# OVERVIEW

The Health Law and Policy Clinic (HLPC) advocates for legal, regulatory, and policy reforms to improve the health of people with lower income and living with chronic health conditions. HLPC is a clinical teaching program of Harvard Law School’s Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation and mentors students to become skilled, innovative, and thoughtful practitioners as well as leaders in health and public health law and policy.

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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall or Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Public Health Law and Policy Seminar (Fall); Health Care Rights in the 21st Century (Fall)  Public Health Law and Policy (Spring); Policy Advocacy Workshop (Spring) |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | 2 classroom credits |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | 3, 4 or 5 clinical credits |
| **LOCATION** | HLS; Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation suite at 1607 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th floor (students may also  work remotely) |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | Helios |

# TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS

Students enrolled in the Health Law and Policy Clinic (HLPC) advance a broad range of national and state law and policy initiatives aimed at achieving more equitable health and public health care systems. HLPC’s focus areas include:

* *Health Care Access and Coverage:* HLPC supports increased access to high-quality and comprehensive care and treatment for systemically marginalized communities, particularly people with lower income, Communities of Color, LGBTQ+ communities, and people living with chronic health conditions.
* *Social Determinants of Health:* HLPC bridges the gap between health care and social services by supporting law and policy reforms that address patients’ health-related social needs and reduce health disparities.
* *Health Care Rights Enforcement:* HLPC fights discrimination in health care systems by prosecuting impact litigation and supporting other cases with amicus briefs.

Students are typically assigned 1-2 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

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

* Legal and regulatory analysis and advocacy
* Litigation skills including strategy development; fact development, legal research, analysis and writing, and possible client representation
* Strategic planning
* Writing
* Data analysis
* Coalition building
* Client engagement, interviewing and counseling
* Stakeholder mapping, engagement, and interviews
* Public speaking
* Meeting facilitation
* Development of policy and legal advocacy resources
* Interdisciplinary research and collaboration
* Translation of legal concepts to a lay audience through written resources and presentations

# TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE

Students in HLPC engage in a wide variety of activities depending on assigned project portfolios. A typical work schedule may include independent work, team-based work, advocacy coalition meetings and webinars, court proceedings, and meetings with policymakers. Some students may have the opportunity to travel for their clinic work including site visits with our partners or to Washington, D.C. for briefings and meetings with government officials and their staff. Students balance their clinical hours with other class requirements and are able to work in-person in our offices or remotely.

Students meet regularly with their assigned supervisor and with the entire clinic during lunchtime rounds.

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| **Morning** | **Afternoon** | **Evening** |
| **8:00 – 10:00 am:** Attend a Non-Clinic Class  **10:30 – 11:30 am:** Meet with Clinical Supervisor to discuss progress on key assignments  **11:45 am – 12:30 pm:** Review Supervisor feedback and edit latest draft of research memo | **12:30 - 1:30 pm:** Engage with student colleagues who discuss their projects in Clinic Rounds (lunch provided!)  **1:30 – 2:15 pm:** Join Supervisor in a client call about a state bill soon to be introduced in their legislative session  **2:30 – 3:30 pm:** Present summary of recent court case development to state advocacy coalition | **3:45 – 5:45 pm:** Attend one of the Clinic Seminars |