

# AALS CLINICAL SECTION NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2025

Welcome to the Spring 2025 AALS Clinical Section Newsletter. We are pleased to spread some joy and bring you exciting information and updates from the Section and from schools and programs around the country.

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1: From the Section Chairs

Page 3: Program Updates

Page 26: Committee Reports

## Dear Colleagues,

As expected, this semester brought unprecedented attacks on the rule of law, DEI, legal institutions, the academy, and clinical legal education. These challenges have potentially significant, devastating implications on our work as faculty, leaders, and practicing lawyers. Yet, we are prepared for the fight. Time and time again, our community has resisted in the face of political interference and threats to academic freedom. Today is no different, and we are humbled to stand with you in support of experiential education.

We are grateful for the many leaders who have stepped up in response. In January, the AALS Clinical Section joined with CLEA to create the Joint Committee on Academic Freedom (JAFC). JAFC serves as a resource and support system for clinicians facing threats to their professional roles or programs. The Committee offers confidential support to experiential faculty, including strategic guidance and representation in advocacy efforts. It is led by experts on clinical legal education and academic freedom, including Gautam Hans (Chair), Caitlin Barry, Andy Geronimo, Bob Kuehn, Chris Morten, Clare Norins, Katie Schwartzmann, Sarah Shalf, and Erika Wilson. Should you need to reach them, please reach out to Gautam at [gshans@cornell.edu](mailto:gshans@cornell.edu).

When the Community Justice and Civil Rights Clinic at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law was targeted by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Section responded. We joined with CLEA to issue a joint statement, condemning the attacks and standing in support of the academic freedom of Professor Sheila Bedi. Members drafted a sign-on letter that garnered over 1,000 signatures, including hundreds from our non-clinical colleagues. As a result of these and other efforts, Congress withdrew its indefensible request. While an important development, it likely will not be the last of the administration's targeting of universities and the legal profession. Attacks on clinics may continue, but we are heartened to see how the experiential community has stood together in defense of our clients and academic freedom.

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In challenging times, we can find solace and solidarity in community. We hope you can join us in Baltimore from April 26-29 for our annual conference. Our theme this year is “Reexamining the Role of Lawyers and the Responsibilities of Clinical Teachers in Society,” which could not be more timely. In addition to the usual stellar panel of concurrent sessions and workshops, the conference will provide space to reflect on current struggles with political interference and academic freedom.

We will also be celebrating the following visionaries in our community at the awards luncheon on Sunday, April 27:

- Norrinda Brown, receiving the Gilbert Award
- Jeff Baker, receiving the Ellmann Award
- Sue Schechter, receiving the inaugural Impact on the Externship Field Award
- Lisa Bliss, receiving the Pincus Award
- Tim Floyd, receiving the Pincus Award

As we reflect on the adversity we’ve faced together in recent months—navigating uncertainty and supporting our students and clients through unprecedented times—we are reminded of the resilience and purpose that define our community. In these dark times, we have not only endured; we have innovated, collaborated, and continued to champion justice with unwavering commitment. We are proud to stand with this community today and always.

In solidarity,  
Julie Dahlstrom & Natalie Nanasi  
Co-Chairs, AALS Clinical Section

“

Injustice anywhere is a threat  
to justice everywhere.

***Martin Luther King, Jr.***

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## American University College of Law

The AUWCL Clinical Program hosted the third annual Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference, centered around the theme “Teaching Through Turbulence.” More than 100 clinical faculty from across the region and beyond attended the event, which featured a spoken-word presentation, an opening plenary panel with clients represented by the clinic, engaging concurrent sessions on clinical teaching and lawyering, scholarship presentations, a facilitated discussion about The First Three Weeks and Beyond: The Responsibility of Law Teachers to Uphold Democratic Values, conference bingo, and music. We are grateful to all who contributed to making this conference a success, including members of the organizing committee (Chaz Brooks, Caroline Wick, Binny Miller and Associate Director Lucy Newton). Special thanks to the AALS Clinical Section for its financial support.

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Clinical faculty and students have led several teach-ins for the WCL community on the impact of recent actions of the current Administration. Anita Sinha and Jayesh Rathod presented on immigration enforcement, and Andy Budzinski, Tianna Gibbs, and Anita Sinha presented on gender and LGBTQ executive orders. Students in the International Human Rights Law Clinic, assisted by Anita Sinha and Citlalli Ochoa, led two teach-ins: one addressing the Administration’s executive order suspending the US Refugee Admissions Program and one on the Laken Riley Act (enhanced criminalization of non-US citizens).

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Students from the Community Economic and Equity Development Clinic held a community clinic in Southeast DC to share information about corporate entity formation, leases, business insurance, and funding opportunities for community-based organizations.

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Professor Moyd and Professor Miller attended an Art Expo at the Jessup Correctional Institution, along with several current and former students of the Decarceration and Re-Entry Clinic. The Expo featured various creative art forms and expressive statements from the men serving time at JCI, including a current clinic client.

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

New Leadership in Externship Programming at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School!

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School is pleased to announce new leadership of its Externship Program, marking a renewed commitment to purposeful, career-focused experiential learning. Mecca Anderson now serves as Director of Externships and Associate Professor of Legal Practices, bringing over a decade of legal experience across trial, appellate, and regulatory practice. A dedicated advocate, mentor, and former Chief of Staff to a Georgia Supreme Court Justice, Professor Anderson has practiced at every level of Georgia's courts and brings a uniquely holistic view of the legal profession. Her accolades include Georgia Super Lawyer (2022–2023), Georgia Rising Star (2018–2021), and the State Bar of Georgia's Commitment to Equality Award (2021).

Professor Anderson now teaches Learning from Practice and Advanced Legal Externships, where she guides students through intentional, reflective engagement with their fieldwork. Under her leadership, the program is expanding in scope and vision—focusing on high-quality placements, strategic community partnerships, and robust professional development.

Allyn Haynes joins as Externship Coordinator, bringing a strong background in communications strategy, digital marketing, and performance analytics. A graduate of the University of Georgia, Ms. Haynes has successfully developed social media content strategies, optimized email campaigns, and executed SEO-driven initiatives that have significantly boosted engagement and reach. Her experience spans law firms, higher education, and creative institutions, where she has led marketing campaigns, managed brand storytelling, and delivered measurable impact through data-informed decision-making. Her ability to translate metrics into strategic insights strengthens the program's ability to communicate value, track outcomes, and engage key stakeholders. Together, Anderson and Haynes are building a student-centered externship program that prioritizes meaningful placements, strong relationships with the legal community, and a professional foundation that prepares students to lead with confidence and purpose.



# PROGRAM UPDATES



**Mecca Anderson**  
*Director of Externships & Associate  
Professor of Legal Practices*



**Allyn Haynes**  
*Externship Coordinator*

## Atlanta's John Marshall's New Faculty



Hosted at:

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON  
COLLEGE of LAW

CLINICAL PROGRAM



## 2025 Mid-Atlantic Regional Clinical Conference

**Boston University School of Law**

The BU Law Antiracism and Community Lawyering Practicum (ACLP) and the BU Law Human Trafficking Clinic (HTC) provided legal support to the Massachusetts Survivors Justice Coalition, a group of community organizations and advocates seeking to address the criminalization of survivors of violence.

The coalition helped draft the Massachusetts Survivors Act, which aims to interrupt cycles of harm by allowing criminalized survivors of abuse, sexual assault, or trafficking to seek relief from extreme punishment through expanded opportunities for diversion, reduced sentences, and postconviction sentencing relief. The ACLP and HTC supported the coalition through legal research, legislative drafting support, and the creation of a fact sheet and other public education materials.

**California Western School of Law**

California Western School of Law's innocence clinic has rebranded as the California Western Innocence & Justice Clinic (formerly California Innocence Project) and has a new Executive Director, Amy Kimpel. Kimpel is honored to lead one of the nation's oldest innocence clinics (originally founded in 1998) into its next chapter. The clinic will continue to investigate and litigate post-conviction innocence claims, but the new name allows for the possibility of future projects involving other legal mechanisms to correct injustices in the criminal legal system.

**Case Western Reserve University School of Law**

Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Kramer Law Clinic, CWRU's Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, and LISC Cleveland have partnered to help homeowners in Cleveland secure clear property ownership through an innovative pilot program. With support from a \$750,000 grant from U.S. Bank, the local initiative will focus on tackling the pervasive problem of tangled titles—a complex issue in which the legal transfer of ownership isn't established, creating obstacles for residents trying to mortgage, sell or transfer properties. “We commonly refer to this issue as ‘tangled titles,’ but this is really about legacy planning and supporting the idea of having an ancestral home,” said Laura McNally, who is directing the project for Case Western Reserve School of Law.

## Columbia Law School

In addition to continuing their advocacy for their clinics' clients, the Immigrants' Rights Clinic and Family Defense Clinic jointly developed and presented know-your-rights presentations to community organizations to help immigrant parents plan for themselves and their children, and both have continued offering community resources workshops to organizations in New York City.

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Professor Dennis Fan taught his first semester of the Appellate Litigation Clinic. The students filed briefs in two cases in New York's intermediate appellate court and in two cases in New York's highest court, along with amicus work in the D.C. Circuit.

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Students in the Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic and Professor Conrad Johnson created The Legal Aid Society's AI-powered Housing Helpline Information Retrieval Tool. This unique, responsible and effective tool aids attorneys and paralegals by swiftly summarizing vetted information, allowing faster hotline response times, increasing the number of people who can be served, and improving client satisfaction while maintaining human connection and quality control. The project was named one of 9 finalists in the Robin Hood "AI Poverty Challenge", and as a result, the clinic's client The Legal Aid Society received \$100,000 and is in competition for one of three one million dollar awards. The clinic also created a School Suspension Chatbot to assist advocates at the Western New York Law Center (WNYLC) to help those facing public school suspensions in Buffalo. The Buffalo public school system is supposed to serve 32,000 students. However, at present, nearly 8,000 students (25%) face suspension. Many of the suspensions appear to be unnecessary, unproductive and unlawful. The chatbot marshals applicable law and in-house materials in a closed universe of high-quality information to help advocates at WNYLC to draft appropriate responses and prepare to defend students in school disciplinary proceedings.

## Cornell Law School

Cornell Law School alumna Dena Bauman '91 returned in September 2024 to direct the externship program, which includes a general class in the fall and spring, and the Pro Bono Scholars (PBS) program in the spring. Her fall class included 22 students; this spring, there are 21 students in the general class and 20 in the PBS class. The PBS program is an option for third-year law students taking the NYS bar exam. They finish their coursework in the fall and take the February bar exam. Immediately afterwards, they begin an intensive full-time placement with an organization that provides direct legal services to indigent clients. Dena says, "I began my legal career in civil legal services in upstate NY. I'm gratified to see so many of our students bringing their skills and talents to serve these communities. They are learning so much about the real-life challenges of living in poverty and will take this transformative experience with them into their careers." She notes that Cornell currently allows students a wide range of externship opportunities, including private firm and international options.

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The Law-Med Case Collaboration, a joint initiative between Cornell Law School and Weill Cornell Medicine's Center for Human Rights (WCCHR), pairs law students with clients referred by WCCHR to address complex legal and medical challenges. This spring, students Paige Osgood '26, Michaela Lin '25, Jee-In Lee '25, Carolyn Baptiste '25, and Carrie O'Malley '26 are serving as legal navigators, supported by Teaching Assistants Carrie O'Malley '26 and Cole Quigley '25. A new speaker series enhances the program with insights from professionals across law, medicine, and policy. Through hands-on advocacy and interdisciplinary mentorship, students are making meaningful impacts while developing critical skills in client-centered, justice-driven work.

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This spring marked the launch of the Blassberg-Rice Center for Entrepreneurship's inaugural semester at Cornell Tech's Roosevelt Island campus. With the addition of Clinical Professor David Reiss, the center welcomed J.D. and LL.M. students to its first fully tech-embedded Entrepreneurship Law Clinic. Students represented startups in fields like climate tech, software, and transportation, gaining hands-on transactional and counseling skills. The NYC and Ithaca clinics collaborate throughout the semester, bridging legal education and entrepreneurship. Thanks to a generous gift from Franci J. Blassberg '75, J.D. '77, and Joseph L. Rice III, the center is redefining experiential legal education.



### **Georgetown Law Center**

Georgetown Law Center clinics will host three distinguished visiting professors in the upcoming academic year:

- Amanda Spratley is a Visiting Professor of Law in the Social Enterprise & Nonprofit Law Clinic at Georgetown Law. Professor Spratley returned in the Spring of 2025 after holding a previous visiting appointment at Georgetown Law, and has visited at American University Washington College of Law, the George Washington University Law School, and at University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.
- Amanda Rogers is a Visiting Professor at Georgetown Law School, teaching and supervising in the Criminal Justice Clinics in the 2025-2026 academic year. Previously, Professor Rogers directed and started the Caritas Clemency Clinic at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. She and her students represented incarcerated individuals seeking release from prison through compassionate release.
- Denise Gilman has been teaching immigration law courses and clinics for almost 20 years. Since 2007, she has served as Co-Director and Clinical Professor with the Immigration Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law where she also teaches a Refugee Law and Policy seminar. Her teaching, clinic supervision, and scholarship at the University of Texas are focused on representation of migrants in removal proceedings, immigration detention, asylum law, and border policy.

### **George Washington Law**

In March 2025, Professor Joan Meier announced that the National Family Violence Law Center launched the first installment of its professional curriculum for all family court professionals. The first three-hour course is available on-demand online and focuses on coercive control.

## Harvard Law School

The Health Law and Policy Clinic (HLPC), in partnership with the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics of Harvard Law School and Chronic Illness and Disability Partnership (CIDP), hosted "Health Policy After the Election: The Work of the Next Four Years," in November 2024. The invite-only event focused on the health policy implications stemming from the 2024 presidential election, bringing together seasoned health policy advocates and academic researchers for in-depth discussions. The event included a keynote address and a series of policy discussion sessions, fostering collaborative conversations about the critical work ahead to ensure accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for all Americans, with a particular focus on low-income individuals with chronic illnesses or disabilities.

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In April 2025, the Food Law and Policy Clinic in partnership with the Harvard Human Rights Journal hosted "Ensuring The Right to Food in the Face of Climate Change: The Role of UN FAO". The talk featured Dr. Daniel Gustafson, Special Representative of the Director General at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and former Deputy Director-General of the Organization. The talk addressed the interrelations between climate change and global hunger from the perspective of the UN FAO, highlighting how climate change exacerbates food insecurity and hinders the full realization of the right to food. He also examined how food systems contribute to climate change and why their transformation is essential for both food security and climate mitigation.

## Loyola New Orleans School of Law

Loyola New Orleans is pleased to announce the launch of three new clinic sections starting Fall 2025: Youth Defense: Professor Hector Linares; Disability Justice: Professor Sara Godchaux; Child Welfare & Domestic Violence: Professor Tim McEvoy.

This complements our existing sections: Civil Litigation: Professor Ramona Fernandez; Criminal Defense: Professor Judson Mitchell; Family Law: Professor Tobie Tranchina; and Immigration: Professor Hiroko Kusuda.

## Notre Dame Law School

New clinics and new roles at Notre Dame!

Notre Dame is excited to announce two new clinics for the 2025-26 school year, bringing our total number of clinics to nine. Caleb Stone will move from William & Mary to launch Notre Dame's Veterans Law Clinic. Ashley Sanchez will move from Catholic Charities in Cleveland to launch Notre Dame's Immigration Clinic. Those clinics will complement Notre Dame's twelve externship courses and our existing Applied Mediation Clinic, Community Development Clinic, Eviction Clinic, Exoneration Justice Clinic, Global Human Rights Clinic, Religious Liberty Clinic, and Special Education Clinic.

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On July 1st, Clinical Professor Michael Jenuwine will become our new Associate Dean for Clinical Programs, replacing Bob Jones, who is retiring at the end of the school year.

## Penn State Dickinson School of Law

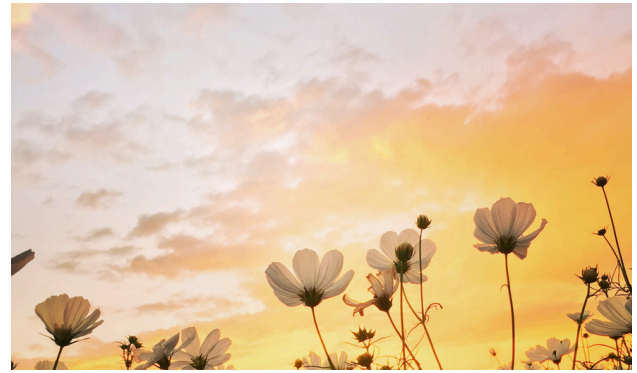
The American Bar Association's Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar granted final approval for Penn State University to reunify its two law schools, Penn State Dickinson Law (in Carlisle, Pennsylvania) and Penn State Law (in University Park, Pennsylvania). Penn State started the work of reunification in Spring 2025, and will deliver legal education by a single, unified, two-location law school known as Penn State Dickinson Law beginning in Fall 2025. The law school's clinic and externship programs attended retreats together this spring, and worked very hard to synthesize their procedures so that students could enroll for Fall 2025 using one system. We are grateful to the team members who collaborated so well keeping our students' best interests as our priority.

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Four of the law school's 14 clinics have enrolled students from both locations for Fall 2025 in a single clinical course, including the Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic; the Intellectual Property Clinic; the Manglona Lab for Gender and Economic Equity; and the Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic.

Other clinics plan to enroll students from both locations in later semesters including the Arts, Sports & Entertainment Law Clinic; the Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic; the Civil Rights Appellate Clinic; the Criminal Appellate and Post-Conviction Services Clinic; and the Rural Economic Development Clinic. Several of our trial clinics will likely continue to admit students from one location because they use Certified Legal Interns who appear in person in local courts at both locations: the Family Law Clinic; the Children's Advocacy Clinic; the Community Law Clinic; the Indigent Criminal Justice Trial Clinic; and the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic.

If you have any questions about reunification of our programs, please contact Michele Vollmer, Associate Dean for Experiential Education at [mrv3@psu.edu](mailto:mrv3@psu.edu).



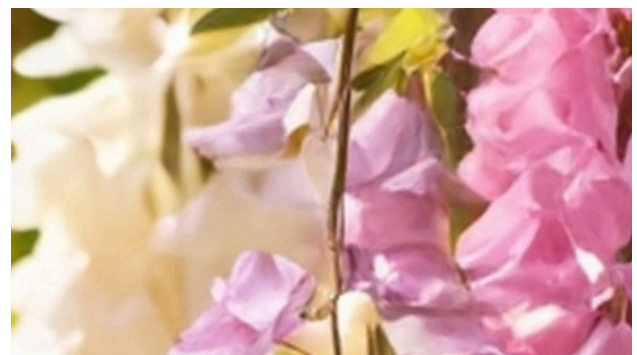
## Quinnipiac University School of Law

The last year has seen lots of changes.

Alice Rosenthal joined Quinnipiac in July of 2024 as Assistant Dean of Experiential Education and Clinical Professor of Law, learning the ropes at QUSL as she and Carrie Kaas overlapped. She and Joey-Lynn Darius are taking over teaching of the externship program.

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In December of 2024, Sarah French Russell, on the faculty since 2011, was confirmed as a judge for the US District Court for the District of Connecticut. Her replacement has not yet been selected, so watch for more news from QUSL!



## Rutgers Law School

Rutgers Law School launched a new clinic in the Fall of 2024, the Mediation Clinic, led by Assistant Professor Felicia Farber. The main goals of this clinic are for students to develop strong dispute resolution skills and techniques through experiential learning, and to apply them in a range of contexts and settings.

In addition to conducting actual mediations, students will participate in hands-on training through role play and simulations.

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For the 2025-26 academic year, Rutgers plans to launch two new clinics. In Newark, the RBG Women's Rights and Gender Justice Clinic will begin and be led by Professor Marcy Karin.

This new clinic will expand the former Women's Rights Litigation Clinic which Justice Ginsburg founded at Rutgers in the early 1970s and which accomplished groundbreaking law reform until it ceased operation in the early 2000s. The clinic's mission will be to advance gender equity through direct representation, impact litigation, and legislative and policy work. In Camden, Assistant Professor Jessica Frisina will launch and direct the Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic, where students will learn to zealously advocate for clients entangled in the criminal legal system, serving as their defense counsel from the time of arrest through resolution, trial, and post-conviction.

## SMU Dedman School of Law

SMU Dedman School of Law has launched a new Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Program under the leadership of Co-Directors

Heather Stobaugh and Misty Birdsong, both Clinical Professors of Legal Analysis, Writing and Research. An exciting feature of the Program is the new Legal Writing Center, a free resource staffed by upper-level Student Fellows available to all law students who want to strengthen and hone their writing skills.

Teaching in the Program are new faculty members Assistant Clinical Professors of Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Shelbi Barnhouse and Kate Gaither and Lance Caughfield, Director of Advocacy and Assistant Clinical Professor.

## St. Mary's University School of Law

St. Mary's Family Law Clinic and Immigration and Human Rights Clinic jointly hosted, in January, an emergency preparedness event for around 30 client families—providing presentations on durable powers of attorney and non-parent authorization agreements and an extensive Know-Your-Rights presentation about what to do if they have contact with ICE at home, in the car, at work, or in public. Each attendee also met individually with a law student team and had the opportunity to execute a durable power of attorney and a non-parent caregiver authorization for each minor child.

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Our Consumer Protection Clinic and Real Estate Clinic have been awarded over \$1,200,000 by a South Texas area foundation to protect the housing rights of both tenants and homeowners. For the Consumer Clinic, this work includes court representation of clients at risk of eviction as well as community education events on tenants' rights. For the Real Estate Clinic, this work includes securing clear title for homeowners of heirship properties with tangled title created as the property was passed down from one generation to the next. Our Criminal Justice Clinic is collaborating with "All of Us or None" and the VERA Institute of Justice to represent eligible individuals, pro bono, with early termination from their probation or deferred adjudication period, as part of VERA's Pathway to Freedom Project.



## Seattle University School of Law

Seattle University Law School's Externship Program, Clinics, Legal Writing Program, Access to Justice Institute, Law Library, and Center for Professional Development are collaborating with Kids In Need of Defense (KIND ) to create a new externship model to respond to an unprecedented need for representation among immigrant youth.

At the end of March 2025, the Trump Administration eliminated key federal funding for legal services for 26,000 unaccompanied children in the United States. As a result of these cuts, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), the leading international non-governmental organization devoted to the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, has had to lay off hundreds of staff members and attorneys. Like many of KIND's other field offices across the country, KIND's Seattle field office will be closing and must withdraw from the hundreds of cases on which they directly represent clients. There is some hope that litigation may restore some of the funding, but the outcome is uncertain and likely will involve delays even if successful.

To respond to this crisis, the Seattle University School of Law is working together with KIND's Seattle office to connect pro bono attorneys with law students, forming pro bono and student teams to pick up the representation of these youth who will otherwise proceed without counsel. Pro bono attorneys in this program can expect to be supported by training and mentorship, gaining access to KIND's vast training materials, samples, and videos on their pro bono portal, as well as live trainings and mentorship provided by SU Law's Externship Program and KIND. Participating students can pursue externship credit and pro bono hours for working with pro bono attorneys on these cases. Students will be enrolled in a Civil Externship Seminar and receive training on working with interpreters and translators, trauma informed interviewing, and legal research relevant to the state (Dependency, Vulnerable Youth Guardianship, Minor Guardianship, and Parenting Plan) and federal (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Asylum, T or U Visa) court proceedings the youth may be involved in. This will provide valuable legal experience for students who are also impacted by the closure of externship sites serving immigrants.

We would be happy to share our experience if you are interested in setting up a similar program at your law school. Please reach out to Assoc. Prof. of Lawyering Skills and Externship Director Gillian Dutton at [duttong@seattleu.edu](mailto:duttong@seattleu.edu).

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### Seattle University Law School Externship Program Hires Second Faculty Member!

Erin Lovell will be joining the faculty of Seattle University School of Law this summer as an Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills and Associate Director of Externships Program. Her background in youth advocacy, public defense, civil legal aid, and nonprofit leadership will support Seattle U's experiential learning team and students.

## **Suffolk University Law School**

Suffolk Law is excited that Professor Jeff Pokorak will lead the Supreme Court Clinic next year. The Clinic gives student attorneys the chance to represent amici curiae and others before appellate courts at the state and federal levels. Students work in firm-style teams on cases for low-income clients and non-profits, focusing on amicus briefs and opposing cert petitions.

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Suffolk Law's Accelerator to Practice Program recently launched a Veteran's Legal Advocacy Project to provide targeted housing support to veterans. The Accelerator is partnering with HomeBase and other providers of veteran's services to ensure veterans have access to safe and stable housing.

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In collaboration with the American Arbitration Association, Suffolk Law students engaged in a new "AAA-ODR Innovation Lab" course this past spring, in which they worked on creating preliminary designs for an online dispute resolution process that will serve low-income litigants in Massachusetts courts seeking uncontested divorces. The Lab Course will hand-off their work to the students enrolled in our new full-year Online Dispute Resolution Clinic, launching next academic year.

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Suffolk Law's LIT Clinic & Center hosted the 4th Annual LITCon legal tech conference featuring a keynote address by the co-founder and CEO of Paladin, Kristen Sunday. LITCon featured discussions, presentations, and exercises exploring how technology can improve access to justice. Suffolk's LIT Clinic students presented their clinic projects, which online tools to make filling out online forms easier for pro se litigants and lawyers alike.

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The Center for Housing Justice & Policy and Fair Housing Alliance of Massachusetts partners hosted a meeting of state and local officials and community members to discuss the state of fair housing in Massachusetts. Attendees shared information about how fair housing work can be maintained amidst federal funding difficulties and how fair housing organizations can increase collaboration with community groups that are experiencing increased fair housing needs.

## Stetson University College of Law

The Stetson Veterans Law Institute (VLI) submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States on behalf of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium (NLSVCC) arguing against a statutory change detrimental to a veteran's due process rights. Associate Director Morgan MacIsaac-Bykowski and student Alex Polidan drafted this brief with partner clinics from University of Illinois at Chicago and University of Florida.

In January, the VLI announced its partnership with the Raymond James Veteran Inclusion Valor Network. A nationwide alliance of nonprofits, Valor provides assistance such as financial support and career development to servicemembers, military spouses and first responders, with VLI adding a unique role, by representing veterans in appealing denials of benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In February, the VLI hosted the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for oral argument in a case pending before a panel that included Chief Judge Michael Allen (a former Stetson Law professor and VLI director) and related programming presented by the VLI, the Federal Bar Association, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association.

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Christine Cerniglia, Director of the Stetson Clinical & Experiential Education department, hosted the annual Disaster Resilience Symposium on March 17-18, 2025, presented by Equal Justice Works, in conjunction with the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness and the ABA Young Lawyers Division. Professor Cerniglia led a series of community workshops produced by the Department following the hurricanes of Fall 2024, addressing disaster-related benefits and applications and appeals before FEMA.

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Professor Stacey-Rae Simcox, Director of the VLI and Veterans Advocacy Clinic, was recently named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.





## University of Baltimore School of Law

Many members of our clinical faculty presented on the legal impacts of the new Presidential administration at UBalt Law's teach-in in January, organized by former clinical faculty Prof. Elizabeth Keyes.

Immigration clinicians Director Valeria Gomez and Fellow Emily Johansen offered a unique live-client opportunity for evening students that serves immigrant survivors of crime and collaborates closely with a local nonprofit; are helping to launch a court observation program, where clinic and non-clinic volunteers will monitor how and when people are arrested after defending their rights in court or testifying as a witness; and partnered with the National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON), the National TPS Alliance, and the Comité TPS of Baltimore to support residents with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and teach students about grassroots and national advocacy efforts.

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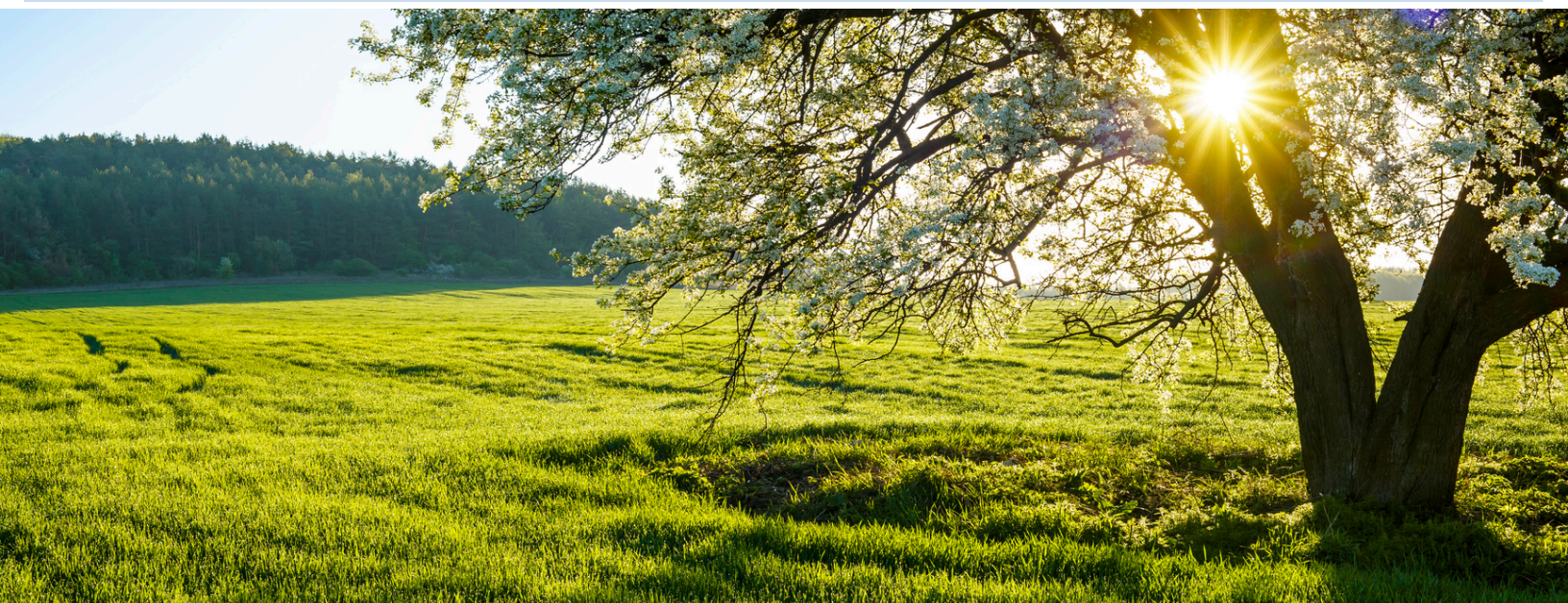
The Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic, directed by Hugh McClean and co-taught by Kathy Diener, recently established an MOU with the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families to represent LGBTQ+ service members discharged under discriminatory DoD policies. Veterans clinic students also educated veterans, lawyers, policymakers, and others about their experiences representing clients in the newly established Central Maryland Regional Veterans Treatment Court, at UBalt Law's 16th Annual Veterans Legal Assistance Conference & Training.

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A record 90% of our Fall 2024 externs received pay, providing financial support and equity to students, including through our Housing Justice Fellowship Program, funded by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, and The NextGen Leaders for Public Service Program, funding 61 externship students.

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Finally, the Mediation Clinic for Families has an opening for a Teaching Fellow, so please share this opportunity with those who may wish to join the clinical law teaching community!



## UC Berkeley Law

In February 2025, six law schools collaborated to re-launch the Northern California Clinical Conference. Approximately 70 clinical legal educators congregated at UC Berkeley Law to discuss the theme of the conference—"Adapting Clinical Traditions to Evolving Legal and Educational Landscapes"—and to brainstorm how they could best respond to changes such as an evolving student body, transitions to hybrid and remote work, the rise of AI in legal education and practice, and unrelenting exposure to traumatic events with local, national, and international impact. Panels addressed a wide swath of topics, including the history of clinical legal education, ways to partner well with nonprofit legal services organizations, approaches for incorporating students with disabilities and learning challenges into clinical work, and innovative strategies for leading seminars. More broadly, the conference was a joyful and energizing day centered on fostering connections among local clinicians. Mridula Raman, deputy director of UC Berkeley Law's Death Penalty Clinic, led the effort to revive the conference, which had been dormant for several years. She was joined by planning committee members from McGeorge School of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law, Stanford Law School, U.C. Law San Francisco, and University of San Francisco School of Law. Next year's Northern California Clinical Conference will be hosted by the University of San Francisco School of Law.

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Alina Ball established the Social Enterprise Clinic at UC Berkeley Law in January 2025. The Social Enterprise Clinic serves as transactional counsel for its social enterprise clients—for-profit and nonprofit businesses that use market-based strategies to address social and environmental issues. Social enterprises play a crucial role in combating racism, poverty, and climate change by creating sustainable, people-focused businesses that empower communities and drive local change. The Clinic is geared to students who are interested in exploring the potential power and limitations of market-based methods and thinking critically about the relationships between law, business, and racial equity. As legal service providers, the Clinic advises social enterprise clients on a variety of corporate governance, regulatory compliance, contract drafting and analysis, corporate structure, and entity formation matters.

**Alina Ball, Clinical  
Professor of Law and  
founding Director of  
the Social Enterprise  
Clinic**





## UC Law San Francisco

UC Law San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings) is excited to announce a new and exciting change to our clinical program. In Fall 2025, we will experiment with reviving an in-house clinic track as part of our Immigrants' Rights Clinic that has for the last several years had students work primarily at placements outside the law school with clients facing immigration problems. As part of the in-house track, the Clinic will involve students in work on motions to suppress and motions to terminate in Immigration Court. The basis for these motions will be violations of the 4th and 5th Amendments and statutory law. In addition to working on these in-house cases, students will take part in ancillary projects, including drafting template suppression motions for other practitioners to use, preparing and presenting "Know Your Rights" seminars, and filing public records requests related to immigration enforcement. Students will be engaged in fact gathering, witness examination, brief writing, and related advocacy in Immigration Court. This project will be supervised by Professors Jonathon Abel and Richard Boswell. This will be the first time that Professor Jonathan Abel, a noted criminal law scholar who was a former criminal defense lawyer doing capital habeas corpus litigation and direct appeals, will teach in the clinical program.



**Students and Faculty Gather at the  
Spring 2025 Clinic Open House**

**University of Detroit Mercy School of Law**

University of Detroit Mercy Law (former) Environmental Law Director, Nick Schroeck, was appointed interim Dean of the law school in June 2024 and became full Dean and Professor of Law in January 2025. Great Lakes Environmental Law Executive Director is now directing the Detroit Mercy Law Environmental Law Clinic.

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Since 2019, the University of Detroit Mercy clinical program coordinates travel clinics that conduct expungement eligibility clinics for low income and underserved communities. In addition to partnering with various communities and non-profit organizations, Detroit Mercy Law has worked with three federally recognized native American tribes conducting expungement clinics. Students work with clients and assist in clearing criminal records resulting in better employment and housing opportunities, along with improved quality of life. To date, Detroit Mercy Law has conducted expungement clinics in 16 Michigan counties, assisted more than 600 people, and represented more than 100 clients at zoom hearings in courts in 47 Michigan counties. In July 2025, students will be serving the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB), Petoskey, MI for the second time.

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Detroit Mercy Law will be launching a new clinic in the fall 2025, the Unemployment & Workers' Rights Clinic. In this clinic students will handle all aspects of unemployment appeals and other administrative submissions, including client preparation for hearings, legal research and brief writing. This clinic is in partnership with the Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice and will be taught by new Adjunct Professor and Sugar Law Deputy Legal Director, Tony Paris.



**Thinh Nguyen**

**University of Florida Levin  
College of Law**

Thinh Nguyen joined the faculty at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He is the Director of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Clinic.

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Tyler Lattimore joined the faculty as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He is the Director of the Heirs' Property Clinic.



**Tyler Lattimore**

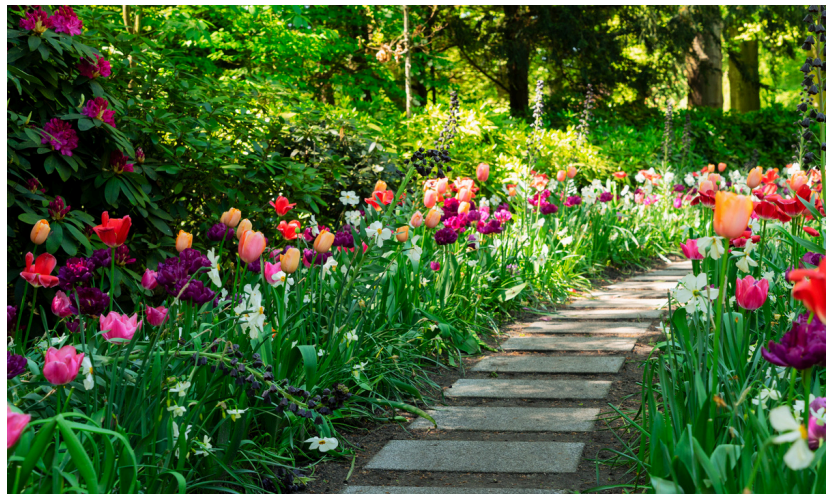


**University of Louisville,  
Louis D. Brandeis School of Law**

The faculty of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law voted to approve paid externships and private firm placements. This marks the first time paid externship placements have been allowed at the school.

**University of Miami School of Law**

The Center for Ethics and Public Service (CEPS) launched the Coconut Grove Village West Freedom School pilot program in Summer 2024 in partnership with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance. The six-week program for almost fifty K-12 students featured an opportunity for participants to engage in a comprehensive curriculum focused on Black American cultural and social history. Senior Program Manager Dr. Kesha Merritt and former CEPS program coordinator Carter Cooper developed the interactive lessons in partnership with the community. Members of the Coconut Grove Village West, CEPS staff, and CEPS interns served as lesson facilitators. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, and the Village West Freedom School will return for its second year in Summer 2025. The Human Rights Clinic, in collaboration with partners Miami Coalition on Racial Equity and Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing, hosted an exhibit in the community in conjunction with Art Basel and a follow-up exhibit at the University of Miami during the Beaux Arts Festival. The artwork has further traveled to the World Urban Forum, hosted by U.N.-Habitat in Cairo, Egypt, and the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, Indiana.





## University of San Francisco School of Law

The University of San Francisco School of Law's clinics and externship program are grounded in providing students with practical training and advancing our social justice mission. Our recent news is below.

In addition to regular removal defense, Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic students, under the supervision of Professors Jacqueline Brown and Bill Hing, have held 12 free immigration consultation sessions following the election. Throughout Sonoma, San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties, the Clinic has provided consultations to over 700 individuals/families. As needed, the Clinic provides follow up work including completing applications for asylum and employment authorization, along with family visa petitions and motions to reopen.

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In January 2025, the Society of American Law Teachers honored the USF Racial Justice Clinic with the M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award, along with collaborators, California Assemblymember Ash Kalra, the Ella Baker Center, Silicon Valley DeBug, the ACLU of Northern California, the Office of the State Public Defender, and public defenders throughout the state, for our collective work implementing the California Racial Justice Act (CRJA). Assistant Professor Belle Yan leads the RJA Implementation Working Group that consists of the organizations and advocates honored by this award. The award reflects the RJC's leadership in the RJA space, which most recently included a favorable state appellate court ruling establishing public defenders as the first-in-line to receive court appointment in retroactive RJA petitions. The RJC co-counseled with the attorneys of record for the petitioner.

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The International Human Rights Clinic continues to partner with human rights defenders in exile, focused currently on rights for Afghan women and refugees in Kenya. The Clinic is also currently partnering with the Stanford International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic and the Center for Justice and Accountability to conduct trial monitoring for the upcoming torture prosecution case in *U.S. v. Corr.*

**USF Law students Clare Deck '25 and Dalia Blevins '25 training advocates and volunteers on immigration matters.**



**University of St. Thomas School of Law****Mentor Externship Recognized as Bloomberg Law School Innovation Program**

The University of St. Thomas School of Law has been recognized as one of the nation's top schools for career resilience. Bloomberg Law named the school's Mentor Externship among the top 10 law school programs that are pioneering educational innovations that benefit their students, their schools and the legal field.

"Bloomberg Law is pleased to recognize The University of St. Thomas School of Law for its commitment to the future of the legal industry by naming them as a Law School Innovation Program finalist," said Alex Butler, head of content and analysis, Bloomberg Industry Group. "St. Thomas' Mentor Externship is a key example of the innovation that is needed for legal education to support fulfilling long-term legal careers."

The Mentor Externship has been a distinctive part of a St. Thomas legal education since the school opened in 2001. It places every law student, each year of law school, with a legal professional to help them gain experience, develop relationships and navigate the legal field. In addition to their fieldwork, 2L and 3L students also participate in a classroom component. More than 500 respected lawyers and judges in the Minneapolis/St. Paul legal community, and beyond, volunteer their time to serve as mentor placements each year.



**University of St. Thomas School of Law Mentor Externship Director Uyen Campbell (left) and Assistant Director Meghan Feliciano (right).**

## University of Tennessee College of Law

The UT Legal Clinic continues to lead a statewide voter restoration project to help clients with felony convictions restore their voting rights. Tackling an onerous two-step legal process, the clinic students has represented dozens of clients in Circuit Court to argue for restoration of full citizenship rights and then completed an administrative process to register their clients to vote: <https://law.utk.edu/2025/01/31/advocacy-clinic-students-unravel-the-complexities-of-life-sentence-cases-for-youth/>

The Advocacy Clinic at Tennessee has taken on a new role helping “juvenile lifers.” The Tennessee Supreme Court’s Booker decision recognized that children’s unique capacity for change makes them constitutionally different from adults. Tennessee’s “juvenile lifers” may now be eligible for parole after as few as 25 years.

According to Advocacy Clinic Professor Kristina Kersey, “While there are a handful of pro bono advocates in Middle Tennessee volunteering to work on juvenile lifer cases, there are far fewer attorneys able to represent individuals incarcerated in remote East Tennessee state prisons.” Students in the Advocacy Clinic responded to East Tennessee’s need and made an immediate impact. As part of their representation, students conduct in-depth investigations into clients’ social histories, collaborate with forensic psychologists and mitigation experts, submit written filings to the parole board, prepare clients and witnesses, and make oral presentations during hearings. “Students’ and clients’ experiences are enhanced by collaboration with community partners like the Department of Psychology in the UT College of Arts and Sciences, Community Defense of East Tennessee, Choosing Justice Initiative, and national organizations like the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth,” according to Clinical Teaching Fellow Tyler Dougherty. Through this critical work, Advocacy Clinic students endeavor to ensure that some of Tennessee’s “juvenile lifers” have a meaningful opportunity to re-join their communities while providing students with unparalleled training in zealous advocacy, trauma-informed representation, and legal problem-solving. <https://law.utk.edu/2025/01/31/advocacy-clinic-students-unravel-the-complexities-of-life-sentence-cases-for-youth/>



**From left to right: 3L Katie DeReus, Professor Kristina Kersey, Antiqua Simpson and Imani Mfalme-Shu'la from Community Defense of East Tennessee, and Clinical Teaching Fellow Tyler Dougherty**

## University of Wisconsin Law School

The University of Wisconsin Law School's Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic has been tapped to provide strategic guidance for the UW Chancellor's Entrepreneurship Initiative, which aims to (1) commit to excellence in entrepreneurship with a focus on founders, (2) establish campus leadership and structure to bolster entrepreneurship, (3) create a culture to promote entrepreneurship, and (4) expand access to capital.

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The Wisconsin Innocence Project achieved the release of two clients, both incarcerated for over 25 years. In one case, genetic genealogy DNA results revealed that the actual perpetrator was convicted of similar crimes. In the other, a judge vacated the life sentence of a client arrested for a double murder when he was a teenager – without any physical evidence.

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After five years of litigation, the Second Look Clinic secured the release of a parole client imprisoned for 53 years. The Law School's Reentry and Outreach Specialist helped get approval for the required release plan and was there to support him throughout the reentry process.

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Wisconsin's Health Justice Clinic hosted a "pop-up clinic" on preparing legal documents for LGBTQ+ families. The effort served 25 attendees - helping with legal name changes, advance directives (such as power of attorney for health care) and gender-marker changes. The QLaw student group selected the LGBTQ+ Health Justice initiative for its QLawyer of the Year Award.

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Wisconsin Law's Family Court Clinic students have begun staffing the local Family Law Assistance Center, a weekly walk-in legal clinic held at the Dane County Courthouse in Madison. The program is traditionally staffed by attorneys, but the program has seen a huge jump in demand. Law students provide support to volunteer attorneys, enabling the program to meet increased needs of families and reduce the likelihood that clients will be turned away.



## Washington University (WashU Law)

The WashU Law Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, under Professor Sarah Narkiewicz's direction, became transdisciplinary this semester by welcoming students from WashU's Olin School of Business to collaborate with law students. This integration provides students with authentic exposure to real-world tax practice where attorneys and accountants routinely work together. The arrangement has strengthened both the student experience and our client service model, with business students handling numerical tax components while law students are able to focus on legal elements.

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In the past six months, WashU Law's Appellate Clinic students under Professor Steve Alagna's guidance delivered oral arguments for a habeas appeal in the Fourth Circuit and are preparing for another habeas case before the Sixth Circuit in May. The Clinic also submitted an amicus brief representing Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and Spirit Lake Tribe in a Fourth Circuit case concerning the repatriation of Native children's remains from Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Additionally, in the Eighth Circuit, the Clinic prepared a brief on behalf of Professor Maggie Blackhawk and fellow legal scholars addressing tribal-court jurisdiction matters.



**WashU Law LITC  
Students Present to  
High School Students  
on the Role of Tax in  
Society.**

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Committee on Lawyering in the Public Interest/Bellows Scholars Committee:

We are excited to announce four law professors were recently named as the 2025-26 Bellow Scholars (the "Scholars"). The AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education's Committee on Lawyering in the Public Interest (aka the Bellow Scholars Committee) selects a new cohort of law professors every two years to recognize and support innovative research proposals designed to improve the quality of justice in communities, enhance the delivery of legal services, and promote economic and social justice. The Scholars will undertake research projects examining a range of legal topics in collaboration with policymakers, criminal justice researchers, and poverty law practitioners.

The Bellow Scholars Committee recognizes and supports the research projects of law professors that reflect the ideals of Professor Gary Bellow - a pioneering founder of modern clinical legal education. Its programming (the "Bellow Scholars Program") supports law professors who employ empirical analysis, connect research to advocacy, and involve substantial collaboration between law and other academic disciplines. Selected projects become the focus of information sharing, discussion, and critique at the annual AALS Clinical Conference and at annual workshops organized by the committee. We are thrilled that these 2025-26 Scholars and their research projects will be included in the rich tradition of the Bellow Scholars Program:

- *Anna VanCleave (University of Connecticut School of Law): Bail, Detention, and Pretrial Procedures in Connecticut: An Analysis of Current Practices and Recommendations for the Elimination of Cash Bail*
- *Jyoti Nanda (Southwestern Law School): The Pathways of Girls/Gender Expansive Youth into and within the Youth Carceral System*
- *Laura McNally (Case Western Reserve School of Law): Examining the Impact of "Tangled Titles" on Housing Stability, Wealth Preservation, and Aging in Place in Urban Cities*
- *Rachel T. Goldberg (Cornell Law School): Analyzing Women's Capital Trials for Gender-Biased Language*

Please join us on Tuesday, April 29, at the AALS Clinical Conference in Baltimore where the Scholars will present at 8:30am on their current projects.

Lisa Martin & Alina Ball, Bellow Scholars Committee Co-Chairs

## Membership, Outreach, and Training (MOT)

For the fifth year, the MOT Committee is facilitating the popular "Clinician Crews" program! Crews are peer discussion groups for new and experienced clinicians. This year, we have over 100 clinicians participating in 12 crews facilitated by volunteer facilitators! Participants typically sign up for one academic year, meeting monthly during the semester to discuss topics ranging from clinic design to balancing scholarship and other academic demands.

Each Crew decides its discussion topics. If you would like to learn more about Crews or join one next academic year, please email MOT committee co-chair Heather Abraham (Buffalo) or Lauren Aronson (Univ. Illinois). This year, Courtney Beer (Maine) joined us as our newest co-chair, replacing outgoing co-chair Katy Ramsey (Memphis). Please join us in person at the AALS Clinical Conference on Sunday, April 27 for our annual "Coffee Break for New Clinicians" (everyone welcome).

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Externships Committee

The AALS Externships Committee is proud to highlight recent initiatives and upcoming events for our externship community:

We are thrilled to announce the following recipients of our inaugural awards to be recognized during our Externship Community Gathering at the 2025 AALS Clinical Conference:

- Emerging Leader Award: Neha Lall, University of Baltimore School of Law; Elsbeth Magilton, University of Nebraska College of Law; Grace Parrish, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
- Mentorship Award: Nira Geevargis, UCLaw SF.
- Career Achievement Award: Alexander Scherr, University of Georgia School of Law

We are also excited to celebrate Impact on the Externship Field Award recipient, to be announced during the conference's AALS Luncheon. Thank you to the Externships Status and Awards Subcommittee for their incredible work establishing these awards!

Throughout spring semester, our subcommittees continued to provide meaningful programming to support and inspire externship educators. The Anti-Racism Think Tank and Teaching Methodologies subcommittees hosted two important webinars on ABA Standard 303(c) and teaching strategies to meet the standard. The Teaching Methodologies subcommittee also hosted a timely webinar on teaching artificial intelligence and its use in legal practice. Additionally, Externship colleagues joined a discussion on delivering summer externship programs.

Looking ahead to the 2025 AALS Clinical Conference, Externships community members will be presenting at multiple sessions. We will also elect new AALS Externships Committee co-chairs as Megan Bess and Uyen Campbell prepare to pass the baton to the next leaders. It has been a true privilege to serve as co-chairs of the Externships Committee over the past two years. We are deeply thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a committed and passionate group of colleagues. Throughout our time as chairs, we have been continually inspired by the dedication of our subcommittees, whose efforts have created both structured and informal opportunities for our externship community to connect, learn, and grow together.

With gratitude,  
Megan Bess and Uyen Campbell

