



Preparing for Careers in  
**Public Interest Law >**



**190**  
**Law Clinics**



**AS A PUBLIC LAW SCHOOL AND PART OF A** land-grant university, the Law School carries a responsibility and a tradition in public interest law. Students are exposed to an abundance of public interest law opportunities through a curriculum that includes more than 30 courses in administrative, constitutional, and social issues. All of the clinics in our nationally recognized clinical education program work in the public interest, with numerous student organizations, clerkship and fellowship options, and several dual-degree programs providing additional opportunities. The Law School's Public Service Program encourages students to participate in public interest activities through student organizations, volunteer opportunities, fellowships, clerkships, research institutes, and clinical work. A large percentage of students devote 50 hours or more to public service while in school, an accomplishment that is noted on student transcripts and at graduation.

> “My internship at the Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis provided me with the opportunities to work on substantive projects and to gain rare practical experience in the first year of law school.”



**SHANNA YONKE ('12)**

[law.umn.edu](http://law.umn.edu) • [jadmissions@umn.edu](mailto:jadmissions@umn.edu)

**LAW**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
LAW SCHOOL

## > HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY EXPERT



JENNIFER GREEN wasted no time after joining the faculty as Associate Professor of Clinical Instruction in 2009: She immediately started the Human Rights Litigation and International Legal Advocacy Clinic. Later that year, the Public Justice

Foundation named her a finalist for the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.

One of the country's leading experts in international human rights litigation and advocacy, she has worked on such groundbreaking cases as *Doe v. Karadzic*, which found the Bosnian Serbs' leader civilly liable for war crimes against civilians, and *Wirva v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*, which resulted in a \$15.5 million settlement for the families of murdered Nigerian activists. In 2010 Green co-authored an amicus brief that describes actions of the international body governing occupied Germany after World War II in holding persons, and corporations, accountable for violations

of international law. In early 2011, a U.S. Court of Appeals cited the brief in ruling that corporations can be held liable for violations of international law. The Fall 2011 Clinic added to this work by developing this briefing for an amicus to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Green also is involved in advocacy before the United Nations on small arms and light weapons trafficking, as well as working on a claim of mistreatment of a Guantanamo detainee and a case against a Texas corporation on behalf of Nepalese workers trafficked to Iraq.

Green previously served as clinical project supervisor and administrative director of Harvard Law School's Human Rights Program and senior staff attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights. She also has done extensive advocacy work before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American human rights system.

## ALUMNI



Our many distinguished alumni practicing in the area of public interest law include:

**B. TODD JONES ('83)**, current U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota and the first black U.S. Attorney in Minnesota history

**MICHELE GARNETT MCKENZIE ('96)**, Director of Advocacy at The Advocates for Human Rights, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights worldwide

**WALTER F. MONDALE ('56)**, former U.S. Vice President; U.S. Rep. **KEITH ELLISON ('90)**, the first Muslim elected to U.S. Congress; **MIKE FREEMAN ('56)**, Hennepin County Attorney

**CONSTANCE BERRY NEWMAN ('59)**, recent U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and Assistant Administrator for Africa of the U.S. Agency for International Development

**JOSEPH DAVID JACOBSON ('94)**, former judge advocate general on the Court of Criminal Appeals for the U.S. Air Force, now practicing in the areas of court martials, criminal defense, and felonies in the Air Force Washington, D.C., offices

**KAREN DUNCAN ('56)**, chief public defender, Minnesota Third Judicial District

## NOTEWORTHY

- Students and faculty working in the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic recently secured asylum in the U.S. for a West African woman and man who were the victims of human rights violations.
- The Innocence Project Clinic helped vindicate Koua Fong Lee in a criminal vehicular homicide case through research into brake and acceleration malfunction in Toyotas.
- Law students clocked 18,000 pro bono hours helping nearly 3,000 clients through the Minnesota Justice Foundation and other activities.
- Through the Asylum Law Project, nearly 100 first-year students volunteer annually at projects in Minneapolis and other selected locations, representing immigrants and asylum-seekers.

### COURSE OFFERINGS & CLINICS

The Law School offers more than 30 courses on public interest topics, including administrative law, biotechnology, feminist law, health law, local government economic development, professional responsibility, and election law. All 24 clinics work in the public interest, representing local clients on a pro bono basis.

### FELLOWSHIPS & CLERKSHIPS

The Robina Foundation provides funding for numerous fellowships in public policy work. Fellowship and clerkship opportunities also are available through the Minnesota Justice Foundation, Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation, University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, Peggy Browning Fund, Equal Justice America, Equal Justice Works Summer Corps, AFL-CIO, and NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- The Public Interest Law Students Association furthers post-graduation careers in public interest law, sponsors a speaker series and helps fund the Minnesota Loan Repayment Assistance Program.
- Numerous Law School organizations provide students with public interest opportunities for academic study and community service. Opportunities range from groups promoting the values of Martin Luther King, Jr. through volunteerism to Asylum Project-sponsored trips to work on cases for immigrants in Florida and Texas.

### INSTITUTES & JOURNAL

The Human Rights Center brings speakers to campus and funds fellowships in the public interest. *Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice*, a student-edited journal, examines the social impact of law on disadvantaged people.