
CLINICAL PROGRAM

More than 35 years ago, American University Washington College of Law was one of the first law schools to develop modern clinical legal education. Today, the Clinical Program is recognized for its leadership in scholarship, development of clinical methodology, contributions to increasing access to justice for underserved clients, and breadth of offerings. Approximately 230 JD students participate in a clinical experience each academic year—making the law school’s Clinical Program one of the largest in the United States. The full-time permanent faculty and practitioners-in-residence work collaboratively to teach students about the importance of ethical, reflective practice.

In representing clients, student attorneys deepen their understanding of the relationship between abstract doctrine and real-world consequences for clients; between legal theories and the operation of law in the world; and between written rules and the practices of tribunals in which cases are decided. The clinic seminars and case rounds prepare students for client and witness interviewing, client counseling, case (or client) theory development and strategic planning, fact investigation, negotiation, persuasive written and oral advocacy, and presenting evidence before tribunals.

Community and Economic Development Law Clinic. Provides transactional legal services to client groups engaged in community development in a variety of settings—local, national, and international. The clinic represents and helps organize small non-profits, businesses, and tenants’ associations in the public and private housing sectors, all of which share the goal of developing resources for underserved communities.

Criminal Justice Clinic. Designed with the twin goals of teaching student attorneys about the theory and practice of advocacy in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and teaching them how these skills translate more broadly to other practice settings. Some students practice as defense attorneys

representing indigent clients under the supervision of clinic faculty while others work under the supervision of prosecutors in local prosecutors’ offices.

D.C. Law Students in Court. A joint project of five Washington, D.C. law schools, the clinic was created to provide student attorneys with hands-on courtroom experience and to address the disparity in legal representation in the Landlord Tenant and Small Claims branches of the D.C. Superior Court.

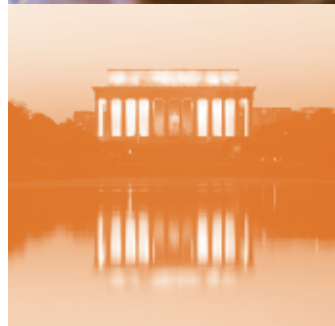
Disability Rights Law Clinic. Represents people with mental and physical disabilities and their families in a variety of cases, including special education, admission/commitment of people with intellectual disabilities, grievances before the D.C. Department of Mental Health, and disability discrimination cases arising under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Domestic Violence Clinic. Represents victims/survivors of domestic violence seeking civil protection orders and/or self-petitioning to change their immigration status. The opportunity to gain experience in family and immigration arenas allows the student attorneys to evaluate the benefits and limits of these interventions into the complex problem of domestic violence.



**CHAMPION
WHAT MATTERS.**

wcl.american.edu/clinical



Clinical Program

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Property Law Clinic*
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Victoria Phillips, Associate Director
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Immigrant Justice Clinic
Jayesh Rathod, Director
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*International Human Rights
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Richard Wilson, Director
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Janet R. Spragens Federal Tax Clinic
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General Practice Clinic. Represents low-income clients in areas such as consumer protection, employment, family law, health, housing, public benefits, and bankruptcy. Student attorneys use a range of legal skills on behalf of clients in settings that may include administrative tribunals and trial and appellate courts in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Glushko-Samuelsan Intellectual Property Law Clinic. Concentrates on client representation that helps student attorneys better understand the concept of the public interest in copyright, patent, trademark, and allied fields. Students advise artists, non-profit organizations, inventors and entrepreneurs, scholars, and those who otherwise do not have access to high-quality legal representation.

Immigrant Justice Clinic. Provides representation on a broad range of cases involving immigrant communities in the D.C. area. These include cases of exploited low-wage immigrant workers, including trafficked individuals, asylum and non-asylum immigration cases, and language rights cases.

International Human Rights Law Clinic. Offers student attorneys the opportunity to represent individuals, families, or organizations alleging violations of recognized or developing human rights norms before international and domestic judicial bodies. The clinic provides representation in international human rights cases and political asylum cases.

Janet R. Spragens Federal Tax Clinic. Represents low-income individuals with matters before the Internal Revenue Service. Many clients are limited English speakers who have difficulty navigating a complex area of law and are without resources to hire legal representation. Students develop experience with tax law, administrative procedure, and court procedure.

Women and the Law Clinic. Represents clients in family law and other civil and administrative actions. Through addressing both a client's family-related and other legal issues, student attorneys examine how gender operates within the law, how family law intersects with other areas of substantive law, and how related problems are handled differently within a variety of legal settings.

American University Washington College of Law is a dynamic law school at the center of policy, business, and all things international. We are a law school of over 1,700 JD, LL.M., and SJD students who Champion What Matters.

Founded on the principles of humanity, diversity, and equal rights, the law school's students, faculty, and alumni incorporate these values into everything they do within its walls and around the globe. We offer more than 20 specialized programs including international law, human rights, law and government, intellectual property, business, and gender studies, as well as nationally recognized clinical and trial advocacy programs. Our location in Washington, D.C. opens up extraordinary internship and employment opportunities within branches of government, international organizations, private and public interest law firms, and non-governmental organizations. What's more, you'll be surrounded by a community of students and faculty that encourages and inspires one another.

EO/AA University and Employer