YOUR PUBLIC INTEREST ROADMAP:

EXPLORING PUBLIC INTEREST/PUBLIC SERVICE LAW
AT COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

Prepared for the exclusive use of Columbia Law School students and graduates
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INTRODUCTION: EXPLORING PUBLIC INTEREST AND GOVERNMENT PATHWAYS AT COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

Welcome to Columbia Law School! We are dedicated to providing opportunities, mentoring, and counseling for those students who are interested in exploring careers in public interest or public service (government), and for those who might engage in pro bono work wherever they practice. Public interest and public service careers are exciting and satisfying, enabling you to use your lawyering skills to make an impact on issues you are passionate about and that are vital to the impacted communities. This guide will serve as a roadmap for your three years at Columbia, providing knowledge about all that is offered as well as a general timeline for taking advantage of those opportunities. Please read the entire guide for full information.

Students who are interested in pursuing public interest and public service careers can receive further guidance in planning a course of study for 2L and 3L year by consulting our Public Interest/Public Service Curricular Guidelines. The Curricular Guidelines publication provides extensive advice on choosing classes and co-curricular activities that will help you gain substantive knowledge and skills needed for different paths to public interest work. Please see an SJI adviser if you are interested in receiving a copy of our Curricular Guidelines.

Here is a quick snapshot to get you started:

**1Ls: Jump right in!**

- **Programming:** Attend public interest and government programs presented by Social Justice Initiatives (SJI), Columbia centers, or student organizations and review pre-recorded sessions. Hear from practitioners, learn about areas of practice, and begin to plan your own path. Attend sessions on Columbia’s generous loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) and on financing a public interest career. For up-to-date information about programs, be sure to check LawCal and the SJI Newsletter!
- **Student activities:** Build your community and your skills. Participate in student organizations or in activities like moot courts. In the spring, consider applying for a position on a journal.
- **Summer job exploration:** 1L summer is important to your public interest or government career path.
  - Apply for Columbia Summer Funding (CSF) or the Human Rights Internship Program (HRIP).
  - Attend SJI’s mandatory programming on planning your job search, crafting your resume, drafting cover letters, and interviewing for public interest positions to help you prepare for your job search.
  - Check out SJI’s job search tools, including our comprehensive Public Interest Job Search Toolkit, and submit your resume and cover letters to SJI’s Resume Review Portal for
quick review by an SJI adviser.
✓ Search for job opportunities on PSJD.org and Symplicity. Read evaluations of summer internships written by other students on Symplicity.
✓ Attend the Public Interest Legal Career (PILC) Fair (held in February) to meet employers and learn about opportunities, including summer internships, and consider participating in Columbia’s Spring On-Campus Interview (OCI) Program.
✓ Participate in SJI’s Mock Interview Program over the winter.
✓ Keep in mind that developing relationships with your professors will be important down the road for recommendations for fellowship, job, and clerkship applications.
✓ Remember to meet with your SJI adviser—we’re here to help you throughout this process!

• **Experiential learning:** In the spring, attend information sessions on clinics and externships for 2L year—applications are due in late spring. Experiential learning is key to developing as a public interest or government lawyer!

• **Pro Bono:** Consider getting involved with a pro bono project.

**1L Summer:**

- Make the most of your summer internship. Note that 1L summer is the time to plan for 2L course selection and your 2L summer. Consider doing informational interviews with some organizations. See the Public Interest Job Search Toolkit for more information on informational interviews. Meet with an SJI adviser to discuss your plans and to work on updating your resume and cover letters as needed.

**2Ls: Continue to do everything you did 1L year and more!**

- **Programming:** Continue to take advantage of the wide array of programming available at the Law School, such as information sessions on postgraduate fellowships and on funding your public interest career. Remember that programs on substantive issues can be even more valuable as a 2L, when your interests have started to crystallize. Programs that feature representatives from organizations you are interested in and that include opportunities to interact with grads working in public interest/public service are especially valuable. Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with the presenters afterwards if you have a special interest!

- **Experiential learning, classes, and pro bono:** Take a clinic and/or externship, or do a term-time internship (for credit if you like) as an alternative. Attend the information session on the DC Externship. Attend a Pro Bono Scholars information session. Take classes to build your knowledge and skills on an array of topics. Develop relationships with professors and practitioners along the way. Consider working as a teaching assistant or research assistant

- **Student activities and pro bono:** Get involved! Help lead a student organization. Work on a journal. Publish an article or note on a public interest topic. Find interesting pro bono work.

- **Obtaining a summer position:** 2L summer is very important to obtaining a postgraduate job. Intern with a public interest or government employer in a field of interest. To find a job, attend fairs (like the Equal Justice Works, or EJW, Fair and the PILC Fair) and participate in Columbia’s Fall On-Campus Interview (OCI) Program. In the fall, continue to
consult with SJI about 2L summer and about updating your resume, crafting cover letters, and preparing for interviews. If you decide to work at a private sector law firm, network with public interest practitioners over the summer, do pro bono in a field of interest, and/or consider splitting your summer. Remember to register for Columbia Summer Funding (CSF) or the Human Rights Internship Program (HRIP) for 2L summer, if applicable.

- **Preparing for postgraduate employment**: Over 2L summer, start planning for postgraduate employment. Network. Explore postgraduate fellowships and government honors programs. Let SJI know if you will be applying for fellowships or honors programs; we will work with you. Note: some applications are due at the end of 2L summer.

- **Clerkships**: Think about whether you want to clerk after graduation. Meet with the **Office of Judicial Clerkships** to find out more. Note: under the new hiring plan, you should not apply for clerkships until after you have four semesters of grades.

**3Ls:** Over the summer, fall, and winter of your 3L year, you should continue to do the above, as well as:

- **Postgraduate fellowships and job search**: Start applying for fellowships (project- and/or organization-based) and/or government honors programs in late summer. In the fall, explore other opportunities on Symbiosis, PSJD.org, and other sites. Consider applying for Columbia postgraduate fellowships during the fall and winter. Conversations with SJI advisers professors, clinic and externship directors, and Columbia graduates and practitioners will be important throughout.

- **Financial planning**: Attend financial programming hosted by SJI, the Financial Aid Office, and SPIN. Meet with Financial Aid Office to learn more about LRAP. Apply for the Public Service Bridge Loan if it would be helpful to you. Remember to apply for LRAP and Enhanced LRAP as appropriate.

- **Clerkships**: Consider applying for a clerkship in consultation with the Office of Judicial Clerkships.

- **Pro bono**: Complete your hours in a timely fashion and submit them to SJI!

Visit the **Student Life Roadmaps webpage** for more information to help you plan your time at the Law School.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the advantages of exploring public interest or government opportunities as a student?
There are several reasons to explore public interest and government work while at Columbia. You will learn about areas you might be interested in pursuing during your summers or after graduation. You will also begin to make connections in the larger world—with fellow students, professors, Columbia graduates, and other practitioners. Developing these relationships is crucial for charting your path, and for postgraduate fellowship and job applications. You may have passion for a particular public interest subject area, and whether you pursue that passion as a full time lawyer or as part of your postgraduate pro bono work, developing knowledge of the practice while in law school will be useful and exciting. Finally, you will have fun learning about—and participating in—interesting, meaningful opportunities available to you both during law school and after you graduate.

Is experiential learning important?
Yes! If you are considering a career in public interest or government—or if you are simply exploring your options—you should be sure to participate in an array of meaningful experiential learning opportunities while at Columbia. Most successful applicants for public interest and government jobs will have had externship or clinical experiences, or will have participated in practicums. These opportunities enable you to develop knowledge and skills which are critically important for many public interest and government opportunities. They also enable you to get to know professors and practitioners well, and provide you with a source of mentorship. Finally, these experiences allow you to explore areas of interest, provide insights into real lawyering, and allow you to build your credentials for public interest or government careers or pro bono work. (Please note that some private sector employers also prefer that students engage in experiential learning as preparation for practice.)

Experiential learning is so important that the American Bar Association now requires every law school student to graduate with at least six experiential law credits.

In addition to or instead of enrolling in one of the Law School’s clinics, externships, or practicums, some students intern with a New York-based public interest or government organization during the school year. This is an opportunity to develop your expertise and increase your contacts; and employers frequently hire individuals who have previously interned with them or with similar organizations. (See “Should I Do a Term-Time Internship?,” below.)

What is the difference between a legal clinic and an externship, and how do I choose one or more?
Columbia offers students many opportunities to work with real clients, either through legal clinics or externships. Both clinics and externships provide opportunities to serve clients or organizations, in addition to having a classroom component. Each has its own benefits, and you can do both a clinic and externships while at Columbia, but not in the same semester.

The clinics are on campus, and are taught for the most part by full-time faculty who are also experi-
enced practitioners in their fields. Externships are off campus. Students work onsite at an organization and are taught by adjunct faculty who are experts in the particular field—all of this under the overall supervision of the director of externships.

Columbia has many options, so you need to think carefully. First, timing is an issue. Not all clinics and externships are offered every semester. Second, you should think about the issues and skills on which each clinic or externship focuses. Try to choose those that interest you the most and are geared to the skills you want to develop; talk to students who have done them. Third, think about time commitment. Clinics generally give students more responsibility for their cases than externships do, and therefore involve a greater time commitment and award a greater number of credits. Additionally, some offerings are just a one-semester commitment, while others require two.

Please remember: if at first you do not get into a clinic or externship, try again later. Space is limited, and sometimes 3Ls and LL.M.s get preference. This should not discourage you from applying.

In addition to clinics and externships, we encourage you to explore other types of experiential learning options at Columbia Law School, such as policy labs and simulations.

More information:

law.columbia.edu/experiential-learning

Should I do a term-time internship?
Yes, you should definitely consider doing a term-time internship during your 2L or 3L year. Term-time internships are invaluable for building up skills, contacts and knowledge about “real jobs” in the public interest and government worlds. Many Columbia students enjoy interning part-time at organizations as a balance to their class work, studying and other activities.

A term-time internship differs from a clinic or externship as it generally does not provide academic credit (more below) and does not have a seminar component. Term-time internships can provide more flexibility for students than clinics and externships, as they can be created according to a particular student’s schedule and interests, and require less of a time commitment. They are also a good opportunity for students who do not get into a clinic or externship, but desire experiential learning; or are interested in issues that are not covered by existing clinics or externships. Additionally, an internship might give a student an opportunity to gain more advanced skills in an area covered by one of the Columbia offerings.

Columbia students have a big advantage by being in New York City—there are a myriad of public interest opportunities at our doorstep. Many organizations are thrilled to have a Columbia intern during the year, and often give interesting work and better supervision than in summer when there are more interns competing for attention. In addition, it is often easier to get a term-time position, so if you did not get your “dream job” during the summer, you should apply again for a term-time position with that organization and you will likely have better luck.

To find internships, students can research organizations and contact them directly or view internship postings on Symplicity or PSJD.org. Unlike externships, there is no academic credit—unless
you apply for credit as an independent project under Supervised J.D. Experiential Study L6695 (and choose an academic adviser to supervise you), or you link your internship to a course offering. Note that some employers require that you get academic credit or pro bono credit to intern with them, in which case you must explore with your adviser how to get that credit.

* For Columbia pro bono credit, an internship must be unpaid and not for academic credit. An internship that is paid or for credit, however, may count towards the New York State Bar pro bono admission requirements. Visit law.columbia.edu/pro-bono for more information.

Are there certain classes I should take?
In addition to taking clinics, externships or practicums, which we strongly recommend, there are many other class offerings that can expand your knowledge or help hone skills, which would be useful in your public interest or government work. You should think carefully about which classes to take. There are no “mandatory” classes for getting a public interest or government job, although there are classes that could be helpful, depending on your career direction. For example, if you are interested in litigating, you should consider taking classes that will develop knowledge and skills; these might include classes like evidence, trial practice, federal courts, and/or negotiation. If you are interested in certain substantive areas, you should be sure to take a few classes in those subjects and get to know the professors. It is also important to take foundational classes, such as Legislation and Regulation, Criminal Adjudication, and Federal Courts. They may not, in themselves, be specifically public interest or public service-oriented, but they will help lay a foundation for your legal advocacy as a public interest or government lawyer. In addition, consider taking some demanding classes that develop your legal knowledge and demonstrate your intellectual ability. Clinics, externships, and practicums, even those not focused on your particular area of interest, often have broad benefits in providing skills and knowledge to be a public interest or government lawyer in a range of fields. Finally, you want to make sure you take a breadth of classes and not focus on just one thing. It is often helpful to have exposure to several areas of public interest law, since issues and advocacy approaches often overlap or are intersectional in nature.

Be aware that classes are not available every semester, as offerings change and professors take leaves, so plan your schedule accordingly.

Meet with an SJI adviser, Student Services adviser, or professors to get their advice as you choose your classes. If you plan to clerk, make sure to consider what would be helpful for that as well. (You can talk to the Office of Judicial Clerkships or to professors for advice.)

What other factors should I consider when selecting courses?
When selecting courses, you should also consider what kind of learner you are, what you are looking for in a class, and how the class will fit into the broader scheme of your time in law school. Keep the following factors in mind as you plan your schedule:

(1) Learning Environment: Do you prefer large lectures or smaller seminars which will allow for more discussion? Select courses where you can envision yourself being an active participant. Keep in mind that smaller classes often provide greater opportunity to build relationships with your professors, which will help you get the most out of your time at the Law School.
(2) Instruction: Are there specific instructors you are hoping to learn from and that might be able to cultivate your interest in a particular field?

(3) Timing: You should also consider the timing of your courses throughout each semester and your years at law school. Consider whether it might be helpful to take certain foundational courses before advanced courses, and make sure that you will have time to take the prerequisite and recommended classes needed for certain advanced courses. As you map out a plan for your courses, keep in mind semester credit minimums, graduation requirements, and that you will want to maintain a balanced and varied workload with a mix of hands-on learning, substantive law courses and skills-based courses in different areas of the law.

(4) Interests: Think about what your goals are for law school and what subject areas are important to you and/or your career goals. Are there other related topics that would allow you to build broad knowledge and be a well-rounded advocate in your field? You may also want to enroll in a few courses that seem unrelated to your career objectives, but that you find especially interesting and engaging.

(5) Writing Skills: If you are not doing a Note or another significant writing activity outside of the classroom, think about taking course(s) that involve significant writing. In addition, the two Law School writing requirements should be treated as opportunities to improve your skills, explore areas that interest you, and to form a mentoring relationship with a faculty member.

More information:
law.columbia.edu/courses

Should I work on a journal?
Journal work can be interesting and satisfying, especially if the journal focuses on a topic you are interested in. Public interest employers generally value public interest journals over business-related journals. However, some public interest employers—particularly those that do direct representation and trial work—do not value journals as much as clinics, externships, or internships. Organizations that do a lot of complex litigation, appellate work, or policy may view journals as good preparation. Judges, academic institutions, and some employers look particularly favorably on the Columbia Law Review. Publishing a note or other legal research and writing experiences are also of interest to them.

More information:
law.columbia.edu/community-life/student-life/student-organizations-journals

Should I participate in a specialized moot court?
The Law School offers the option to participate in various international and domestic specialized moot courts. Specialized moot courts require that students submit an application, and a limited number of participants are accepted. Many of these moot courts are focused on public interest topics, such as the Frederick Douglass Moot Court, the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) Moot Court, and the Williams Institute Moot Court. Joining a specialized moot court will allow you to engage in a subject area that you are interested in and to work with others with
similar interests. These moot courts are usually small and can provide a sense of community for students.

*More information:*
law.columbia.edu/academics/experiential/moot-court

**How much pro bono should I do as a 1L?**

Law school is a big adjustment, and everyone does it at their own pace. We generally advise 1Ls to take time to acclimate to law school (and focus on classes), and to take on pro bono projects if and when they feel ready. For those who are interested in exploring pro bono options during 1L year, and feel that having some interaction with the “real” world outside of Columbia will be motivating rather than overwhelming, SJI and student organizations have developed in-house projects with manageable and flexible time commitments. There are also off-campus opportunities suitable for some 1Ls. Make sure to check emails sent from the Pro Bono Office about available opportunities or check our website. **An important note: 1L pro bono hours do not count towards the Columbia 40-hour pro bono graduation requirement**, but they will go on your transcript as voluntary pro bono work and may count for the New York State Bar pro bono admission requirement. Any student who completes 100 or more hours of pro bono work (including voluntary pro bono hours completed during 1L year) will be honored at SJI’s annual Honors Dinner in the spring.

*More information:*
law.columbia.edu/pro-bono

**I’m thinking about a public interest career, but how will I get a job? How do I learn about fellowships?**

Although the public interest job market can be a challenge, there are things you can do so that you are well equipped to navigate it. First, make sure to take advantage of public interest opportunities that Columbia has to offer, as outlined in this guide. Secondly, work closely with an SJI adviser during your three years at the Law School to explore and prepare for postgraduate opportunities. Third, be prepared that you will not have a job when many of your Columbia peers do; the private sector timeline is very different than public interest, and you should not feel badly about it! You will be rewarded for your diligence and patience by securing a career that is meaningful and satisfying to you.

We strongly urge you to consider applying for postgraduate fellowships and/or honors programs, as this is a direct path to public interest or government employment. Although the process can be time-consuming, it is well worth it, since it is a means of designing or obtaining your “dream” job, and is often the best entrée to public interest or government jobs. If you are interested in fellowships, SJI will assign you a fellowship adviser at the end of your 2L year to work with you, and provide you with resources like our *Postgraduate Fellowship Toolkit*. For project-based fellowships, you will need to begin working to secure a host organization and a project during the summer after 2L year. Applications for these fellowships, and for organization-based fellowships (which are more like standard job applications), are due starting early in 3L fall. Make sure to contact SJI’s *director of public interest professional development* to get started.
If you are interested in government fellowships or honors programs, you should work closely with SJI's director of government programs. Some government honors program applications are due at the end of 2L summer and early in 3L fall.

Make sure to set up an account on PSJD.org to monitor fellowship opportunities and consult with SJI regularly.

**How will I pay my bills?**

As you consider going into a career in public interest or public service, it is common to have concerns about what your salary will be, how to manage student loans, and whether you will be able to have the quality of life that you would like to have. We take these concerns seriously. In addition to the resources listed below, SJI offers programming around financial considerations when going into public interest careers, including panel discussions where students can have frank talks with alumni about finances. The SJI senior grad adviser is also available at any point during your law school career and beyond for discussions around financial issues and has extensive knowledge about the Law School's LRAP program.

Some good news is that many public interest and government salaries have risen in the past few years and, when combined with Columbia's generous Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) benefits, support a comfortable standard of living. Many Columbia grads in public service report that they are able to live comfortably with the assistance of LRAP. Columbia has just instituted a new public service bridge loan for recent graduates, which provides further support of $10,000 to cover summer expenses for public interest graduates before beginning their first jobs as public interest and public service lawyers.

Most government agencies and many large nonprofit organization salaries are available on their websites. SJI can provide information about other public interest employers—including with recent data from salary surveys of Columbia graduates and sample budgets. SJI can also provide advice regarding negotiating salaries. The SJI and Financial Aid Office websites contain information about LRAP (including FAQs and a detailed program guide), Enhanced LRAP Fellowships, and other key financial information as well.

*More information:*
Financial Aid Office: law.columbia.edu/financial-aid
SJI LRAP Information: law.columbia.edu/social-justice/financing
SJI Salary Survey (or law.columbia.edu/social-justice/financing)
EXPLORING SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF INTEREST AT COLUMBIA

As you begin to explore your substantive interests, it is helpful to have an idea of the offerings available. For example, if you are interested in immigration, you might want to know about relevant clinics, externships, student groups, journals, and other options. This guide will help you get a sense of those options. Note that we are not recommending that you participate in every available opportunity, but rather hope to provide a sense of the choices you might consider.

As you think about substantive areas of law, you should consider what foundational knowledge and skills would, once acquired, make you a better advocate in those areas. This might lead you to options not specifically related to public interest. Consider foundational courses (such as administrative law, federal courts, advanced constitutional law, legislation, evidence) and options that will increase your lawyering and leadership skills more broadly, like clinics, externships, or practicums (even if they do not directly relate to your primary interest) or “hands-on” classes (such as trial practice, negotiation, transactional lawyering, or other skills-based classes). Talk to an adviser or faculty member about how to sequence your classes wisely.

Please note that the lists of opportunities provided in this section are not exhaustive, but merely provide a snapshot to help you get started. Seek advice from your SJI or Student Services adviser, professors, or mentors when choosing opportunities to pursue.

We also suggest that you expose yourself to a variety of topics to better assess what interests you the most. Many areas are intersectional, so you will benefit from broader exposure.

The following is intended to lay out examples of the many options available to you at Columbia Law School. Not all of the opportunities listed are available at all times and this does not provide an exhaustive list of offerings. Classes, clinics, externships, and other opportunities are subject to change based on availability. Please check the current curriculum guide for more information.

See the following pages for opportunities to explore your interest in:

- Children and Youth/Education Rights
- Civil Rights/Racial Justice /Voting Rights
- Constitutional Law/Civil Liberties
- Criminal Law
- Employment/Labor/Work with Dignity
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Government (Federal, State, Local)
- Housing Rights & Homelessness
- Human Rights
- Immigration & Refugee Rights
- LGBTQI Rights
- National Security
- Poverty Law & Economic Justice
- Public Interest/Service Lawyering Skills
- Women’s Rights

There are many other topics you can explore while at Columbia—this is just a sample of the issues and skill-building opportunities available to you!
Exploring Children and Youth/Education Rights*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Community Advocacy Lab Clinic • Family Defense Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS/PRACTICUMS:
Immigrant Youth Advocacy • Representing New York City: New York City Law Department Externship [may do juvenile delinquency matters] • Structural Change in Public Education Policy and Social Change Lab

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Adolescence
Educational Equality: The Role of Law
Schools, Courts and Civic Participation
Topics in Education Law
S. Children and the Law
S. Juvenile Crime and Juvenile Justice

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) • Mentoring Youth through Legal Education • Resilience Advocacy Project • High School Law Institute • Suspension Representation Project

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
High School Law Institute • Columbia Youth Justice Association • Mentoring Youth through Legal Education • Suspension Representation Project • Harlem Tutorial Project • Education Law and Policy Society

CENTERS:
Center for Public Research and Leadership • Center for Institutional and Social Change

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Exploring Civil Rights/Racial Justice/Voting Rights*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Community Advocacy Lab Clinic • Family Defense Clinic • Just Transition Clinic • Sexuality and Gender Law Practicum

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
New York Attorney General Office Social and Environmental Justice Externship • Law, Power and Social Change Externship • NAACP Racial Justice Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Access to Justice: Current Issues and Challenges
Current Issues in Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Civil Liberty and Segregation in Twentieth Century America
Civil Rights
Law of the Political Process
Lawyering for Change
Human Rights at Home: Advancing U.S. Social Justice
Native American Law
Socio-Economic Rights: Theory and Practice
Public Health Law and Social Justice
Vision, Action and Social Change
S. Legal History of American Slavery
S. Critical Race Theory Workshop

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
High School Law Institute

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Race and Law • Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems • Civil Rights Law Society • American Constitution Society (ACS) • American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) • Empowering Women of Color (EWOC) • Affinity Groups: BLSA, APALSA, LALSA, MELSA, NALSA, SALSA • First Generation Professionals

CENTERS:
Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies • Center for Institutional and Social Change • Center for the Study of Law and Culture

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Exploring Constitutional Law (Including First Amendment/Civil Liberties)*

**EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:**
Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic

**EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:**
Arts Law Externship • Constitutional Rights in Life and Death Penalty Cases • Knight First Amendment Institute Externship

**EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:**
Advanced Constitutional Law: First Amendment
Current Issues in Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Ideas of the First Amendment
Global Constitutionalism
Law and Regulation of Social Media
Law in the Internet Society
Modern Constitutional Interpretation & Scholarship
Political Theory and the First Amendment
The Crisis of Constitutional Democracy
The Defense of Freedom of Expression Around the World: The Role of the Advocate

**PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:**
Mentoring Youth through Legal Education [youth debates on constitutional law issues] • High School Law Institute

**JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:**
*Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems* • American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) • American Constitution Society (ACS) • Federalist Society • High School Law Institute

**CENTERS:**
Center for Constitutional Governance • Center for Law and Liberty • Kernochan Center for Law, Media and the Arts

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Exploring Criminal Law (Defense, Prosecution, Death Penalty, Prisoners’ Rights)*

EXAMPLES OF PRACTICUMS:
Abolition: A Social Justice Practicum

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Community Advocacy Lab Clinic • Criminal Defense Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Bronx Defenders Externship on Holistic Defense • Constitutional Rights in Life and Death Penalty Cases • Criminal Appeals Externship • Criminal Prosecution—Manhattan/Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office • Domestic Violence Prosecution Externship • U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York Externship • Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem Community Defense Externship • U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Advanced Criminal Law: The Death Penalty
Advanced Federal Prison Litigation
Black Letter Law/White Collar Crime
Comparative Criminal Justice
International Criminal Courts: Progress, Problems and Prospects
International Criminal Law
Internet and Computer Crimes
Professional Responsibility in Criminal Law
S. The American Bail System
Criminal Investigations
Criminal Adjudication

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
The Jailhouse Lawyers Manual • Columbia Bail Fund Project

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:

CENTERS:
Center for Institutional and Social Change

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Exploring Employment Law/Labor Law/Work with Dignity

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Human Rights Clinic • Mediation Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Civil Litigation: Employment Externship • Law, Power, and Social Change Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Disability Law
Labor Law
Labor Rights in a Global Economy
Transnational Business and Human Rights
Vision, Action and Social Change
Employment Law

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Workers’ Rights Student Coalition

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Workers’ Rights Student Coalition

CENTERS:
Center for Institutional and Social Change

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Exploring Environmental Law*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Just Transition Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Environmental Practice • New York Attorney General Office Social and Environmental Justice Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Advanced Climate Change Law
Animal Law
Climate Change Law and Policy
Energy Industry Restructuring
Energy Regulation
Environmental Law
Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development
Food Systems and US Environmental Law
International Environmental Law

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Environmental Law • Environmental Law Society

CENTERS:
Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment • Columbia Earth Institute • Sabin Center for Climate Change Law

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Exploring Family Law*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Family Defense Clinic • Immigration Clinic • Sexuality and Gender Law Practicum

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Bronx Defenders Externship on Holistic Defense • Domestic Violence Prosecution Externship • Immigrant Youth Advocacy Externship • Sanctuary for Families Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Advanced Family Law: Pre-Nups, Property Distribution, and Alimony in Divorce
Domestic Violence and the Law
Family Law
Gender Justice

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Uncontested Divorce Workshop • Courtroom Advocates Project • New York State Court Uncontested Divorce Program • Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Domestic Violence Project

CENTERS:
Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

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Exploring Government (Federal, State, and Local)*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Many clinics explore the role of government indirectly

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Antitrust and Trade Regulation
Financial Crises, Regulating Responses
Law of the Political Process
Law of the W.T.O.
Legislation and Regulation
Rebuilding Government
Regulation of Financial Institutions
Securities Regulation
State and Local Government Law

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Veterans Legal Assistance Project • Individual Research Projects for Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity (CAPI)

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Tax Law • Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems • Columbia Journal of Transnational Law • Education Law and Policy Society • Columbia Health Law Association • District of Columbia Law Students

CENTERS:
Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity (CAPI) • Center for Constitutional Governance • Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy

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Exploring Housing Rights/Homelessness/Foreclosure *

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Mediation Clinic • Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Harlem Economic Justice Externship • Housing Justice: Right to Counsel • Law, Power, and Social Change Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Law and Policy of Homelessness

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Legal Clinic for the Homeless • SRO Law Project and NMIC Legal Services • Manhattan Legal Services Housing Intake Clinic • Bankruptcy Assistance Project

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems • Tenants’ Rights Project

CENTERS:
Center for Institutional and Social Change

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Exploring Human Rights*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Human Rights Clinic • Mediation Clinic [work with the United Nations and other transnational organizations] • Immigrants’ Rights Clinic • Sexuality and Gender Law Practicum

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Immigration Defense Externship • Immigrant Youth Advocacy • Law, Power, and Social Change Externship • United Nations Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Human Rights
Human Rights at Home: Advancing U.S. Social Justice
International Human Rights Advocacy
International Humanitarian Law
Managing Human Rights
Socio-Economic Rights: Theory and Practice
Sovereignty, Human Rights, Judicial Review
The Law of Genocide
Transitional Justice
Transnational Business and Human Rights

PRO BONO/OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:
Rightslink; Davis Polk Asylum Workshop; Projects with the Human Rights Institute; Projects with the Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
*Columbia Human Rights Law Review • Human Rights Internship Program • Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights • Columbia Society of International Law • Rightslink • Columbia League of Nations

CENTERS:
Human Rights Institute • Center for Institutional and Social Change • Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment

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Exploring Immigration and Refugee Rights *

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Immigrants’ Rights Clinic • Human Rights Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Bronx Defenders Externship on Holistic Defense • Immigration Defense Externship • Immigrant Youth Advocacy Externship • Law, Power, and Social Change Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Immigration Law
September 11, the Trump Administration, and the Rights of Non-Citizens
Refugee Law and Policy
Trial Skills: Immigration
L. Refugee, Migration and Citizenship Law: A Comparative Perspective

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
U-Visa Project • Human Trafficking Intervention Court Project • Rightslink • International Refugee Assistance Project • Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) • Immigration Equality • Church World Service • Asylum Seekers Advocacy Project • Davis Polk Asylum Workshop

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Law Human Rights Review • Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights • Public Defender Students of Columbia Law School

CENTERS:
Center for Institutional and Social Change • International Migration Program: Economics, Ethics and Law

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Exploring LGBTQI Rights *

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Immigrants’ Rights • Sexuality and Gender Law Practicum

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Several externships may touch on these issues, depending on the current caseload

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Transgender Name Change Project

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Gender and Law • Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems • Outlaws • Queer and Trans People of Color

CENTERS:
Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

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Exploring National Security Law *

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York Externship • U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Cybersecurity: Policy, Legal, and Technical Aspects
Global Constitutionalism
Jurisprudence of War
Military Law and the Constitution
National Security
National Security Investigations and Prosecutions
Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law
September 11, the Trump Administration, and the Rights of Non-Citizens
Terror and Consent

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Veterans Legal Assistance Project

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Transnational Law • National Security and Law Society • Columbia Law Military Association

CENTERS:
Center on Global Governance • Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity (CAPI) • Center for Law and Liberty • Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies • Center for Constitutional Governance

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Exploring Poverty Law/Economic Justice *

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Community Advocacy Lab Clinic • Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic • Family Defense Clinic • Human Rights Clinic • Just Transition Clinic • Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Civil Litigation: Employment Externship • Harlem Economic Justice • Housing Justice: Right to Counsel • Law, Power, and Social Change Externship • Veterans’ Rights Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Access to Justice: Current Issues and Challenges
Human Rights at Home: Advancing U.S. Social Justice
Public Health Law and Social Justice
Socio-Economic Rights: Theory and Practice

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
Bankruptcy Assistance Project • Columbia Bail Fund • Workers’ Rights Student Coalition • SRO Law Project and NMIC Legal Services • Manhattan Legal Services Housing Intake Clinic

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems • First Generation Professionals

CENTERS:
Center for Institutional and Social Change • Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies

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Developing Public Interest and Public Service Lawyering Skills*

Here are some examples of opportunities at Columbia Law School to develop lawyering skills and an understanding of theory that might be useful in public interest or government practice.

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS (all):
Community Advocacy Lab Clinic • Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic • Environmental Law Clinic • Family Defense Clinic • Human Rights Clinic • Immigrants’ Rights Clinic • Just Transition Clinic • Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic • Mediation Clinic • Sexuality and Gender Law Practicum
Also: Structural Change in Public Education Policy Lab

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS (all):

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Advanced Legal Research Techniques
Negotiation Workshop
Professional Responsibility Issues in Public Interest Practice
Supervised J.D. Experiential Study (6695)
Thinking Like a Litigator
Trial Practice/Advanced Trial Practice
Vision, Action and Social Change

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Exploring Women’s Rights (Including Reproductive Rights and Domestic Violence)*

EXAMPLES OF CLINICS:
Family Defense Clinic • Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic • Sexuality and Gender Law Practicum

EXAMPLES OF EXTERNSHIPS:
Domestic Violence Prosecution Externship • Sanctuary for Families: Civil Needs of Domestic Violence Survivors Externship

EXAMPLES OF CLASSES:
Domestic Violence and the Law
Family Law
Reproductive Rights and Practices
Meanings of Motherhood: Legal and Historical Perspectives

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
If/When/How Lawyering for Reproductive Justice • Courtroom Advocates Project • Uncontested Divorce Workshop • Human Trafficking Intervention Court Project • U-Visa Project

JOURNALS AND STUDENT GROUPS:
Columbia Journal of Gender and Law • Columbia Law Women’s Association (CLWA) • Domestic Violence Project • If/When/How Lawyering for Reproductive Justice • Empowering Women of Color • Feminist Law Students

CENTERS:
Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

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