



# Orientation to Clinical and Pro Bono Programs





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# 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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## The Clinical Program includes:

- In-House Clinics
- Externship Clinics
  - Independent Clinicals

## The Pro Bono Program includes:

- Student Practice Organizations
- Volunteer opportunities with local and national organizations
- Spring Break Pro Bono Trips



# Clinical Programs





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# What is a clinic?

Clinics provide students with hands-on legal experience under the supervision of licensed attorneys, who are trained in individually educating and mentoring students. There is a substantive law class connected to each clinic.

Students in clinics gain experience:

- Directly representing clients
- Advocating in court
- Writing amicus briefs
- Shaping public policy and more!



# 36 In-House and Externship Clinics

## In-House Clinics

Animal Law and Policy Clinic

Consumer Protection Clinic (LSC)

Criminal Justice Institute

Crimmigration Clinic

Cyberlaw Clinic

Education Law Clinic / Trauma Learning and Policy Initiative

Election Law Clinic

Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic

Family Justice Clinic (LSC)

Federal Tax Clinic (LSC)

Food Law and Policy Clinic

Harvard Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Clinic

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau

Harvard Dispute Systems Design Clinic

Health Law and Policy Clinic

Housing Law Clinic (LSC)

International Human Rights Clinic

Institute to End Mass Incarceration Clinic

LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic (LSC)

Mediation Clinic

Religious Freedom Clinic

Transactional Law Clinics

Veterans Law and Disability Benefits Clinic (LSC)

## Externship Clinics

Capital Punishment Clinic

Child Advocacy Program

Criminal Justice Appellate Clinic

Criminal Prosecution Clinic

Democracy and the Rule of Law Clinic

Employment Law Clinic

Federal Courts Clinic

Government Lawyer: State Attorney General

Government Lawyer: Semester in Washington

Government Lawyer: U.S. Attorney

Judicial Process in Trial Courts Clinic

Sports Law Clinic

Supreme Court Litigation 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.



## Election Law Clinic

The Election Law Clinic has had a series of wins, most recently in the 11th Circuit Court, in a case against Jacksonville, Florida's City Council, arguing to replace a racially gerrymandered district map that suppressed the impact of Black voters in the city.



## International Human Rights Clinic

In Kosovo, the clinic launched a report holding the United Nations accountable for placing hundreds of displaced members of the Roma community in housing where they were exposed to lead poisoning.



# Independent Clinical Program

Design a custom placement to meet your individualized learning goals

## How it works:

- Select a placement organization
- Secure supervising attorney and faculty sponsor
- Choose a paper topic
- Submit an application to OCP

Fall and Spring – 2 or 3 clinical credits

Winter – 2 clinical credits

## Winter Term Funding – By Application

OCP funds domestic projects

ILS funds international projects



# Recent Independent Clinicals



## Federal High Court of Abuja – *Abuja, Nigeria*

Chisom Amanchukwu, JD '23, spent the 2023 winter term working closely with a Justice on the Federal High Court of Abuja, shadowing her daily docket and decision-making process.



## Yazda – *Kuridstan, Iraq*

Rebecca Murphy, JD '23, spent the 2023 winter term creating training materials on international criminal law for the Yazda investigative team.



## Parliamentarians for Global Action – *The Hague, Netherlands*

Ennely Medina, JD '23, spent 2023 winter term diving into research to produce a memo for her team and had the chance to watch a trial at the International Criminal Court.



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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
- Employment Law Clinic

## Draft Memoranda and Briefs

- Supreme Court Litigation Clinic
- Health Law & Policy Clinic
- Democracy and the Rule of Law Clinic
- Environmental Law & Policy Clinic

## Trial Work

- Criminal Justice Institute
- Housing Law Clinic
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Criminal Prosecution Clinic





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# Clinical Registration

## **Policies**

- One clinic per semester
- Clinical credit maximum: 16

## **In-House and Externship Clinics**

- Preferencing or By Application
- Preferencing lottery process for the following year occurs in late March/early April for rising 2Ls and 3Ls
- Students enter preferences for the entire year – fall, winter, and spring terms

## **By Application Registration**

- Clinics that are by application are not included in preferencing
- Each has its own deadline and application process
- Deadlines in spring, summer, and fall

## **Advanced Clinical Program**

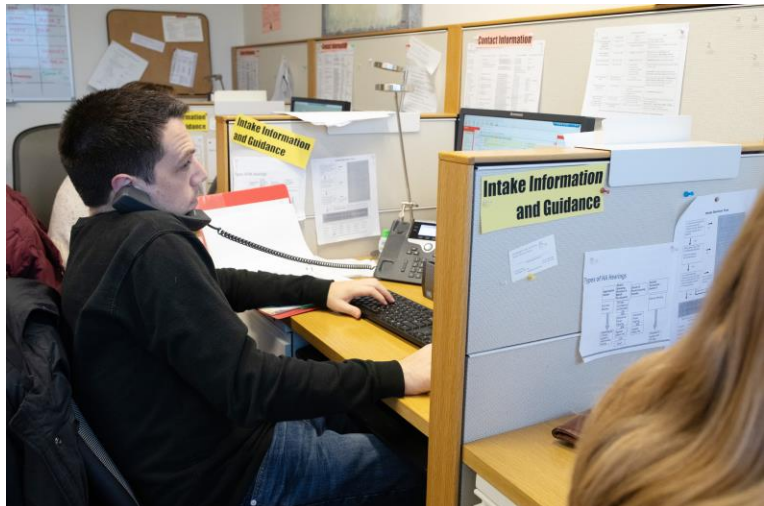
- Apply to continue your work with the same clinic across subsequent semesters
- Not a part of clinical registration preferencing





# Pro Bono Program





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# Pro Bono Program

HLS has a strong commitment to community and public service

Students are required to engage in 50 hours of pro bono work before graduation

Pro Bono work can begin first day 1L year.  
Students have a wide range of opportunities including:

- 11 Student Practice Organizations
- Spring Break pro bono projects
- Individual pro bono placements



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# Student Practice Organizations

Join an SPO your 1L, 2L, or 3L year

Hours count towards HLS pro bono requirement

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 Spring 2022, a student in the Tenant Advocacy Project won the reinstatement of her client's Section 8 housing voucher during an administrative hearing with the Cambridge Housing Authority, ensuring that the family of 7 remained housed.



# Clinics

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- Open to 2Ls and 3Ls
- Join through registration and application process
- Eligible for academic credit and pro bono hours
- Led by faculty, clinical instructors, and lecturers who provide supervision and education

# Student Practice Organizations (SPOs)

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- Open to 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls
- Join at the beginning of each semester
- Eligible for pro bono hours
- Student-run organizations in conjunction with a supervising attorney

# Individual Pro Bono Work

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## **How does it work?**

Legal work on an individual and unpaid basis for HLS pro bono credit under the supervision of a licensed attorney

## **Where can you work?**

Non-profits, government agencies, law firms in limited circumstances, or with HLS faculty members who are licensed to practice, in-person and remotely around the world

## **Where can you find pro bono opportunities?**

By searching the Public Service section in Helios, Administrative Updates, OCP website listings, or an advising appointment with OCP. Design your own!

# Spring Break Pro Bono Trips

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## **When?**

In March, for a minimum of 5 days

## **Where?**

Outside and within the Boston area, often response to current events

Competitive process, proposals and applications are due to OCP in the fall

Funding is provided by OCP





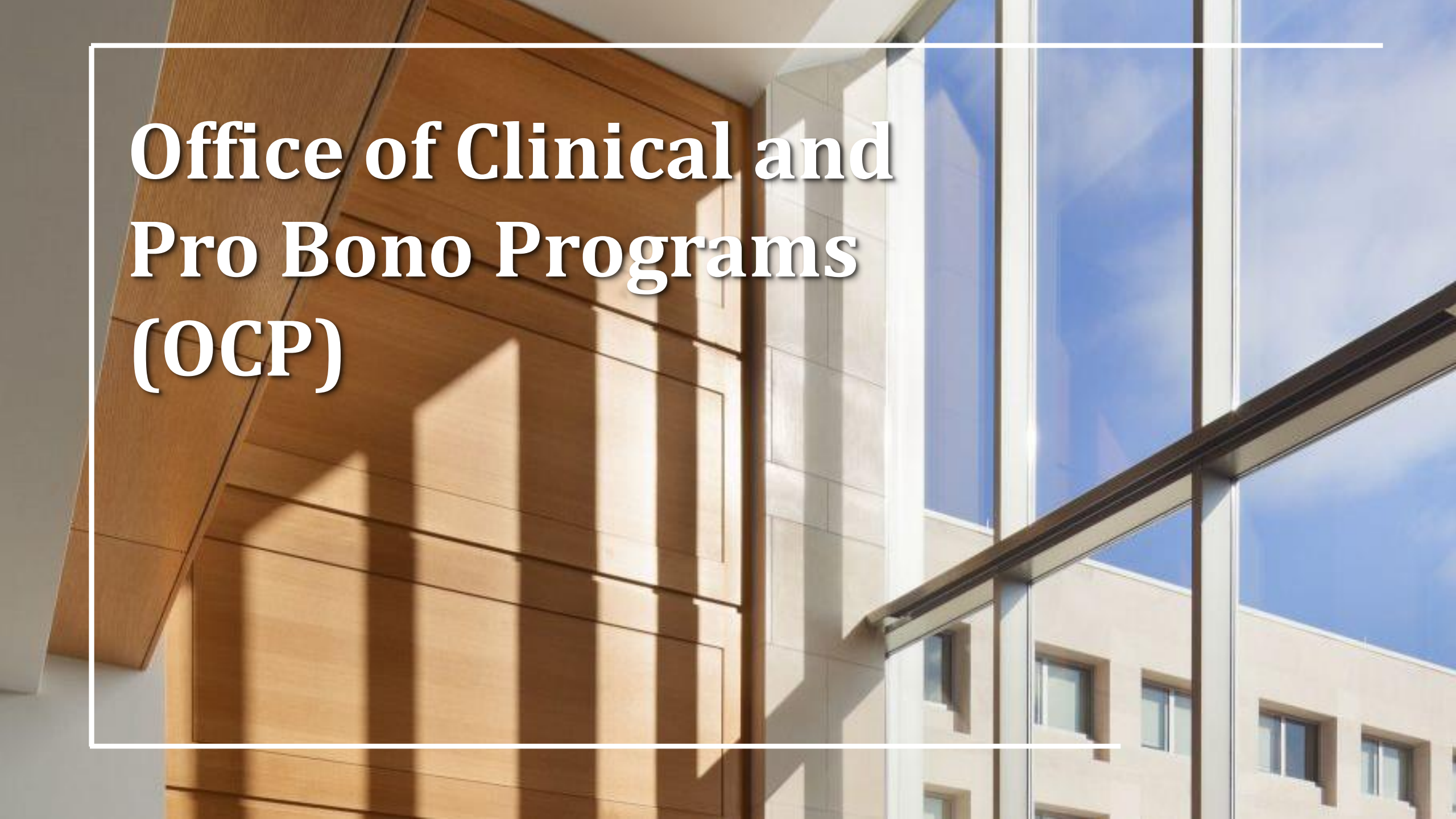
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# Pro Bono Stories

In 2023, students from the Harvard Immigration Project travelled to San Diego, California over spring break to do legal research and work directly with clients at the local detention center, on the border, and in a shelter.



In 2019, students traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico to work with Corporación ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña, an organization working on environmental restoration and sustainability for the communities surrounding El Caño Martín Peña, a polluted tidal channel at the center of the community.

A photograph of a modern building facade. The left side features a wall of horizontal wood slats, with strong shadows cast across it. To the right is a glass curtain wall reflecting a clear blue sky. The text 'Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs (OCP)' is overlaid in white serif font on the left side.

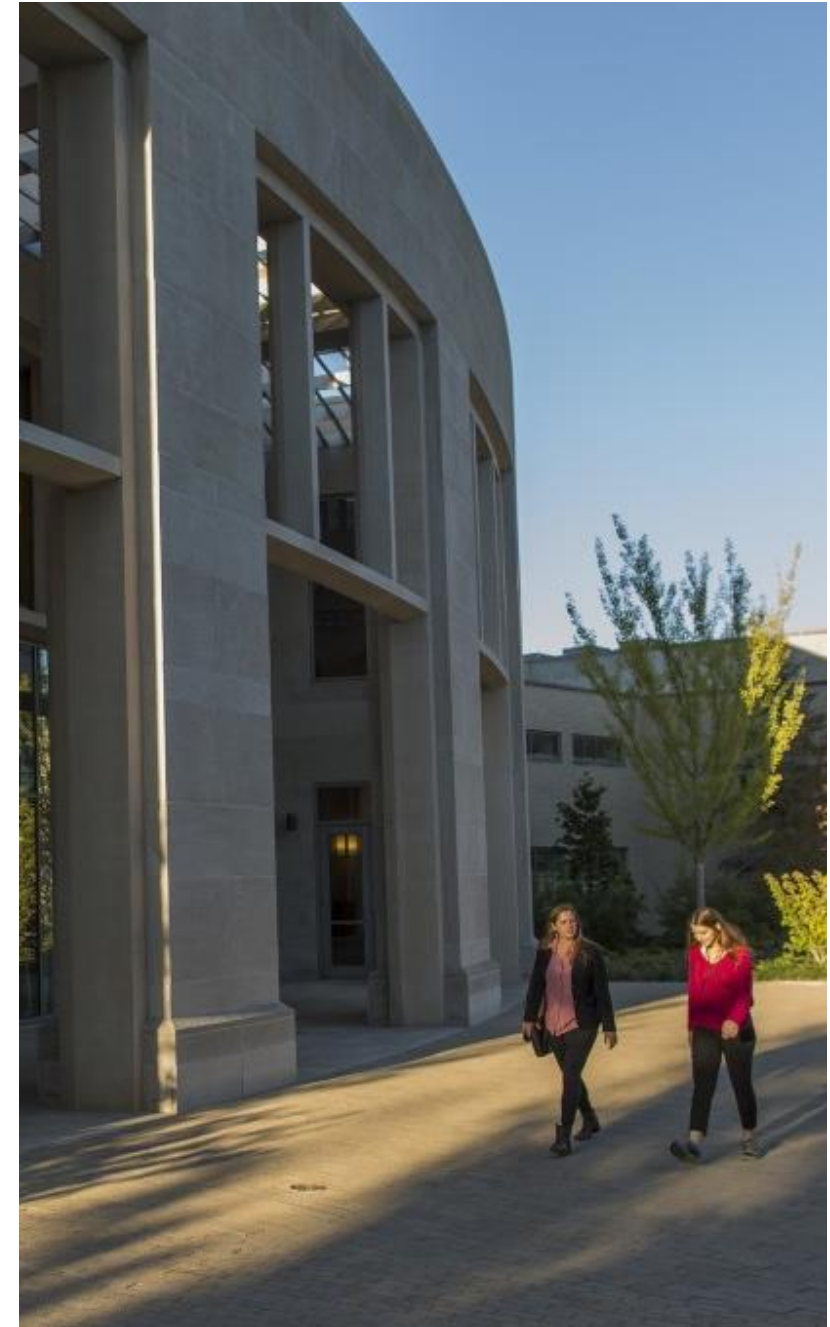
# Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs (OCP)



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# What does OCP do?

- Develops clinical curriculum and manages clinical registration
- Manages externship placements and the Pro Bono Program
- Serves as a resource and advisor for students during their clinical experience
- Responsible for budgetary and management oversight of all clinics and SPOs
- Provides support and assistance to clinics where needed





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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 HLS and NY pro bono requirements

# Communications from OCP

## Website

[hls.harvard.edu/clinics](https://hls.harvard.edu/clinics)

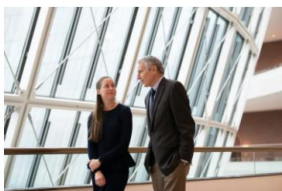
### Explore the Clinics

Clinics give students hands-on legal experience under the supervision of attorneys trained in individually educating and mentoring students. With clinical placements in-house and at independent organizations across the country in both public and private sectors, and the opportunity for students to create their own independent placements, HLS offers more clinical opportunities than any law school in the world.

#### In-House Clinics



#### Externship Clinics



#### Independent Clinical Program

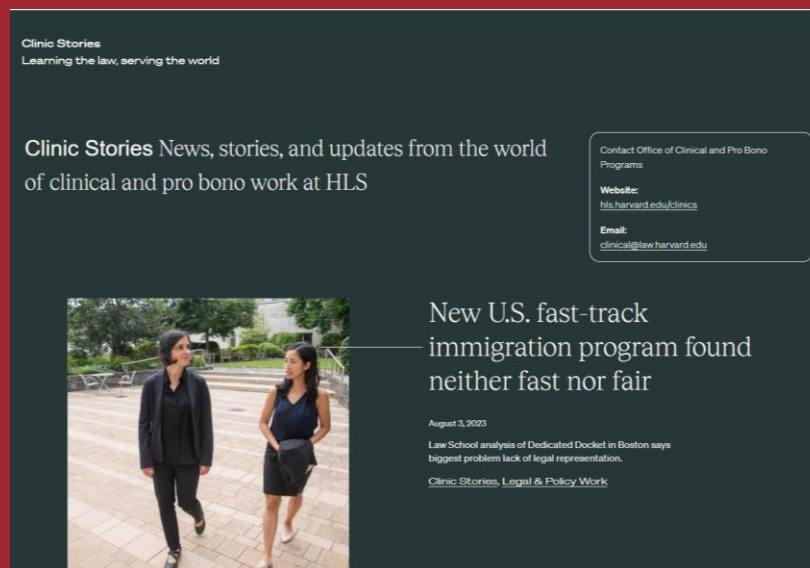


#### Clinical Policies and Registration



## Blog

[hls.harvard.edu/clinic-stories](https://hls.harvard.edu/clinic-stories)



## Commencement Newsletter

Check out the Class of 2023's here:

[hls.harvard.edu/clinical-commencement-newsletter-2023/](https://hls.harvard.edu/clinical-commencement-newsletter-2023/)



# Contact us!

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