Changing Lives and Informing Practice
As part of a transformational clinical education experience, Law in Practice lays the foundation for law students’ emerging knowledge of legal doctrine and reasoning and introduces them to the practice of law. Minnesota Law requires all 1Ls to take this course. Simulation experiences, the hallmark of Law in Practice, prepare students for clinics. By demystifying the practice, the course results in deeper student engagement.

—PROFESSOR LAURA THOMAS, Director, Minnesota Law’s clinical program and Law in Practice

**Law in Practice**

**Minnesota Law** has one of the largest and most diverse clinical legal education programs in the country. Under the guidance of our world-class faculty, clinics collaborate with each other—as well as our law firm and nonprofit partners—to offer students the opportunity to work on legal issues and cases so they develop the skills they need to be the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

—DEAN GARRY W. JENKINS, William S. Pattee Professor of Law

80% of Minnesota Law clinics are full-year.

220 students participated in clinic programs last year.
Students Draft Radon Legislation

On the cover: Students in the Law School’s Community Legal Partnership for Health Clinic worked closely with a Minnesota state senator to draft legislation that would require landlords to test for radon and mitigate where there are high levels. The bill was introduced in the Senate, and managed to gain bipartisan support. While the bill will not get a hearing this session, students are hopeful that it will be reintroduced in the next one. The nine students who worked on the legislation included (left to right in photo) Rebecca Zadaka, 2L, Alex Eschenroeder (student director of the clinic), 3L, and Julie Griep, 2L. The six participating students not pictured are Becca Barberio, 2L, Nathan Fawley, 2L, Rebecca Hare, 2L, Laura Lukey, 3L, Katie Miller, 2L, and Alex Park, 2L.

Thanks to the student attorneys and lawyers from the Detainee Rights Clinic, I have a new life. I can now hold my lovely daughter.

—WYCLIFFE ALUKWE, client of the Detainee Rights Clinic

Real Cases. Real Impact.

With 25 diverse and engaging clinics to choose from, Minnesota Law students develop critical skills while gaining hands-on experience tackling diverse legal issues on behalf of clients.

Bankruptcy
Business Law
Child Advocacy & Juvenile Justice
Civil Rights Enforcement
Community Legal Partnership for Health
Community Mediation
Consumer Protection
Criminal Defense
Criminal Prosecution
Detainee Rights
Employment Law
Environment & Energy
Family Law
Federal Defense
Federal Immigration Litigation
Housing Law
Human Rights Litigation & International Legal Advocacy
Immigration & Human Rights Law
Indian Child Welfare
Innocence Project
Insurance Law
Intellectual Property & Entrepreneurship
Robins Kaplan Civil Practice
Ronald M. Mankoff Tax
Rural Immigrant Access
Minnesota Law’s human rights clinic and four immigration clinics work collaboratively with community partners to bring comprehensive and often lifesaving services to families and individuals in need. Law students have the opportunity to tackle a range of complex legal issues, from assisting asylum seekers and working to stop deportation orders to representing noncitizens who have been detained.

**CLINICS**

Detainee Rights | Federal Immigration Litigation | Human Rights Litigation & International Legal Advocacy | Immigration & Human Rights Law | Rural Immigrant Access

30,380 hours of free legal service were provided to the public by Minnesota Law students last year.
Advocating for Change

Immigration and Human Rights Law Clinic students

Emily Ortlieb, 3L, Natacha Garcia, 3L, Brittany Turany, 2L, and Anna Somberg, 2L, under the supervision of Professor Stephen Meili, successfully argued a challenging asylum claim before the immigration court on behalf of Aracely Valle Solis, a Honduran woman, who is also a client of The Advocates for Human Rights. While working as a transit police officer in Honduras, Valle Solis refused to accept bribes from gangs. Because she refused to comply, she was threatened by gang members and eventually she and her family were attacked by gunmen at their home. The Immigration and Human Rights Law Clinic represents persons seeking asylum in the United States, human trafficking victims, and immigrant detainees. Under Professor Stephen Meili, this clinic provides students with extensive client contact, legal writing, and courtroom advocacy experience.

The Rural Immigrant Access Clinic was added as Minnesota Law’s 25th clinic in 2018–19. The clinic offers students the opportunity to participate in pop-up legal clinics in rural communities that have limited access to immigration attorneys and that have experienced dramatic increases in immigration apprehension and detention. Led by Binger Center Executive Director Professor Deepinder Mayell, and Education and Outreach Coordinator Kjerstin Yager, these full-day legal clinics are held in community centers, churches, schools, and libraries across rural Minnesota. Students conduct comprehensive legal intakes with noncitizens and their families and with a rapidly growing detained immigrant population held in rural county jails to identify potential avenues for immigration relief.

My experiences in the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic included arguing and winning Jasso Arangure v. Whitaker before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, litigating habeas corpus petitions in federal district court, and traveling to rural Guatemala to develop declarations for class action lawsuits challenging the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance and family separation policies. Professor Benjamin Casper Sanchez and other clinic faculty provided guidance and support every step of the way.

—PAUL DIMICK, 3L, Student Director, Federal Litigation Immigration Clinic (2018–19)
Now: Equal Justice Works Fellow, ACLU-MN

This experience changed my life. Now I can sleep calmly because I know my life is no longer in danger.

—ARACELY VALLE SOLIS, client of the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic and The Advocates for Human Rights

LEFT: Brittany Turany, 2L, Natacha Garcia, 3L, Emily Ortlieb, 3L, and Professor Stephen Meili
From civil rights enforcement, child advocacy, and criminal and federal defense to criminal prosecution and fighting wrongful convictions, Minnesota Law students work side-by-side with clinical faculty and attorneys, as well as agencies such as the United States Attorney’s Office, the Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office, and the City Attorneys’ Offices of Minneapolis.

**CLINICS**

Child Advocacy & Juvenile Justice | Civil Rights Enforcement | Criminal Defense
Criminal Prosecution | Federal Defense | The Innocence Project

300+ individuals were assisted with legal issues in 2018–19.
The Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic has taught me how to be an advocate and a lawyer. I have learned that being a good advocate means learning your client’s story, which requires trust, sincerity, and time. Our Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP) clients are often defined by their convictions and sentences, but there is so much more to them. We challenge this narrative by building strong relationships with our clients and investing the time and effort necessary to tell their whole stories.

—HANNAH CAMILLERI HUGHES, 2L, Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic

Telling the Whole Story

Since 2012, students in the Child Advocacy & Juvenile Justice Clinic have represented three clients who were serving life without parole sentences for juvenile offenses and became eligible for relief under the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Miller v. Alabama*. Under the supervision of Professor Perry Moriearty and Mitchell Hamline School of Law Professor Brad Colbert, students have litigated cases in the 8th Circuit, the District of Minnesota, the Minnesota Supreme Court, and several Minnesota trial courts. Students are currently preparing for a multi-day resentencing hearing on behalf of a client sentenced to consecutive life without parole terms at the age of 16. From developing their client’s life history to arguing discovery motions and preparing forensic and psychological experts, students have been deeply engaged in every aspect of the resentencing process. In another case, students are appealing to the Minnesota Supreme Court in a first-impression case involving a client who was sentenced to life without parole for an offense that occurred one week after his 18th birthday. The Law Clinics’ student director model, which allows third-year students to continue in their clinics as student directors, has enabled students to develop longstanding relationships with their clients and take first-chair roles in highly complex cases.

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**LEFT:** Hannah Camilleri Hughes, 2L, Stephanie Gruba, 2L, Matt DiTullio, 2L, Sarah Trautman, 2L, Ren Kuan, 2L, and Professor Perry Moriearty

**RIGHT:**

Participating in both the Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic as well as the Civil Practice Clinic was the best part of my law school experience. I was lucky enough to be a part of a family’s adoption journey, I was able advocate for a client in a reconsideration of unemployment benefits, and represent a child in a CHIPS proceeding. Learning to represent those clients was both motivating and challenging. To this day, the relationships I developed with my clinical professors shape the way I practice law.

—EVA RODELIUS ’13, Associate Attorney, Wilson Law Group, and Adjunct Professor, Criminal Prosecution Clinic
Minnesota Law has a great number of clinics focused on issues of economic justice. Students in economic justice clinics represent individuals who experience marketplace fraud or unfair treatment by employers or insurers and help people who need assistance to resolve financial distress. Across these clinics, students appear in federal and state courts.

**Economic Justice**

**LAST YEAR IN THE RONALD M. MANKOFF TAX CLINIC:**

- $54,249 was refunded to taxpayers.
- $329,499 total decrease in corrected tax liabilities, penalties, and interest.

**CLINICS**

Bankruptcy | Consumer Protection | Employment | Housing | Insurance | Tax
Throughout my time in the clinic, I have been able to help people who have no one else to turn to. For many of my clients, their lives have been completely derailed by fraud or scams and I have been able to help those clients get most or all of what was taken from them. At the same time that I’m assisting these clients, I’m also getting hands-on learning experience about how to be a practicing lawyer—whether it’s how to counsel a client, plan a direct examination, or even just how to compose myself when addressing a judge in a hearing.

—CHAD HERMES, 2L, Consumer Protection Clinic

Helping Low-Income Taxpayers

The Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic simultaneously provides students with the knowledge and experience they need for a career in tax law while also bringing a valuable legal resource to Minnesotans. Under the guidance of Associate Clinical Professor Caleb Smith, students work directly with clients from across the state in areas such as demonstrating their eligibility for earned income tax credits to the IRS, helping them navigate an audit, and protecting their rights when the IRS comes to collect owed taxes.

“It teaches you how to be a lawyer, which is critically important,” Professor Smith says of the Tax Clinic. “Students work with clients, but they also have a seminar where they’re meeting with a professor once a week to go over the substantive law they need to know.”

An attorney’s support during a tax controversy can lead to better outcomes for the client, in part because the complex IRS forms and tax policies at play can be difficult to understand. Currently, the clinic helps more than 100 people a year.

Recently, the clinic’s work reached beyond the bounds of Minnesota to have a national impact, as it successfully argued in U.S. Tax Court that the IRS could not deny earned-income tax credits to recipients of Medicaid waiver payments. A victory of this sort is rare in federal tax court, Professor Smith says, and the precedent it set stands to benefit many low-income taxpayers nationwide.

LEFT: Associate Clinical Professor Caleb Smith, director of the Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic, and Matthew Barron, 3L
When families and communities seek legal assistance, Minnesota Law students gain the opportunity to work with clients on complex legal issues including custody, parenting, dissolution of marriage, child advocacy, community challenges, health, and other essential issues.

**CLINICS**

- Civil Practice
- Community Legal Partnership for Health
- Community Mediation
- Family Law
- Indian Child Welfare Act
Serving Underrepresented Communities

The Indian Child Welfare Act Clinic (ICWA Clinic) is a full-academic-year, four-credit program beginning in the fall semester. The casework focuses on litigation involving the ICWA and Tribal Code. The clinic is led by two adjunct faculty members from the Minneapolis-based ICWA Law Center—Executive Director Shannon Smith ’99 and Litigation Director Andrea Braun.

The ICWA Clinic provides direct legal representation to American Indian families impacted by cases implicating the Indian Child Welfare Act. The mission of the ICWA Law Center is to strengthen, preserve, and reunite Indian families consistent with the mandates and spirit of the ICWA. As certified student attorneys, students formulate arguments and present in court. Students work closely with the Law Center staff to create attorney-client relationships. Students have the opportunity to analyze complex legal situations in the context of pending litigation. They draft court documents including motions, petitions, responses, and briefs.

Until I participated in the Family Law Clinic during my second year of law school, I had experienced the law mostly through reading textbooks. In clinic, I was able to get a feel for how lawyers communicate with clients and how the process of litigation makes its way from start to finish. I prepped and represented a client in a trial with multiple witnesses and exhibits, and it was one of the most meaningful experiences that I have had.

—TAE AHN, 2L, Family Law Clinic

My entire professional path, including law school, has been about changing and reclaiming systems to work better for Native children, families and communities. The ICWA Clinic allowed me to work alongside, and learn from, incredible attorneys from the ICWA Law Center. In my current position with the Bush Foundation, I have the opportunity to influence the field of philanthropy to increase investments into Native communities. Through my work, I am able to support Native self-determination across MN, ND, SD and the 23 Native nations that share that geography.

—CARLY BAD HEART BULL ’11, Native Nations Activities Manager, the Bush Foundation 2019 W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network Fellow
Students take up real-world, bottom-line issues in Minnesota Law’s business and nonprofit clinics. Experiences include providing legal assistance and advice for small businesses, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs; learning litigation skills, relevant statutes, and regulations; working with entrepreneurs on the intricacies of intellectual property law; and addressing legal issues around renewable energy and clean water.

As a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and now practicing exclusively in the area of environmental law at the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, I am positioned to help teach the next generation of lawyers. By navigating real-world issues alongside clinic students in areas such as energy law, water quality law, and mining regulations, we endeavor to break down complex issues and craft solutions for the problems we all face. I have worked with students for many years in various capacities, and I bring that teaching experience along with my passion for the environment.

—ELISE LARSON ’12, Staff Attorney, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and Adjunct Professor, Environmental & Energy Law Clinic

Business and Nonprofits

1,000+ hours of legal services to clients every year.
Building the Foundations for New Business

Each academic year, students in the Business Law Clinic work with approximately 40 business clients on more than 100 business law matters. Students typically provide more than 1,000 hours of service each year to startups, entrepreneurs, and emerging businesses primarily from underserved communities.

Thanks to a referral by the Metropolitan Economic Development Agency, Business Law Clinic students helped social enterprise Reins of Love reach the next level. Clinic students, including Lauren Graff (pictured right), helped the company—which provides therapeutic horse riding lessons to persons with physical and mental health issues—by drafting organizational documents, a farm lease agreement, an animal lease agreement, and a buy-sell agreement, as well as providing general business advice.

As a student attorney in the Business Law Clinic, I was privileged to work with Reins of Love as its initial launch date quickly approached. Working with our clients alongside their business consultants required open communication and a balancing of interests and relationships. Everyone in the room was striving towards the same goal: a successful launch of an organization that fulfills an important need in our community.

—LAUREN GRAFF, 3L, Business Law Clinic
Now: Associate at McGuire Woods

The Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic offers free limited-representation legal advice to individuals on a walk-in basis. Small business owners, startups, nonprofit organizations, and inventors and entrepreneurs can get their intellectual property questions answered at one of several drop-in clinics offered at Minnesota Law. Students gain hands-on experience while advising individuals on their IP questions.
World-Class Faculty Lead Minnesota Law Clinics

Emily Buchholz ’10
Lecturer in Law
Executive Director, Corporate Institute
J.D. University of Minnesota Law School
Business Law Clinic

Richard Frase
Benjamin N. Berger Professor of Criminal Law
J.D. University of Chicago Law School
Federal Defense Clinic

Perry Moriearty
Associate Professor
J.D. New York University
Child Advocacy & Juvenile Justice Clinic

Ben Casper Sanchez ’97
Associate Clinical Professor
J.D. University of Minnesota Law School
Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic

Jennie Green
Associate Clinical Professor
J.D. Harvard Law School
Human Rights Litigation & International Legal Advocacy Clinic

Jean Sanderson
Clinical Professor
J.D. Duke Law School
Child Advocacy & Juvenile Justice Clinic
Robins Kaplan Civil Practice Clinic

Linus Chan
Associate Clinical Professor
J.D. Northwestern University School of Law
Detainee Rights Clinic

Deepinder Mayell
Lecturer in Law
Executive Director, James H. Binger Center for New Americans
J.D. Brooklyn Law School
Rural Immigrant Access Clinic

Caleb Smith
Associate Clinical Professor
J.D. Lewis and Clark Law School
Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic

Prentiss Cox ’90
Professor of Law
J.D. University of Minnesota Law School
Consumer Protection Clinic

Stephen Meili
Associate Professor
James H. Binger Professor in Clinical Law
J.D. New York University
Immigration and Human Rights Clinic

Laura Thomas
Clinic Director
Clinical Professor
J.D. Loyola University Law School
Family Law Clinic
Law in Practice
Visiting Faculty and Staff

Kathleen Moccio
Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor
J.D. Indiana University Law School
Detainee Rights Clinic
Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic

Kjerstin Yager
Education and Outreach Program Coordinator,
James H. Binger Center for New Americans

Shari Ober
Administrative Coordinator

Lisa Burtch
Administrative Coordinator
Law in Practice

Nadia Anguiano-Wehde ’17
Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor
J.D. University of Minnesota Law School
James H. Binger Center for New Americans

Nicole Smiley
Clinic Administrator

Jean Wells
Administrative Coordinator

Lorena Anderson
Administrative Coordinator

2018–19 Clinical Faculty Awards and Recognitions

Stephen Meili was named the inaugural James H. Binger Professor in Clinical Law.

Perry Moriearty was awarded the Stanley V. Kinyon Clinical Teacher of the Year Award.

Caleb Smith was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor of Law.

The James H. Binger Center for New Americans received The Advocates for Human Rights’ 2019 Human Rights Volunteer Award and the American Immigration Lawyer Association’s 2019 Arthur C. Helton Memorial Human Rights Award because of the work done on the “Somali 92” litigation.

2018–19 Clinical Faculty Publications


The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.