# OVERVIEW

The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) serves partner organizations and communities in the U.S. and around the world by providing guidance on cutting-edge food system issues, while engaging law students in the practice of food law and policy. FLPC is committed to advancing a cross-sector, multi-disciplinary and inclusive approach to its work, building partnerships with academic institutions, government agencies, non-profit organizations, private sector actors, and civil society with expertise in public health, the environment, and the economy. FLPC’s work focuses on increasing access to healthy foods, supporting sustainable and equitable food production, reducing waste of healthy, wholesome food, and promoting community-led food system change.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall and Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Food Law and Policy Seminar (Fall or Spring)Policy Advocacy Workshop (Spring) |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 2 classroom credits |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 3, 4, or 5 clinical credits |
| **LOCATION** | On campus at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation suite at 1607 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th floor; students may alsowork remotely |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios |

# TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS

Students in the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) engage in action-based learning to gain a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing our food system. Student clinicians get hands-on experience conducting legal and policy research for individuals, community groups, and government agencies on a wide range of issues. In doing so, students are asked to turn their academic training into creative, tangible legal and policy solutions to real- world food system challenges.

FLPC’s portfolio includes the following four focus areas:

* Community-Led Food System Change
* Food Access and Nutrition
* Food Waste and Recovery
* Sustainable and Equitable Food Production

Students are typically assigned 1-3 projects over the course of the semester. Some of the projects are larger undertakings that will include multiple students and last beyond the end of the clinical experience. Others are small projects and might be a second project for a student working as part of a team on a larger project.

# SKILLS

FLPC student clinicians practice valuable skills not otherwise gained in the classroom. Examples of skills students may gain in FLPC projects include:

* + Public speaking
	+ Meeting clients/client engagement
	+ Interviewing clients and/or stakeholders
	+ Research – federal, state and local, or international
	+ Writing formal policy memos, explanatory guides or toolkits, or public-facing reports
	+ Drafting legislation and regulatory comments
	+ Community organizing and coalition building
	+ Evaluating legislative language
	+ Written/oral testimony
	+ Writing communications/media material (e.g. blog posts and op-eds)
	+ Long-term strategy/vision planning
	+ Litigation support and tracking
	+ Drafting citizen petitions

# TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE

Students who enroll in the Food Law and Policy Clinic have the opportunity to engage in a variety of topics and projects. Work in the clinic is often a combination of independent tasks, partner and/or team-based projects, oral and written advocacy, in-depth legal research and writing, drafting a variety of documents including issue briefs and proposed legislation, and meeting with outside clients, partners, and other stakeholders. Some students have the opportunity to travel domestically to places like Washington, D.C. to meet with clients and engage in advocacy, while others are able to travel internationally to meet with clients working to advocate for changes to food law and policy abroad. Students meet with their project supervisors on a weekly basis and attend rounds presentations where they learn about other projects in the clinic. Clinic work can be completed either in the clinic office or remotely.

Sample schedule

9:00am – 10:00am Meet with project supervisor to discuss recent anti-trust research findings and project outline 10:00am – 10:15am Stop and pet Sookie in the clinic office, remind her she’s a good dog

10:15am – 11:45am Watch Senate hearing on pending legislation, take notes to incorporate into future advocacy 11:45am – 12:15pm Meet with student partner to discuss project outline and split up work on issue brief 12:15pm – 1:15pm Attend project rounds (lunch provided!), learn about other projects taking place in the clinic 1:30pm – 3:30pm Attend Food Law and Policy Seminar

3:45pm – 5:00pm Research state and local cottage food laws to present to community-based client