



Clinical & Externship Programs at BU Law

Since 1962, BU Law has served as a model for clinical programs at law schools throughout the country. Today, our students are offered countless opportunities for personal and professional growth through our diverse experiential learning programs. These programs represent some of the most desired electives for second- and third-year students at BU Law. Clinics may be one semester long or full-year programs. Legal externships are one-semester programs.

BU Law Clinics

(for credit)

The Civil Litigation and Criminal Clinical programs offer the chance to work with clinical professors, representing real clients in real cases, from initial interview to final courtroom summation. They provide a rare opportunity to learn about the practice of law while receiving close, personal supervision and training from highly qualified, full-time faculty.

In the **Civil Litigation Program**, you will work under the supervision of BU clinical faculty in the downtown Boston offices of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). BU Law and GBLS partner to provide representation to low-income clients while also giving law students supervised experience. You may choose to work in the following areas:

- **Asylum & Human Rights Clinic:** In this two-semester program, represent clients in two asylum- or humanitarian/refugee-related cases, and complete a significant research project.
- **Employment Rights Clinic:** Represent clients in unemployment compensation cases, wage and hour disputes, certified nurse aid appeals, discrimination/sexual harassment cases, and Family Medical Leave Act cases.
- **Housing, Employment, Family & Disability (HEFD):** In this two-semester program, represent clients in 4 to 5 cases in areas such as domestic relations, eviction defense, employment law and Social Security appeals.

In the **Criminal Law Clinic**, you will represent clients or the government at arraignments, hearings and trials, working under the supervision of BU Law faculty. You may choose from the following options:

- **Prosecutor:** Prosecute cases involving misdemeanors and concurrent felonies in Quincy District Court.
- **Adult Defender:** Defend adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies in Boston Municipal Court.
- **Juvenile Defender:** Represent juveniles charged with acts of delinquency in Boston Juvenile Court.

The **Legislative Clinics** offer the opportunity to draft actual legislation and develop arguments in favor of passage under the supervision of attorneys with extensive experience in this field. You may choose one of three programs:

- **Africa i-Parliaments Clinic:** Produce high-quality research reports, draft bill language, and report on recently passed African statutes and governmental reform. This clinic is designed to support the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN) in building the capacity of African parliaments to draft and enact more effective legislation.

(More on Reverse)

- **Legislative Counsel Clinic:** Work on projects typically handled by the legal and research staff of a legislative committee. You will gain both an insider's perspective on the federal and various state legislative systems, and an opportunity to work on substantive issues related to health care, taxation, economic development, intellectual property, criminal law and much more.
- **Legislative Policy & Drafting Clinic:** Draft legislation focused on important public issues. You will draft legislation for legislators, administrative agencies and public-interest groups. Health law and intellectual property specialties are offered.

Boston-based Legal Externships

(for credit)

Legal Externship Program: Work at public interest, government or judicial placements. Examples of recent placements include the Federal District Court, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Court of Appeals, Conservation Law Foundation, Federal Reserve and WGBH.

Health Law Externship Program: Work in various health law placements, including in-house counsel at area hospitals (Tufts, Boston Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital), nongovernment organizations (NGOs) or government agencies such as the U.S. Attorney's Health Fraud Division.

Legislative Internship Program: Work in the office of a Massachusetts state senator or representative, becoming a part of the legislative process.

Beyond Boston and Around the World: Semester-in-Practice Program

Full-time (for credit)

You will have the opportunity to spend a full semester working as a legal intern in the field. You may choose one of three programs designed by BU Law or submit a proposal for an independent externship outside Boston. Semester-in-Practice options include:

- **Human Rights Externship:** Spend a semester working in Geneva, Switzerland, for a nongovernmental organization (NGO) committed to the protection of human rights.
- **Death Penalty Externship:** Spend a semester at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, working on death-penalty cases and other issues related to the criminal justice system.
- **Government Lawyering in Washington, D.C.:** Spend a semester working at a government office in Washington, D.C.
- **Independent Proposal Externship:** Submit a proposal for an independent full-time externship outside of Boston.

For more information, or to learn about the experiences of students who participate in clinics or externships, visit www.bu.edu/law/clinics.

“I chose the Criminal Clinic because I wanted to get practical experience outside the classroom during my third year. It's hands-on experience for what it's like to actually be in a courtroom. You're literally standing up arguing in front of the judge, doing arraignments, and doing what a public defender would do with supervision from the clinical professors. I probably want to be a litigator, so this is a good way to figure out whether I like being in a courtroom.”

Athena Cheng '09

