the legal significance of the intellectual disability of a formerly death-sentenced client, access issues for a deaf client not provided a qualified interpreter, and procedural hurdles to raising a newly discovered conflict of interest claim. In addition to developing post-conviction investigation and litigation skills, students focus on understanding their clients’ stories and presenting them in a system designed to use procedural technicalities to close the courtroom doors.

The Clinical Program collaborated with the Black Public Defender Association’s Inaugural Antiracism Training Institute Conference “Interrogating Bias:

Cross-Examination Skills for Antiracist Defenders.” The conference provided an intensive look into effective trial techniques for public defenders representing clients often targeted by the justice (aka “Just Us”) system. UDC Clinic Dean David Singleton kicked off the three-day conference and Professor Quo Judkins and Managing Attorney Tiffany Smith served as teaching faculty. UDC Law also proudly hosted the networking reception.



BPDA Conference attendees

Based on students’ interests and community needs, the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, co-directed by Jocelyn Cazares Willingham and Anne Schaufele, engaged in direct representation, as well as collaboration with the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission. Students drafted guidance on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and facilitated a CLE for public defenders on the mechanics and limitations of post-conviction relief for noncitizens in Virginia. The Clinic continues exploring the relationships between law and social work through our Conversations with Clinicians and developed a Racial Justice Lawyering seminar designed to provide students with the critical historical context to understand how law’s racist roots continue to impact the development and enforcement of immigration law.

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Maryland's Clinical Law Program is expanding in exciting and urgent ways. Professors Maneka Sinha and Molly Ryan have launched the Forensic Defense Clinic, the first of its kind clinic in the U.S.; Professor Anya Marino has launched the LGBTQI+ Equality Clinic, which engages impact litigation and amicus, legislative, and regulatory projects concerning the LGBTQI+ community's most vulnerable members; and Professor Lila Meadows has launched the Decarceration Initiative Clinic, which represents individuals serving extreme sentences for crimes that occurred when they were children.

Also, Professors Michelle Hall and John Sharifi have joined the Clinical Law Program to teach the Criminal Appellate Clinic. In addition, beginning in Spring 2025, the Intellectual Property & Entrepreneurship Clinic, led by Professor Patricia Campbell, will provide counseling and representation to parties before the Copyright Claims Board at the U.S. Copyright Office.

University of Miami School of Law

The Miami Law Immigration Clinic welcomed Andrea Jacoski as the incoming associate director this semester. Students enrolled in the Immigration Clinic represented four clients across seven hearings. One student team won bond for a young mother of three detained at Baker County Jail in northern Florida. Another team secured withholding of removal for a client detained at the Krome Detention Center.

Miami Law also launched its General Counsel Practicum for students to learn in a hands-on environment with the Legal Department at the Miami Association of Realtors.

The Innocence Clinic has been working with McDermott Will & Emery as pro bono co-counsel on a complicated, 12-witness evidentiary hearing to be held in Palm Beach Circuit Court.

The Human Rights Clinic collaborates with the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the Black Audit Project on a racial justice assessment in Miami-Dade County, delving into the issues of housing, food, climate justice, gender-based violence, and maternal health. One student then traveled to Geneva to participate in the third meeting of the U.N. Permanent Forum and present the findings and recommendations from the report.

The Human Rights Clinic partnered with EarthRights International and contributed to a historic verdict holding Chiquita Banana accountable for human rights violations in Colombia. The clinic also partnered with Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa to support pioneering litigation on women's rights and economic justice in Kenya, Malawi, and Sierra Leone.

This fall, the Environmental Justice Clinic initiated a new partnership with community champion Mama Joy and her award-winning organization, Nanas Restart, to advance food justice, healthy public parks, and thriving communities in historically segregated Overtown.

The Startup Law Clinic helped non-profits in need in the community, including offering trademark registration assistance, design ownership, grant reviews, IRS updates, and other legal guidance to 911der Women, Service Dogs Saving Lives, and the HEM Foundation.

University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

The Homeless Advocacy Clinic (HAC) at University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law—the first in the country to provide legal services exclusively to people who have had contact with the criminal legal system—is getting substantial support to further its work. Sacramento-native Robert A. Buccola '83, and his wife, Dr. Kawanaa Carter, have committed \$3 million to

establish the Buccola Family Homeless Advocacy Clinic Endowment. Buccola is a managing and founding partner of Dreyer Babich Buccola Wood Campora, LLP. Established in 2021, HAC trains students to be effective advocates for their clients. In the Clinic, students learn fundamental lawyering skills while providing barrier-free, holistic, and client-centered legal services to unhoused residents of Sacramento County. In just three years, HAC has already had a significant impact in the community. In 2023, students working in the Clinic played a critical role in saving unhoused and other low-income people across Sacramento more than \$162 million in court fines and fees.

Ron Hochbaum, an Associate Clinical Professor of Law at McGeorge and a national expert on homelessness and poverty law, directs the Clinic. “In the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, the need for productive, not punitive, responses to homelessness is as great as ever. This generous gift ensures that McGeorge and its students will be part of the solution by providing critical legal services to remove barriers to housing for some of Sacramento’s most marginalized residents,” Hochbaum said.



Dr. Kawanaa Carter and Robert A. Buccola

University of Richmond School of Law

The University of Richmond School of Law has founded a new civil litigation clinic, the Access to Justice Clinic. Directed by former legal aid attorney

and alum Cassie Powell, the clinic works to advance the rights of people experiencing poverty before local courts and administrative agencies. In the clinic, students may defend a family in an eviction, appeal of denial of Medicaid benefits, or represent a parent in a custody matter. Throughout the semester-long course, students identify barriers people experiencing poverty face in accessing legal services and consider how to incorporate access to justice initiatives in their professional lives. Finally, students develop an understanding of community lawyering and have the opportunity to work with local organizers and community members on broader community advocacy initiatives. Professor Powell joins the faculty at University of Richmond after seven years as a legal aid attorney in Virginia practicing housing, education, family, consumer, and public benefits law.

University of San Francisco School of Law

The University of San Francisco School of Law’s Clinics and externship program offer students a range of opportunities to engage in law practice and advance our social justice mission.

In Spring 2025, the Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic will celebrate its 10-year anniversary. The Clinic began in response to the surge of unaccompanied minors and family units—mostly women and children—fleeing violence in the Northern Triangle. Since then, directed by Professors Jacqueline Brown and Bill Hing, the Clinic has represented hundreds of clients seeking asylum and SIJS relief.

The USF Racial Justice Clinic hosted a Second Chance Symposium on October 10, 2024, focused on rehabilitation, reentry, and resentencing. More than 175 people attended the full day of events that included a keynote address from USF Law alum and Chief Alameda Public Defender Brendon Woods.



Professor Lara Bazelon and Brendon Woods

The Internet & Intellectual Property Justice Clinic, led by Professor Jessica Fajfar, held a day-long conference on Name, Image, and Likeness for College Athletes. As these laws continue to evolve while student-athletes increasingly leverage their image and influence to monetize their personal brands, the Clinic and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) offered a dynamic program with valuable insights from industry experts, seasoned attorneys, and student-athletes. Over 480 people attended the program online and in person.

Finally, the International Human Rights Law Clinic, re-launched in January 2024, offered an advanced Clinic option, welcoming back 6 of the 8 students engaged in the Spring 2024 semester to deepen their advocacy alongside client-partners. Clinic students drafted a report based on interviews of Afghan women formerly working in the security sector to advocate for safe resettlement of these women as well and recently presented their report on freedom of movement for refugees in Kenya to the UN High Commission for Refugees.

University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law

The new Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic at the University of South Carolina has launched and hired a staff attorney.

The Veterans' Legal Clinic also hired a staff attorney. The Clinic also won a 100% permanent and total VA disability compensation for a veteran, including over \$60,000 in backpay. This win has increased the veteran's monthly income from under \$1,000 to almost \$4,000 per month, and gives him and his teenage son full access to VA healthcare and education benefits. The Clinic also erased over \$14,000 in overpayment debt for an elderly veteran, allowing her to begin collecting her full monthly veterans pension again.

The CHAMPS (MLP) Clinic hired a third staff attorney and is launching a rural fellowship in the fall of 2025.

University of St. Thomas School of Law

Professor Mark Osler was appointed as the Director of the University of St. Thomas Legal Clinics.

University of Tennessee School of Law

The entire faculty at the University of Tennessee Legal Clinic joined forces to develop a clinic-wide 303(c) curriculum on implicit bias, cross-cultural communication, and racial discrimination. The curriculum begins during an all-clinic orientation and continues with a workshop that introduces vocabulary and hypothetical scenarios. Individual clinic professors then integrate these concepts into weekly classes, supervision, and rounds.

The UT Legal Clinic worked on a new statewide voter restoration project to help clients with felony convictions restore their voting rights. Tackling an onerous two-step legal process, clinic students filed dozens of petitions in Circuit Court to argue for restoration of full citizenship rights and then completed an administrative process to register their clients to vote. Students assisted clients leading up to the voter registration deadline for the Presidential election, allowing many clients to vote for the first time.

Professors Kristina Kersey and Tyler Dougherty teamed up with 30 pro bono students to host a pop-up Hurricane Helene clinic to help residents in a North Carolina town where a recent alum is from.

The UT Legal Clinic relaunched the Wrongful Convictions Clinic in the Spring of 2024. The clinic began as an all-volunteer project in 2000, the first of its kind in Tennessee. In 2018, the clinic went on hiatus to help develop the Tennessee Innocence Project. The redesigned clinic has a more targeted caseload of clients incarcerated in East Tennessee with wrongful convictions claims.

University of Wisconsin Law School

Clinical Fellow Tessa Henson and Clinical Professor Mitch of the Neighborhood Law Clinic (NLC) recently launched a property tax justice project through a new partnership with a local Milwaukee nonprofit and the Coalition for Property Tax Justice, a collective of 15+ Detroit grassroots organizations. Through representation, community education, and systemic advocacy, the NLC aims to help keep low-income Milwaukeeans in their homes by preventing property overtaxation and property tax foreclosure, which disproportionately impact Black and Latiné homeowners.

Raffi Friedman has joined the Immigrant Justice Clinic (IJC) as a clinical instructor. She brings her border, immigration, and criminal law experience as a federal public defender in San Diego, as well as her civil and appellate litigation experience in service of vulnerable groups. Raffi has built a crimmigration practice over several years and recently edited chapters of *Immigration Consequences of Wisconsin Criminal Offenses*. She plans to expand IJC's detained representation, bond program, and federal court practice, and welcomes opportunities for collaboration.

Wake Forest Law School

The Heirs' Property Project of the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic at Wake Forest received a generous grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation. The grant aims to help other law school clinics work on heirs' property as part of their ongoing work. The clinics need not focus on heirs' property, but many clinics encounter heirs' property in their work. The Project has also created a fund to help heirs' property owners cover expenses to retain their property, such as title opinions, surveyors, back taxes, and similar items. If you would like more information about this fund or the heirs' property work, please contact Project Co-Directors Miles Malbrough (malbrom@wfu.edu) and Scott Schang (schangs@wfu.edu). The Project has also started a listserv devoted to clinicians working on heirs' property issues, so please let them know if you would like to be added to the listserv.

Washington University School of Law

WashU Law expanded its clinical program in Fall 2024 with the launch of a new Veterans Law Clinic under the direction of Cormac Smith. Initially, the Veterans Law Clinic will focus on discharge characterization upgrades and military records corrections, with plans to broaden its scope in subsequent semesters. The clinic's establishment addresses a crucial need in the St. Louis metropolitan area, where despite an abundance of veteran-friendly businesses and healthcare services, legal resources for veterans remain limited.

Wayne State Law School

Wayne State Law School's Business and Community Law is in its second year of providing interdisciplinary support to its small business and nonprofit clients through its partnerships with the Ilitch School of Business and the Wayne State School of Social Work. [This article](#) details the impact of the clinic's interdisciplinary partnerships on a Detroit nonprofit.

Honors



Jaclyn Kelley-Widmer and Stephen Yale-Loehr

In 2023, **Cornell Law School** was one of three law schools nationwide to receive a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide legal services for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This fall, the Veterans Law Practicum learned that the grant is being renewed and doubled. The renewal and additional funding come after a highly successful inaugural year that saw the practicum open sixty-seven cases for fifty-eight veterans in Upstate New York and nationwide.

Professors Jaclyn Kelley-Widmer and Stephen Yale-Loehr have secured a \$1.5 million grant from Crankstart for a groundbreaking initiative, the Path2Papers Project. Housed at Cornell Law School, this new nonprofit venture helps DACA recipients in the San Francisco Bay Area pursue work visas and other pathways to legal permanent residency. Cornell DACA recipients can also receive consults through this project.

The First Amendment Clinic at the **SMU Dedman School of Law** received the prestigious James Madison Award for its work protecting the constitutional rights of free speech and free press. The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas bestows the award for outstanding commitment to the principles of the First Amendment and open government.

The SMU Law review's forthcoming issue will celebrate the 75th anniversary of legal clinics at the law school. The issue, featuring articles from several clinical faculty members, explores the pedagogical benefits of clinical education and provides insights on cutting-edge legal issues that SMU clinic students wrestle with. The special issue will capture where SMU Law clinics came from, what they do, and how they are on the front lines of important legal developments.

St. Mary's University School of Law is the 2024 recipient of the Texas Access to Justice Commission's Law School Commitment to Service Award. This award is presented annually to one of the state's ten law schools in recognition of the school's contributions to educating its students about access to justice. The award was presented at the State Bar of Texas New Lawyer Induction Ceremony in October.

St. Mary's Immigration and Human Rights Clinic is a 2024 recipient of the Alfonso García Robles Award from UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), celebrating the clinic's work representing indigent migrants and promoting human rights. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that focus on social justice and peace initiatives benefiting migrants that are aligned with Alfonso García Robles's legacy as a prominent peace advocate.

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic also received a gift from the Butt Rogers Charitable Trust funding the addition of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker to the law clinic staff in order to provide trauma-informed counseling to our clients and guidance to clinic students regarding their work with clients.

Earlier this year, Lawyers for America (LFA), founded at and by **UC Law San Francisco**, was recognized as one of the two [top-scorers](#) in Bloomberg Law's second annual Law School Innovation program. This groundbreaking program combines a high-unit full-year 3L externship with a one-year post-graduate fellowship position at the same nonprofit or government agency, so fellows leave with 20 months of experience to bring to the job market (or to continuing work, if a position is available and offered, at the same partner organization). The partner organizations contract with LFA to pay the costs of the post-graduate year. LFA is an independent nonprofit and all ABA-accredited law schools may participate; Southwestern has just joined. For more information, go to www.lawyersforamerica.org. Executive Director Marsha Cohen, cohenm@uclawsf.edu, will be glad to talk to you about its benefits to your school and your students.

The **University of Tennessee** Legal Clinic and Clinic Director Joy Radice were named Volunteer of the Year by the Knoxville Area Urban League, recognizing the Clinic's extensive collaboration with the Urban League's workforce development program. More than 55 clinic students a year offer valuable legal services to their clients – helping them expunge charges, reinstate driver's licenses, waive burdensome court costs, and restore their citizenship rights.



UT Legal Clinic Team at the Knoxville Area Urban League award ceremony

Washington University School of Law marked a significant milestone with the 50th anniversary celebration of its clinical education program on Friday, April 12th, 2024. The event provided an opportunity to honor and reflect on the school's distinguished history in clinical education. The celebration highlighted the achievements of 19 clinics and externships, recognizing the collaborative efforts of students, faculty, and clients who have

worked together to strengthen the community while training the next generation of legal professionals. A video commemorating this milestone is available [here](#).



Washington University 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Committee Announcements

Externship Committee

Over 110 members of the Externships Community gathered at Boston University this October for Externships 12, a biennial conference supported by the AALS and CLEA (Clinical Legal Education Association) Externships Committees. The three-day event featured 33 presentations by more than 65 speakers, covering topics like the NextGen bar exam and first-generation students. Attendees also celebrated Carrie Kaas of Quinnipiac University School of Law, recipient of the 2024 Externships Achievement Award, for her exceptional contributions to externship pedagogy and the community. Special thanks to Boston University and the New England Externship Consortium (NExt) for hosting, and to CLEA for providing scholarships for attendees!



Kate Devlin Joyce (second from left), Chair of the Externships 12 Planning Committee, welcomed colleagues at the conference's opening reception in Boston

Beyond Externships 12, our subcommittee co-chairs have been hard at work supporting the Externships Community:

- The Scholarship and Publishing Support Subcommittee (co-chaired by Carolyn Young Larmore & Elsbeth Magilton) launched the Virtual Writers Workshop with 10 participants;
- The Membership Committee (co-chaired by Sarah Wolking & Emily Bonds Davey) hosted two engaging recesses;
- The International and Semester Away Subcommittee (co-chaired by Gillian Dutton & Anne Sidwell) organized a recess, a lightning round, and a third session planned for Jan. 31, 2025, in collaboration with the American Society of International Law.

- The Communications and Lextern Subcommittee (co-chaired by Kendall Kerew, Amy Sankaran & Sprightley Ryan) continued building resources on the Lextern website (<https://www.lexternweb.org/>); and
- The Status Committee (co-chaired by Grace Parrish & Cynthia Wilson) established four new awards, including the Externships Achievement Award, to honor colleagues' accomplishments.

We look forward to celebrating additional award recipients at the 2025 AALS Clinical Conference! For upcoming programming, visit the [AALS Externships 2024-25 Calendar](#).

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

American University Washington College of Law will host the third annual **Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference**, to be held on Friday, February 7 with a reception the evening before. We will welcome a diverse group of clinicians from the DMV and the broader community, as well as those from further afield. Be there!

Mary Robinson, one of the world's foremost advocates for climate justice and Ireland's first female President, will be the speaker at the prestigious D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights at the **FSU College of Law** on February 12, 2025, at 4 p.m. This lecture series, made possible by a generous gift from Patsy Palmer, Esq., is designed to bring global leaders to the College to inspire students and contribute to the international human rights dialogue.



Mary Robinson

Finally, save the Date for **LITCon at Suffolk Law**: April 7, 2025. Get ready to be inspired by the latest in legal technology, inspired by the future of legal innovation, and excited about evolutionary collaborations!