**OVERVIEW**

In the Democracy and the Rule of Law Clinic, students work with the nonpartisan nonprofit Protect Democracy on impact litigation, policy advocacy to local, state, and federal officials, and other strategies to defeat the authoritarian threat to U.S. democracy, build more resilient democratic institutions, and protect a free, fair, and fully-informed democracy. Almost all of Protect Democracy’s legal work involves novel questions in highly contested areas; as its advocacy goals necessitate high levels of rigor as well as creativity and sophistication, clinic students will tackle clinic projects requiring engagement with complex legal and factual terrain. Students do not need to have any particular background or experience to do meaningful, impactful work in the clinic, and Protect Democracy supervisors also work closely with students to ensure they will reap personal, educational, and professional dividends from their time on the team.

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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall or Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Legal Tools for Protecting Democracy and the Rule of Law in America |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 2 classroom credits |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 3, 4 or 5 clinical credits |
| **LOCATION** | Remote |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

Works to protect democracy across many dimensions – free and fair elections, separation of powers, countering disinformation, and others – using litigation, policy advocacy, strategic communications, and other tools*.*

Students will be assigned to one project team (e.g., a litigation matter or a policy campaign) that they will work with for the whole semester, and will then take on additional discrete projects based on student interest and bandwidth, as well as needs of the host organization.

**SKILLS**

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| Brief writing | Fact investigation |
| Legal research and writing | Interviewing clients |
| Strategizing cases | Drafting reports and policy papers |
| Appellate litigation |
| Collaboration with partner organizations |

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Morning** | **Afternoon** | **Evening** |
| **9:00 to 11:00 a.m.:** Research legal issues regarding standing and justiciability for potential litigation challenging [state X] election subversion legislation.  **11:00 to 11:30 a.m**.: One-on-one zoom check in with project supervisor to discuss feedback on previous week’s assignment and to prepare for afternoon litigation team meeting. | **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.:** Join conference call with Protect Democracy litigation team and co-counsel; present initial research findings on standing issues.  **3:00 to 5:30 p.m.**: Draft sections of white paper on proposed federal legislative changes to restore guardrails against executive branch overreach. | **6:30 to 8:15:** Draft background section of complaint for potential election subversion litigation, drawing on notes of client interviews to describe the harms imposed by the challenged policy. |