



# Information for Incoming LL.M. Students

Office of Clinical  
and Pro Bono  
Programs  
(OCP)





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# OCP's Mission

- **PROVIDE** diverse and innovative opportunities for student practice
  - **ADVANCE** access to justice through real world cases
  - **INSPIRE** students to develop a lifelong commitment to pro bono service
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**HLS  
Clinics**

+

**Student  
Practice  
Organizations  
(SPOs)**

+

**Additional  
Pro Bono  
Opportunities**



## Welcome incoming LL.M. Class!

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Graduate Program of Harvard Law School (HLS) from all of us at the Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs (OCP)! We look forward to working with you this upcoming academic year.

HLS Clinics and Student Practice Organizations (SPOs) provide top-quality legal services to those in need and provide our students with outstanding opportunities to learn and to serve the community through representing real clients on real matters under the supervision of our clinical faculty. You can learn more about our program in the following slides and by reading the Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs [website](#) and [blog](#).

OCP oversees the wide-ranging clinical and pro bono opportunities at HLS. Specifically, OCP provides counseling and support to students interested in clinical and pro bono work, coordinates clinical registration and clinical placements, manages the SPOs and the HLS pro bono program and supports the clinical faculty in their work.

If you have questions about the LL.M. General Clinical Application process or the clinical and pro bono program more generally, please feel free to call or email us. Our contact information is below.

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# OCP Advising

Our advisors offer direct support on topics including:

- Choosing clinics, SPOs, and pro bono opportunities
- Balancing clinic participation with other courses
- Any individual issues that arise in a clinic
- Integrating pro bono into a law firm career
- Meeting the NY pro bono requirement



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# What is a clinic?

Harvard Law School's approach to clinical legal education has three basic components:

1. Clinical work providing direct student responsibility for clients and/or cases in a real practice setting.
2. Supervision, mentorship and feedback by experienced practitioners.
3. A companion academic course in which the students bring their clinical experience into the classroom while also bringing their classroom training back into their clinical work.

Students receive “clinical credit” for the clinical work and “classroom credit” for the related class component. All credits count towards the credit requirements for the LL.M. degree.

Students in clinics gain experience:

- Directly representing clients
- Advocating in court and other forums
- Writing amicus briefs
- Providing client counseling
- Shaping public policy and more!





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# Clinical Skills

View the Clinical Skills Matrix on our website for more examples!

## Client Interviewing

- Predatory Lending & Consumer Protection Clinic
- Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic
- Education Law Clinic

## Draft Memoranda and Briefs

- Health Law & Policy Clinic
- Environmental Law & Policy Clinic

## Trial Work

- Housing Law Clinic
- Family Law Clinic





# Clinic Stories



## Veterans Law and Disability Benefits Clinic

Clinic students are representing an LGBTQ veteran who was barred from receiving federal VA benefits as a surviving spouse after his disabled partner's death, in a potentially precedent-setting case to secure rights for LGBTQ veterans.



## Crimmigration Clinic

The Crimmigration Clinic won a precedent-setting case in the First Circuit with an en banc decision, giving a Salvadoran national another chance at asylum and discrediting the use of gang databases in immigration proceedings.



## Environmental Law and Policy Clinic

The clinic submitted comments on a Biden Administration proposal to revise the definition of the “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act, recommending restoring and codifying fundamental protections for waters.



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# Student Practice Organizations

Join an SPO!

Students do not receive academic credit for SPO work

Student-run leadership positions

- Harvard Defenders
- Harvard Law Entrepreneurship Project
- Harvard Mediation Program
- Harvard Law Negotiators
- Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project
- HLS Advocates for Human Rights
- HLS Immigration Project
- Mississippi Delta Project
- Project No One Leaves
- Recording Artists Project
- Tenant Advocacy Project

learning  
how to be  
a better  
advocate

- providing  
Compassionate,  
trauma-informed  
representation
- being challenged





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# SPO Stories

**Prison Legal Assistance Project** students represented incarcerated individuals after a 2020 uprising that resulted in false disciplinary reports and physical abuse from corrections officers. Documents and testimony obtained by PLAP helped further a recent federal class action lawsuit brought by Prisoners' Legal Services.



In Fall 2021, the **Harvard Immigration Project** submitted comments on a proposed federal rule regarding asylum procedures and credible fear screenings. HIP called for the rule to be eliminated or substantially changed, due to its undermining of asylum seekers' due process rights.



# Clinic Application Process

- Apply through the General LL.M. Clinic Application (available July 29, due by August 8). \*three clinics have alternative registration processes
- Eligible for academic credit
- Led by faculty, clinical instructors, and lecturers who provide supervision and education

# Student Practice Organization Application Process

- Join/apply at the beginning of each semester
- Learn more about SPOs at SPO fair in mid-September (Exact Date TBD)
- Not for academic credit
- Student-run organizations operating under the supervision of licensed attorney





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# Clinic Participation

Between the clinic component and the clinical classroom component, most clinics require a **minimum of 5 credits** over a single semester.

LL.M. students in F-1 student status are eligible to participate in our In-House Clinics:

<https://hls.harvard.edu/dept/clinical/clinics/in-house-clinics>

*Note on Externship Clinics:*

*International students on F-1 student visas are required to have Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization in order to participate in an externship clinic at HLS; LL.M. students are not eligible for CPT.*

*If you are not on an F-1 student visa and would like to speak with us about your potential eligibility for externship opportunities, please reach out!*



# Clinic FAQ's

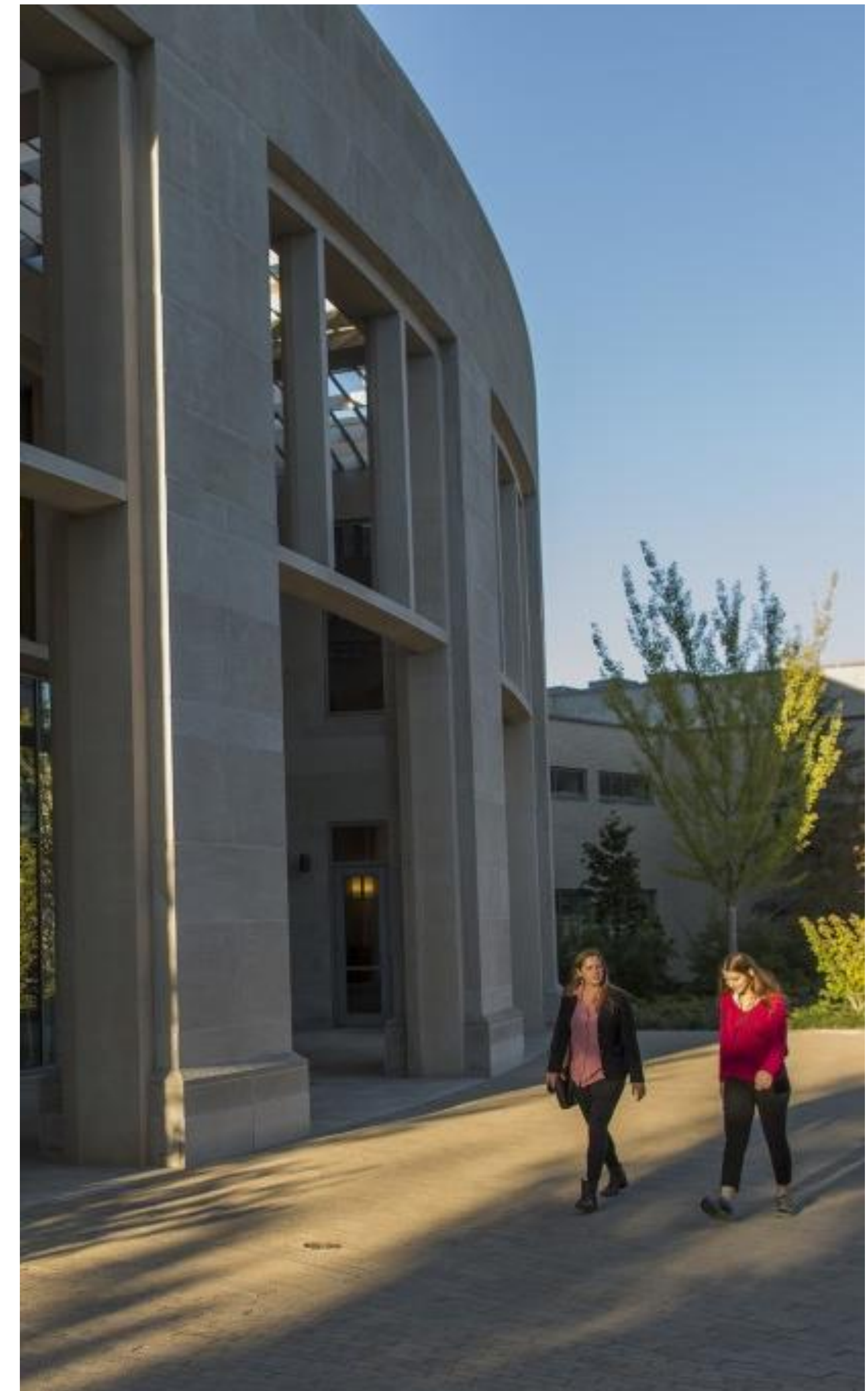
## Does a clinic fit into your overall academic plan?

Before applying to a clinic, you should think about how a clinic will factor into your schedule, how it fits into your overall academic goals and plan, and how it will factor into your overall degree requirements. **Most clinics take up a minimum of 5 credits in a single term!**

## How much of a time commitment is a clinic?

Clinics are a serious professional and academic commitment. Most clinic work involves you, the student, representing real clients on actual matters/cases/policies. You must be prepared to dedicate a significant amount of time and effort to a clinic, and you may enroll in no more than one clinic per semester. Once a student enrolls in a particular clinic, they are assigned a clinical supervisor, and the student and their supervisor create a weekly individual clinical work schedule for the student (that fits with the other courses/extra-circulars the student is engaged in).

**If you enroll in a clinic, generally you will be agreeing to engage in 12 (3 credits) to 20 (5 credits) hours per week of clinical work, as well as devoting the time necessary to attend (and do the related coursework) for the mandatory course.** If you are offered a space in a clinic, you will be registered for **one credit per 4 hours/week** of clinical work and you will also be registered for the mandatory related classroom course. You can find when the mandatory course(s) is offered and the range of permissible clinical credits for each clinic in the Course Catalog. Your schedule for your actual clinic work will be developed in consultation with your clinical supervisor once you are in the clinic.





# Clinic FAQ's, cont.

## **How can I learn more about the clinic experience from the student perspective?**

Students can review evaluations from prior students by logging into Helios and searching by clinic in the Public Service Org Search. You can also learn more about the clinics by watching the information sessions and video Q&A's on our website.

## **Do you need to have prior academic or professional experience in a particular issue area before applying to a clinic?**

No. Applicants need not have prior legal or academic experience in the issue areas that a clinic works in. Students will receive the necessary training on the relevant substantive issues and skills required to work in a clinic. Students with a new or exploratory interest in a field are welcome to apply. If there are more applicants than spaces available, some preference may be given to students with the strongest relevant experience and/or those students whose academic and career goals have the closest connection to the clinic.

## **Do clinics meet the requirements for courses that count towards eligibility to sit for the New York Bar Exam?**

If you are a student hoping to establish eligibility to sit for the New York Bar Exam through a qualifying LL.M. degree, please note that under Rule 520.6(b)(3)(vii)(a), you may count your credit hours earned in clinical courses and other experiential courses towards the required credits. At HLS, this includes both in-house clinics and externships. Please consult the Graduate Program if you have additional questions related to eligibility.



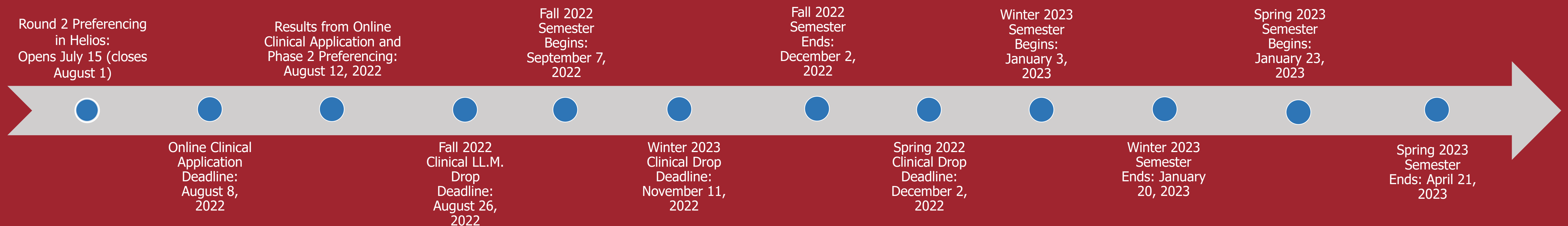
# General LL.M. Clinic Application

## How to Apply:

LL.M. students apply to most HLS in-house clinics by completing the online clinical application due on **Monday, August 8, 2022 by 9:00AM (EST)**.

The Online Clinical Application will go live on the OCP website on July 29, 2022.

## *Timeline of Clinical Registration Dates*



### **Please note that there are three clinics that have a different process for enrollment:**

**Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic (HIRC) – [Fall 2022](#) or [Spring 2023](#)**

LL.M. students preference HIRC during Phase 2 of Helios Course Preferencing.

**Transactional Law Clinics (TLC) – [Fall 2022](#) and [Spring 2023](#)**

LL.M. students preference TLC during Phase 2 of Helios Course Preferencing.

**Institute to End Mass Incarceration Clinic – [Spring 2023](#)**

Application process – students apply by September 30, 2022 (please see Course Catalog for details).



## In-House Clinics

Apply with the Online Clinic Application – Due by August 8

Clinic	Offered	Minimum Credits Required (Includes Course Component)
Animal Law & Policy Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Crimmigration Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Cyberlaw Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Education Law Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Election Law Clinic	Fall or Spring	4
Emmett Environmental Law & Policy Clinic	Fall, Winter or Spring	5
Food Law & Policy Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Harvard Dispute Systems Design Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Health Law & Policy Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
International Human Rights Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Mediation Clinic	Fall	2
Religious Freedom Clinic	Fall or Spring	5
Legal Services Center		
Consumer Protection Clinic (LSC)	Fall or Spring	5
Domestic Violence and Family Law Clinic (LSC)	Fall or Spring	5
Federal Tax Clinic (LSC)	Fall or Spring	5
Housing Law Clinic (LSC)	Fall or Spring	5
LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic (LSC)	Fall or Spring	5
Veterans Law & Disability Benefits Clinic (LSC)	Fall or Spring	4

\* Students on non-F-1 visas or U.S citizens should reach out to the Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs regarding possible eligibility to participate in externship clinics.



# Clinical Quick Facts

## ➤ Clinical credits are flexible.

The number of clinical credits a student enrolls in translates directly to the number of hours per week they will be engaging in clinical work. Clinics set a range of allowable credits, and then students choose an initial number of credits to sign up for. Students can then increase or decrease that number once the semester is under way. For more information about clinical credit requirements, please visit our website: <http://hls.harvard.edu/dept/clinical/clinical-credits>

## ➤ Clinics have an add/drop period.

Just like for most courses, when a student enrolls in a clinic, there is a period over which they have the flexibility to then drop the clinic without penalty. Once the clinic's drop deadline passes, students are no longer permitted to drop.

## ➤ Clinics have early drop deadlines.

Clinic drop deadlines occur before non-clinical course drop deadlines. Students who drop a clinic after the drop deadline will receive a “Withdrawal” notation on their transcript.

## ➤ Clinic waitlists move a lot – especially for the spring semester.

When you are waitlisted for a clinic, you have the entire add/drop period to potentially receive a waitlist offer. As students who enrolled in clinics decide to drop, seats in clinics open up, and offers to enroll are sent to the students on the waitlist.



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# Independent Clinical Program

Design a custom placement outside of the U.S. during the winter term to meet your individualized learning goals

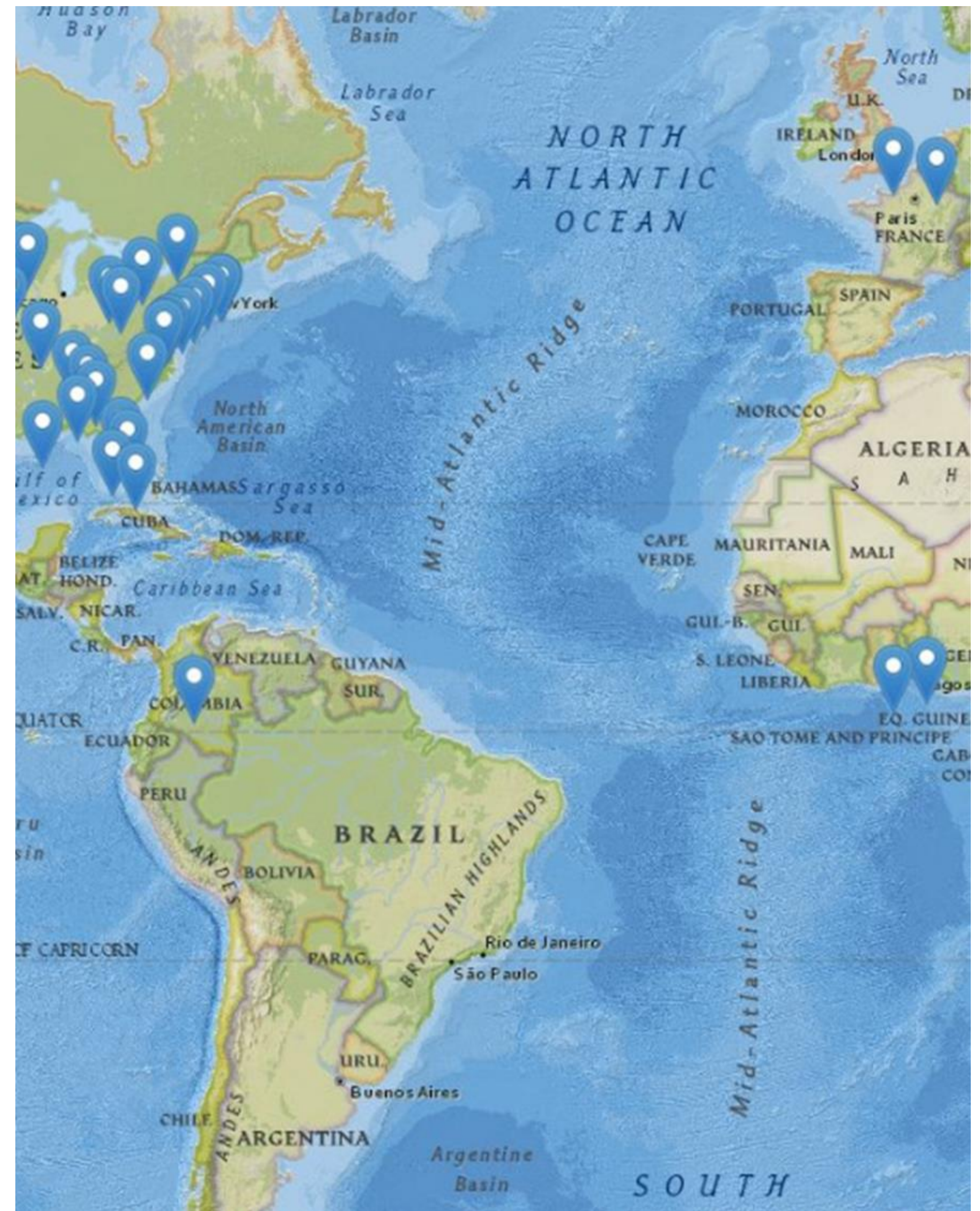
## How it works:

- Select an international placement organization
- Secure supervising attorney and faculty sponsor
- Submit an application to OCP

Winter – 2 clinical credits

## Winter Term Funding – By Application

ILS funds international projects





# Communications from OCP

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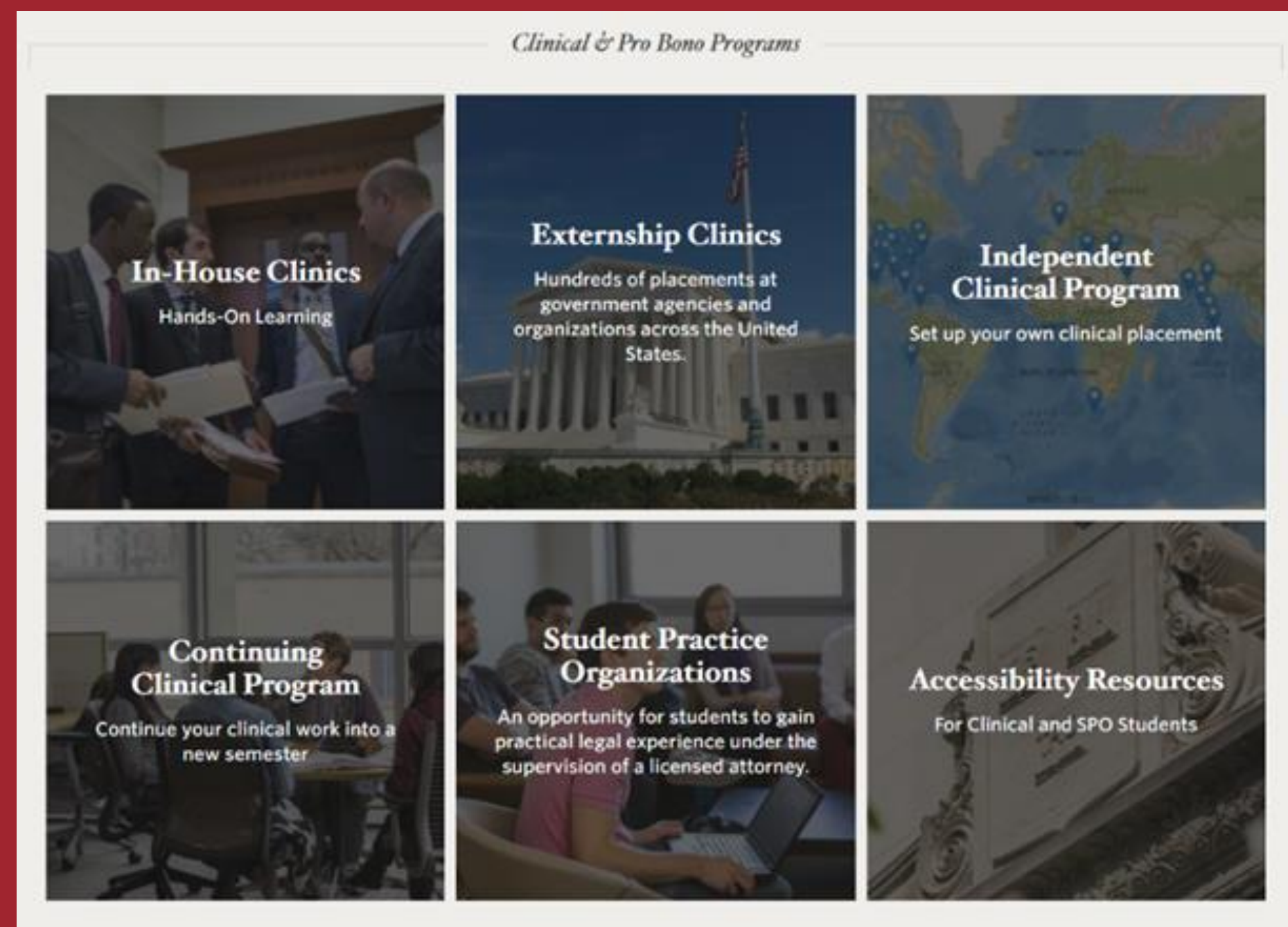
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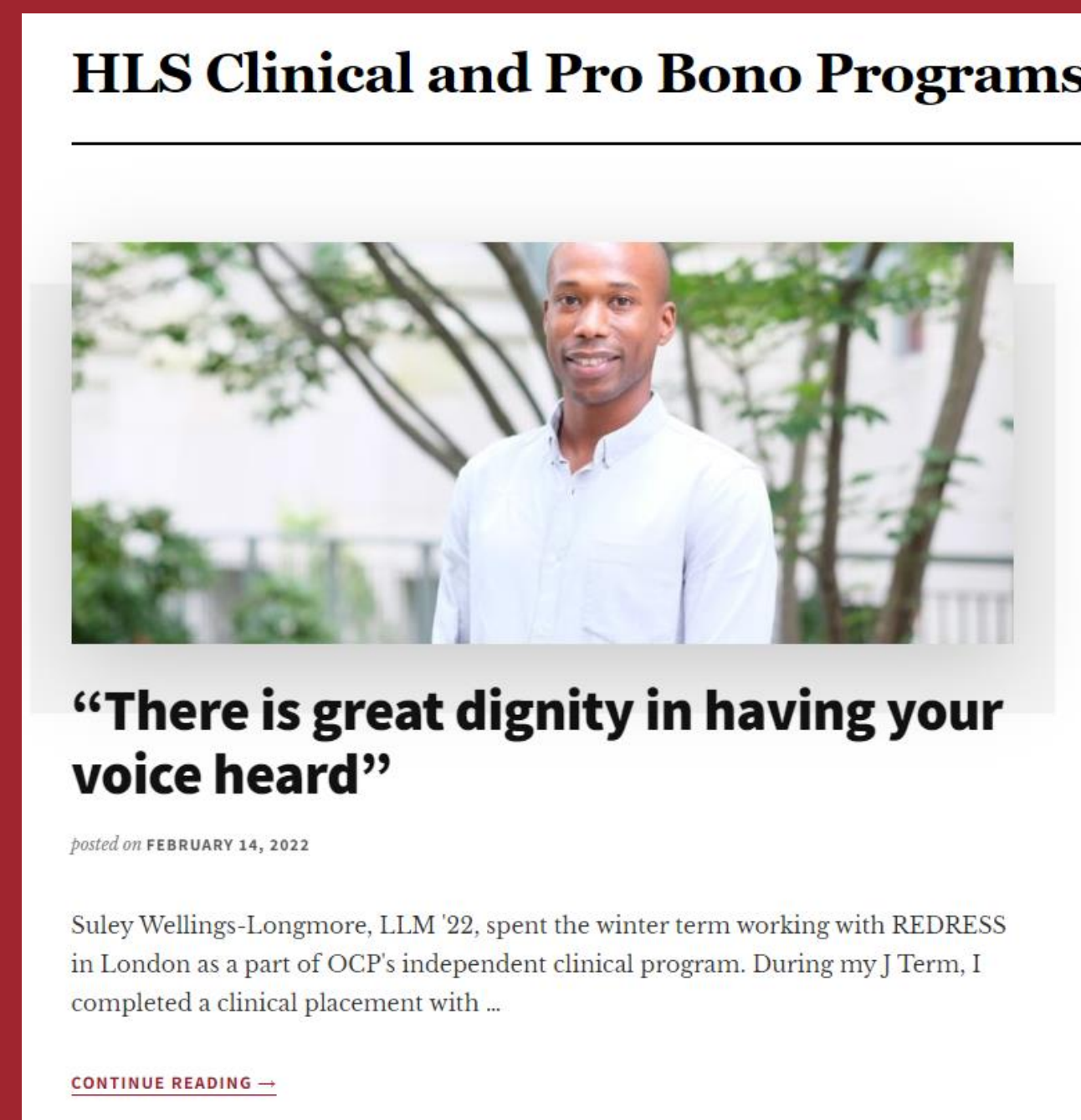
## Website

*[hls.harvard.edu/dept/clinical](https://hls.harvard.edu/dept/clinical)*



## Blog

*[clinics.law.harvard.edu](https://clinics.law.harvard.edu)*



## Newsletters

Released during Pro Bono Week in October and Commencement in May

Check out the Class of 2022's here:

*<https://clinics.law.harvard.edu/commencement-newsletter-2022>*