



OVERVIEW

The Animal Law & Policy Clinic works to advance the interests of animals through litigation, administrative rulemaking, policy initiatives, organizing, and other legal advocacy avenues. You will gain direct experience with a broad range of federal and state laws—such as the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act—and develop critically important strategic thinking and analytical skills. You will have significant responsibility over your projects, and will learn best practices of case management, including how to juggle multiple projects and how to work with co-counsel.

SEMESTER(S) OFFERED	Fall and Spring
CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT	Animal Law & Policy Clinical Seminar
COURSE CREDITS	2 classroom credits
CLINICAL CREDITS	2, 3 or 4 clinical credits
LOCATION	HLS; 1607 Massachusetts Ave, 3 rd Floor
REGISTRATION TYPE	Helios

TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS

Students typically work on two cases or projects each semester. Instructors assign projects at the beginning of the semester after surveying students' case/project preferences. The Clinic's clients are typically animal-protection or environmental non-profits and may also include individual advocates or scientists.

Starting this fall, the Clinic will focus on the following core areas:

- federal animal welfare enforcement (captive animals);
- wildlife & biodiversity;
- farmed animal welfare; and
- global animal welfare.

Students working on litigation projects may develop standing analyses, draft briefs and motions, prepare discovery, and interview clients and witnesses. For example, this semester students are drafting an amicus brief to be filed in the D.C. Circuit in an Endangered Species Act case challenging the downlisting of a species facing threats due to climate change. Students working on policy projects may prepare petitions for rulemaking or comments on federal actions that impact animals. For example, in 2022, the Clinic worked alongside organizations, including the Center for Biological Diversity, to submit a listing petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify the Florida manatee as endangered. Students recently drafted the notice of intent to sue the Service based on the agency's failure to timely issue a finding on the manatee listing petition.

The Clinic also pursues a variety of think-tank style research projects to incubate novel ideas and approaches to animal legal advocacy. This work typically involves both legal research and investigations using records requests, witness interviews, and other investigative techniques.

SKILLS

Research and persuasive writing	Brief drafting for federal litigation	Policy and advocacy work
Strategizing cases	Collaborating with partner organizations	Working with experts
Presentation Skills	Preparing comments	Interviewing clients and witnesses
Media and communications	Client counseling	Creative lawyering

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE:**

Student clinicians may, but are not required to, work at the ALPC office space on campus. Each project will be assigned at least two students. Student teams typically meet with their supervisor every 1-2 weeks, depending on the needs of the project/case. Here are sample weeks at the ALPC:

Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Factual Background Section of Endangered Species Act case complaint; identify questions for client • Draft agenda for client meeting • Meet with supervisor to prepare for client meeting • Lead client meeting to gather information for complaint that will be filed in federal court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical staff meeting over lunch • Review briefing documents in Tule elk case and prepare questions for moot • Serve as judge for moot with elk case litigator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess likelihood of success of novel claim against slaughterhouse under federal law and draft recommendation for client • Interview potential standing declarant for roadside zoo case