

Real clients



**Real
law**



**Real
life**

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WHAT IS THE VILLANOVA LAW CLINIC?

- ✓ *Villanova Law Clinic Mission*
- ✓ *What is a Law Clinic?*
- ✓ *Clinic vs. Externship*
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CLINIC MISSION



To help law students become reflective, ethical, creative, zealous, and justifiably confident advocates who value pro bono and public interest work.



To express, through service and scholarship, a commitment to serve poor and disenfranchised members of the community through promoting social justice and the common good.

WHAT IS A CLINIC?

Students engage in the practice of law, which enables them to reflect on the interaction between practice and theory and on the role of the lawyer in our society.

A “clinic” is a course in **which students represent clients** under the direct supervision of a member of the Villanova Law faculty.

Each clinic includes classroom sessions and tutorial meetings with the faculty member, plus work on assigned cases.

In various legal settings students experience the satisfaction of functioning as a professional for those who otherwise may not be represented.

Since clinics are courses, students earn credit for experiential learning.

Students interested in taking a clinic should not feel that they must have a particular interest in a specific area of law – this is not a prerequisite. In fact, students often excel in learning a new area of law and using that knowledge to benefit their clients.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLINIC AND EXTERNSHIP?

Externship: Students with externships are matched with judges or lawyers working for law firms and government agencies.

Externship students **assist** the judges or attorneys for whom they work.

Clinic: In a clinic, students are certified by the court to practice law and act as “student attorneys” for their clients. Clinical experience integrates research, writing, interviewing, counseling, case planning and representing clients either in court or in their business transactions.



FAST FACTS



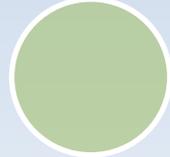
During the spring 2019 semester, Tax Clinic students attended U.S. Tax Court twice to represent clients and provide advice to taxpayers.



In 2018, the Health Law Clinic served 26 clients.



In 2017, students in the Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic committed 3,093 hours in service to PA farmworkers.



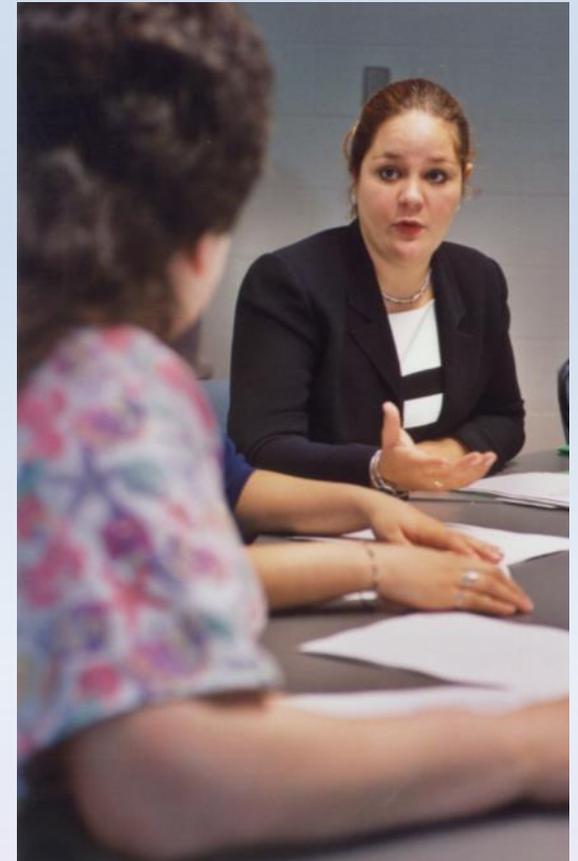
In 2018, the Civil Justice clinic served 29 clients.



In 2016, CARES won asylum for 10 refugees and worked hundreds of hours preparing other cases for trial.



In 2019-2020, CFLE students will have handled approximately 30 matters for 6 small businesses, entrepreneurs, and non-profits. Students also engaged in advocacy to support community empowerment through business and transactional law and entrepreneurship.



LOCATION



Our in-house law office is located on the first floor of the law school building. The clinic office is open to all clinic students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Student work areas
- Library with practitioner materials
- Conference and interview rooms with digital recording equipment for client interviews, role-plays, and moots.

TYPES OF CLINICS

Civil Justice: Representing low-income clients in a range of [civil disputes](#), including family law, housing, employment, government benefits, consumer claims, and wrongful accusation of child abuse or neglect. 6 credits.

Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services (CARES): Representing refugees who have fled [human rights abuses](#) in their home countries and seek asylum in the U.S. Students manage cases before the Federal Immigration Court and asylum officers. [CARES students](#) save client lives and reunite clients with family. 8 credits.

Law and Entrepreneurship: Represent entrepreneurs, and both for profit and non profit social and community enterprises in the Philadelphia region. Legal matters may include formation, governance, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and other issues. Students do not attend court. 6 credits.

Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic (FLAC): Representing clients living and working in [agricultural settings](#) in eastern Pennsylvania. Students work with Spanish interpreters and manage cases in employment, immigration, and family law. 6 credits.

Federal Tax: Representing low-income taxpayers in federal tax proceedings and controversies with the [IRS](#). Students do not need extensive experience with tax law to enroll in this clinic. 6 credits.

Interdisciplinary Mental and Physical Health Law: Representing low-income clients in [health-related matters](#), including health insurance disputes, access to treatment, surrogate decision-making and proof of disability. 6 credits

Advanced Advocacy: Available to students who have already completed a [clinic](#). 2-4 credits.

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WHY SHOULD I TAKE A CLINIC?

- ✓ *Benefits of Taking a Clinic Course*
- ✓ *Student Representation*
- ✓ *When to Enroll in a Clinic Course: 2L vs. 3L*
- ✓ *Villanova Law Clinic Orientation Program*



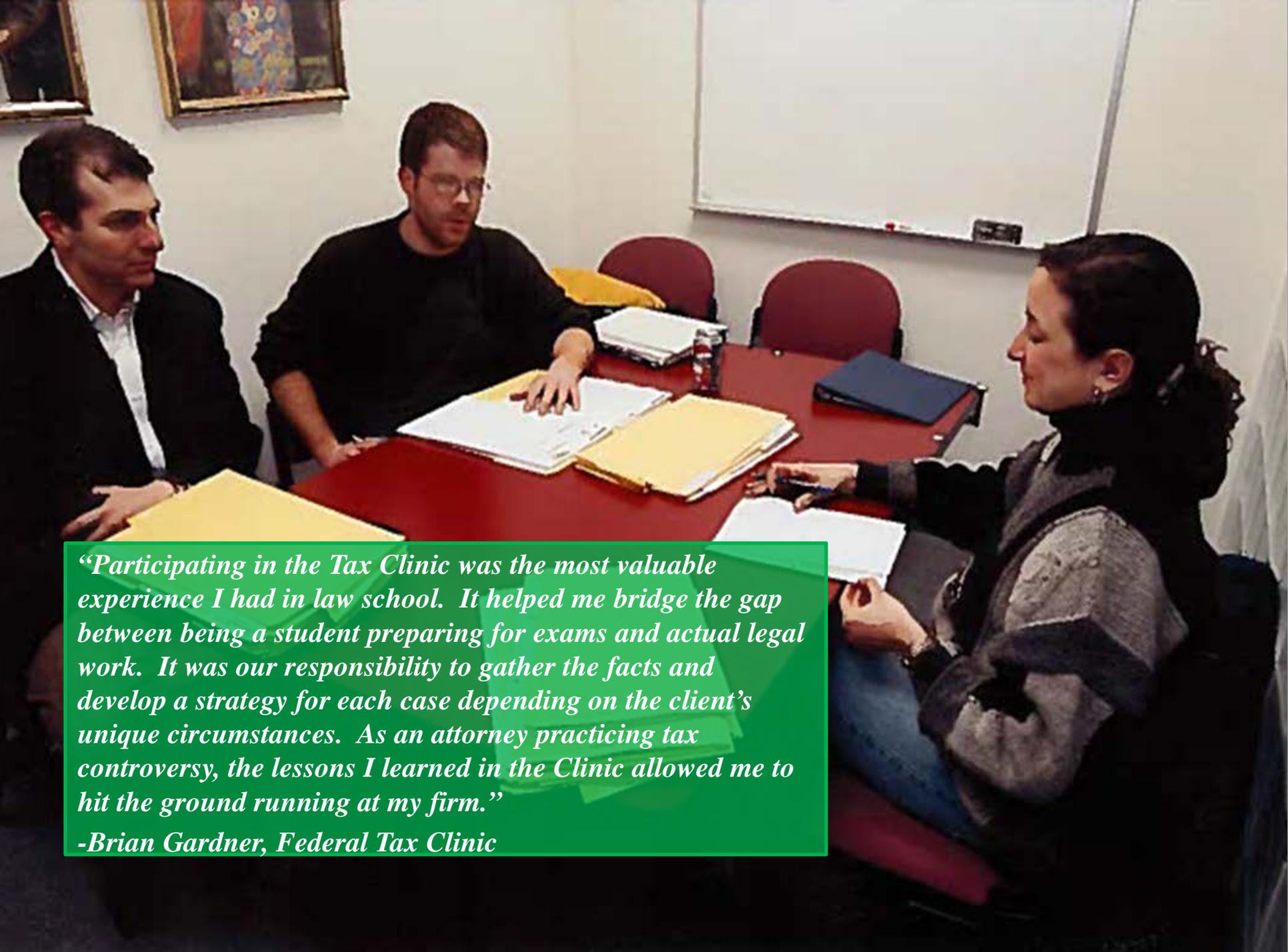
BENEFITS OF TAKING A CLINIC

- Increased **marketability** to employers
- Improvement in **key lawyering skills** and values
- Understanding of how **legal theories** are put into practice
- **Real world experience** in how the law works for people with pressing legal matters
- A **mentoring** relationship with a professor
- A heightened sense of **confidence**
- A feeling of **accomplishment** for having helped clients





“[Our client’s] co-founders did not treat us like law students; they treated us like their attorneys with whom they tasked important and meaningful work. As the semester progressed, [the client’s] business goals for our work evolved. I learned to embrace change—change course, change the objectives of the final product and change any feeling of self-doubt into one of confidence in being able to deliver a suitable product. In the end, we created a practical, usable and legally sound product that met the goals of our client. It instilled newfound confidence in my abilities to be an attorney. – Alexander Madrak, Clinic for Law & Entrepreneurship



“Participating in the Tax Clinic was the most valuable experience I had in law school. It helped me bridge the gap between being a student preparing for exams and actual legal work. It was our responsibility to gather the facts and develop a strategy for each case depending on the client’s unique circumstances. As an attorney practicing tax controversy, the lessons I learned in the Clinic allowed me to hit the ground running at my firm.”

-Brian Gardner, Federal Tax Clinic

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Student responsibility for the legal representation of clients is the central feature of Villanova's Clinical Program. Clinical students acquire fundamental lawyering skills by assuming direct responsibility for case management and preparation. The client is fundamentally your client.

You interview, counsel and manage all communications with your client.

You identify your client's goals, and the issues affecting your clients and the resources available for resolving them.

You investigate the facts and law of your client's case.



You identify and resolve the ethical issues that arise.

You develop a case theory and plan to achieve client goals.

You draft complaints, answers, motions, exhibits, applications, briefs, contracts, memos, professional correspondence, and more.

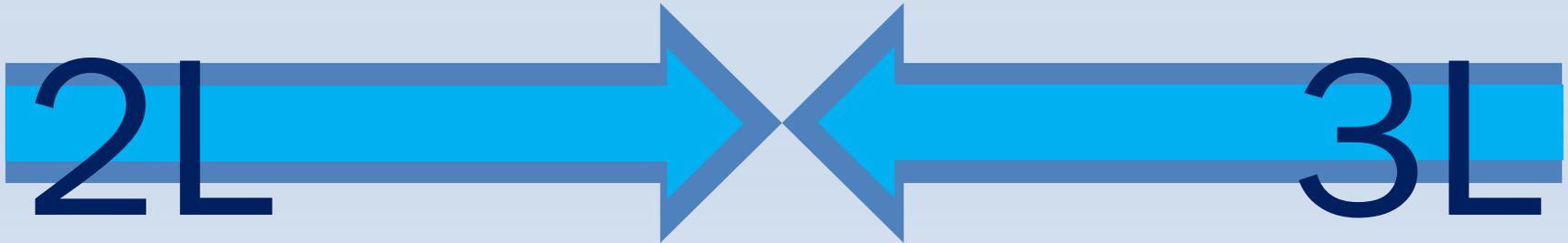
You conduct discovery.



“Although I learned much about the law while at VLS, one of my most valuable experiences was learning about the ‘practice of law’ through the Farmworker Clinic. The clinic was a rare opportunity to gain real life experience in client and file management, research, and courtroom etiquette. Even now, I apply these skills in my practice on a daily basis.”

–Jamie R. Hall, Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO TAKE A CLINIC?



Some students enroll in a [clinical course](#) in their second year of law school, enabling them to assume the role of lawyer as early as possible, apply their classroom learning to real cases, provide valuable services to clients in disadvantaged populations, and prepare themselves to make the most of their 2L summer employment.

Many students see the clinic as a transition between law school and their professional careers. Taking a [clinic](#) as a 3L allows students to take additional courses that can apply to their clinical work.

Some clinics have prerequisites which preclude students from enrolling earlier. Lastly, 3Ls have priority for a majority of clinic spaces.



In the Spring of 2018, Tax Clinic students Joey Talarico and Christyan Telech educated taxpayers about fraud and tax scams at the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia.

ORIENTATION

“We gained a sense of comfort and familiarity with the different components of the clinic and established a good relationship with our supervisors.” – Alexandra Skarka, FLAC

- Clinics participate in one to three days of orientation
- Introduction to clients and supervisors
- Introduction to law office procedures, resources, and staff
- Introduction to techniques for interviewing clients and managing cases.



3

Student and Client Voices

- ✓ *Case studies and interviews*
 - ✓ *Civil Justice*
 - ✓ *CARES*
 - ✓ *Federal Tax*
 - ✓ *FLAC*
 - ✓ *Health*
 - ✓ *Entrepreneurship*
- ✓ *In the News*
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- ✓ *Contact Information*



CIVIL JUSTICE CLINIC

CASE STUDY: Ms. W was facing eviction and her Landlord was seeking nearly \$4,000 in rent and fees. She had withheld rent due to habitability concerns pertaining to persistent problems with insects and rodents. In addition, Ms. W has spent a large sum of money on extermination costs and making certain improvements to her unit. She needed time to find a new residence and Ms. W did not want a money judgment against her. The students worked to negotiate an agreement with opposing counsel in Municipal Court. Ms. W was provided 60 days to vacate and no money judgment was entered.



CARES -- CLINIC FOR ASYLUM, REFUGEE & EMIGRANT SERVICES



Christine Marcozzi
Haddonfield, NJ
CARES

Why did you enroll in CARES?

When I had summer jobs at law firms, I usually did behind-the-scenes work. I wanted to do a clinic because it offers practical experience. I applied for CARES specifically after going on a [service trip](#) to San Diego, which focused on immigration issues, such as persecution, crime and poverty. I was heartbroken over some of the stories I heard and wanted to become an advocate for these immigrants.

What is most rewarding about CARES?

If you win your case, you're [saving someone's life](#). You only have a certain amount of effect

over whether or not your client gets asylum, but you know you gave that person the best chance.

What is the legal process like?

Our job was to build credibility for our client that what the client said happened, actually happened. We collected information and did our own research on the country to [build a case](#). We conducted client interviews and contacted people who knew our client here and in their home country. The goal for the semester was to draft a brief that explained why our client's situation met all the requirements of asylum law and to have all of that backed up with evidence: news reports, affidavits, proof.

“CARES was my most meaningful, practical and educational experience during my time at VLS. Not only did it allow me to help better the life of my client and her children, but it also helped me secure a career in the field of Immigration Law. I am forever grateful for my experience in the clinic.” –Christopher Casazza, CARES Clinic



FEDERAL TAX CLINIC



Timothy Galaz
Tucson, AZ
Federal Tax Clinic

Why did you decide to enroll in your clinical program?

I learn more from doing something, so I wanted general hands-on experience with a client. I wanted to get some of those practical skills of working with clients and taking on live issues. It's useful to work with others and [learn firsthand about tax law.](#)

What are you most excited about?

I am excited about helping people who would not otherwise be able to get legal representation. We give attention to very difficult.

problems for people who might not be able to afford counsel or be able to represent themselves.

Any advice for prospective students?

Doing a clinic before graduation should definitely be a top priority. Clinics teach valuable skills to have going into the workforce, including working with other people. The clinic prepares you for interviews and offers hands-on experience. Employers also want to know what my work experience has been rather than my classroom experience, and the clinic provides that.

“The Villanova Law Clinic was my introduction to tax and the work I do now. Professor Fogg was instrumental in helping me learn more about tax law and connecting me with opportunities in the field. Recently, I assisted the Southern Poverty Law Center in filing tax returns for individuals who had received settlement payments as a result of lawsuits for unpaid wages. It was a multi-step process to file one big return: I determined which clients needed an I10 tax form, acquired necessary documentation, and communicated with the clients back and forth to help them apply. Not only do academic clinics, such as the Villanova Law Clinic, teach students about tax controversy, but they are also in a good position to partner with organizations that need additional support, especially in tax areas.”

-Lany Villalobos, Christine Brunswick Public Service Tax Fellow at the Pennsylvania Farmworker Project, Federal Tax Clinic '14



FARMWORKER LEGAL AID CLINIC (FLAC)



Alexandra Skarka
Lawrence, KS
FLAC

What is FLAC?

We work with farmworkers involved in civil cases, including labor disputes, immigration issues, family law, and personal injury. The students in the clinic are 100% in charge of one to three cases. Students work with a partner and a supervisor, who is a professor in the law school.

What is the biggest reward of working in a clinic?

We have minimal client contact during regular classes, so building a case and relationship with a client really helped us learn how to practice law.

How do you contend with language barriers when working with non-English speakers?

It's common that the clients are non-English speaking, so we work with interpreters. For phone calls, we always have a live interpreter. For documents, we send interpretations via email.

Any advice for prospective students?

A clinic should be required in legal education. I encourage students to do a clinic and to be open-minded. When you come to law school, you may find you are interested in something else than you thought.

“I am thankful to God for finding very special people like you. I remember you with a lot of love and care and I would recommend others so you can help them. Thank you to everyone for a good performance.” -Client (translated from Spanish)



INTERDISCIPLINARY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH LAW CLINIC (HEALTH LAW CLINIC)



***Zahra Syed
Orlando, FL
Class of 2020
Health Law***

What was your health law clinic experience?

My Health Law Clinic experience was absolutely eye opening. Not only was I exposed to a legal field I knew nothing about, but I also realized the injustices that low-income individuals face when they are without representation. The experience I had working for the HLC has encouraged me to give back to the community in whatever way I can, no matter where or what I end up practicing.

What advice do you have for a student considering the clinic?

I had a guardianship case and it forced me to dive in and research the topic, rules and regulations in a vigorous manner.

My advice to newcomers would be to believe in yourself and know that all of us before you have felt exactly what you will feel when you are given your first case. With the help and support of all the Clinic faculty and your fellow Clinic peers, anything is possible!

In 2019-2020, CFLE student attorneys:

- Drafted contracts, advised on entity choice, intellectual property, formation, and governance for entrepreneurs and small businesses across various sectors.
- Assisted an arts nonprofit on corporate structuring and advised on bylaws and tax compliance.
- Helped an urban farm expand its operations geographically and comply with food safety regulations.
- Engaged in community education on corporate structure, governance, and other legal information for a coalition addressing food and land insecurity.

And so much more!

Client Feedback

Your organization and Matt and Liz were simply terrific! . . . I enjoyed speaking with Matt and Liz. They were very professional and quite responsive to my requests. . . . Thank you! (Mohamed L.)

Thanks so much for the support! We're lucky to be working with you and the student lawyers! (Annie W.)

First I would like to thank you and the students at Villanova Law School's Clinic for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. We thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and would like to propose another project . . . (Janice K.)

WOW!! What a great meeting with Malia and Kristyn yesterday. I am excited about what we can accomplish with this project. (Tom C.)

THE CLINIC IN THE NEWS

Villanova law students help gay Russian win asylum

BREAKING NEWS VIDEO BLOGS PHILADELPHIA NEW JERSEY POLITICS EDUCATION OPINION LOTTERY

Collectibles • Villanova University

Many factors contribute to backlog of asylum seekers



Law students Christine Marozzo (left) and Greg Mathews (center) at ALLEJANZHO A. ALVAREZ / Staff Photographer

THE MOST INNOVATIVE CLINICS

Law schools have launched creative clinics to prepare students for the competitive job market. Here are the clinics that are doing something different to make students practice-ready.

BY LAIRA MARTIN

Exponential training is the hallmark of the modern legal education, and law schools are scrambling to keep up practical offerings in order to prepare students to hit the ground running upon graduation.

One of the biggest complaints from law firms, corporations or any employer is that many law grads are simply not practice-ready," said James Berlin, a professor at Indiana Tech Law School. "The goal is to make students understand how the process works and what is expected of a newly hired attorney."

Berlin said clinics are the best way to deliver on that goal.

While law schools have long offered clinics, the breadth of clinics has grown in recent years. In the process, law schools have become more innovative in what clinics address.

"Innovation can take a lot of forms, such as providing clinical services in an area of law that hasn't been addressed," said David Marston, a professor who has

served as director of the India Film (I) at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University since its inception in 2011. "Entrepreneurship law is one of those areas. We're trying to move practice goals connected to interests outside of typical clinical models."

"To identify the most innovative clinic



2014 PRO BONO RECOGNITION

The SPLC extends its deepest gratitude to the following firms for their dedicated pro bono assistance. Together, we've made a difference in the lives of those with no other champions. Thank you for the opportunity to work by your side in the cause of justice.

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER		HOBBS DEES, FOUNDER J. RICHARD COHEN, PRESIDENT	
PROBON CONDITIONS Law Offices of Elizabeth Alexander	HUMAN TRAFFICKING Fredrickson & Byron	HUMAN TRAFFICKING DLA Piper LLP	
PROBON CONDITIONS Baker, Donelson, Roseman	HUMAN TRAFFICKING Gordon Arata McCollam	JUDGMENT COLLECTION Reed Smith, LLP	
		HUMAN TRAFFICKING Sahn Ward Coehigman & Baker, PLLC	
		HUMAN TRAFFICKING Kaye Scholer, LLP	
		CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES Schulte Roth & Zabel, LLP	
		HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERSEX RIGHTS Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP	
		INTERSEX RIGHTS Steyrer & Johnson LLP	
		HUMAN TRAFFICKING Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP	
		SETTLEMENT TAX ASSISTANCE Villanova University School of Law	
		SCHOOLTO-PRISON PIPELINE LIGHT BRIGHT WilmerHale	

LOW-INCOME

1 Marquette University Law School's Ethelene Legal Clinic creates access for low-income clients who lack representation. The clinic, which, founded by ethics professor from Quaker & Brade LLP, connects with local Milwaukee institutions such as churches and shelters to provide general legal advice on issues related to family law, landlord/tenant law and personal injury.



Marquette University Law School

2

Wayne State University Law School's Legal Advocacy for People With Cancer Clinic isn't the only cancer clinic in the country, but it has the only cancer patients made to stand out as innovative. The law school partners with Karmanos Cancer Center to help assist

"This is a great opportunity to assist someone in writing a will, in securing benefits or in just getting a better understanding of his or her rights," said Kathryn Brinkman, clinic director.



University of Memphis

3

The University of Memphis - Gill C. Humphreys School of Law's Housing Advocacy Clinic offers students a unique experience — that of an administrative hearing officer. Students do fieldwork involving research, investigation and drafting written opinions on large administrative appeals filed in the Memphis Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides housing for low-income people. Students practice workshops and training sessions for Section 8 participants. The clinic exposes students to the complex administrative regulations and procedures while helping them develop their report.

4

The University of Akron School of Law's History Clinic is free clinics in one. Approximately 100 students a year are trained in four legal areas: human trafficking, organ donation, domestic violence and acquiring a certificate of qualification for employment. The clinic, which is held monthly at a clinic, seeks to assist low-income clients with documentation or testimony, which is one in every six citizens, while preparing students for public sector careers. Students work to combat the hurdles faced by those with criminal convictions, which often prevents them from working, supporting families and contributing to society.

INCREDIBLE MENTOR: Villanova University School of Law's Villanova Legal Aid Clinic provides legal representation to underserved workers

in areas of employment, immigration and child protection.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

5 University of California, Berkeley, School of Law students in the Death Penalty Clinic represent clients at all stages: trial, appeal and post-conviction proceedings, in five states. In 2013, two years' worth of investigations by clinical participants was critical in the sentencing of a Texas man who was found guilty of murdering a sheriff. His legal case was able to negotiate a life sentence. Through the rigors of the law school's graduation work to prepare firms, no person of the clinic's clients were impacted to work public sector positions.



University of California, Berkeley

"The experience of working on a complex, cutting-edge Public Records Act request on behalf of a death sentence client reinforced why I came to Berkeley Law," 2014 graduate Paul Moore said. "Writing a favorable, published opinion also shows the direct importance of clinics in the world. The clinic's success, while very small in the grand scheme of things, is really a testament to the impact clinics can have in shaping the law."

6

The International Poverty Advocacy Clinic at Seattle University School of Law connects moms and dads in prison with their children, with a focus on domestic violence questions and parents with a history of substance abuse. "This is a critical area of social justice, and it serves a real need," said Professor Lisa Bradford. "We're representing people who are sometimes treated by society and denied the weekly of representation. These kids and parents have a right to each

LANDMARK ASYLUM CASE

Joseph Catuzzi '14 and Michelle Majkut '14, from Villanova University School of Law's Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services, won asylum for a Russian gay man in November. This is one of the first known cases of a defensive (i.e., defending against deportation) asylum seeker being granted asylum on the basis of a "well-founded fear of future persecution" due to Russia's anti-gay propaganda law. ■

FACULTY



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Michael Campbell
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Christine Speidel
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Real clients



**Real
law**



**Real
life**