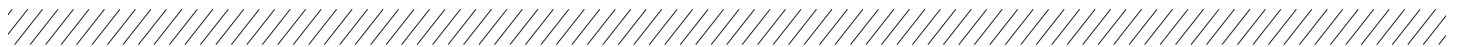


Legislative Policy & Drafting Clinic

Getting an Insider's Perspective on the Legislative Process

The Legislative Policy & Drafting Clinic gives students an “insider’s perspective” on the legislative process and an opportunity to **develop a variety of legal skills** to legislative work. Students learn how to:

- effectively research public policy and related legal issues;
- draft and revise legislation;
- negotiate and build consensus;
- formulate strategy to guide bills through the legislative process;
- offer effective oral and written advocacy for a bill or issue; and
- testify at legislative hearings.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Clinic is a one-semester, six-credit clinical program, in which students can work as an intern or an in-house clinician according to their legal interests. Interns are assigned to the offices of committee chairs in the Massachusetts state legislature, including committees like Health Care Finance, Agriculture, Judiciary, and Children & Families, or the Senate Majority Leader. In-house clinicians work on projects for legislators, including generating new ideas for legislation, integrating a group of related bills, or helping to move a stalled bill forward. They also write a research report and draft (or significantly redraft) a bill for their client. All students write two blog posts related to policy law and legislation, which are posted on the Clinic’s blog Dome. Students attend classes that cover the theoretical and practical aspects of law-making bodies, including how statutory law is created, constitutional limits to law-making, ethical responsibilities of those involved in the process, and how lawmakers anticipate and shape the way the public and courts will interpret their work product.

We warmly welcome all applicants and remind students that Boston University policy prohibits discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military service, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, or because of marital, parental, or veteran status, and acts in conformity with all applicable state and federal laws. This policy extends to academic programs, including School of Law’s Clinics and Externships. The Practicum works with students and BU’s Office of Disability & Access Services to arrange reasonable accommodations as appropriate.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Recent projects have involved far-ranging topics, including regulating drones, reforming the Government Insurance Commission, promoting cyber security, regulating lactation consultants, protecting agricultural land, providing a uniform standard for safe internet in schools, giving greater transparency for special education schools, and adding to the human trafficking statute.

Projects include:

- gathering hundreds of legislative histories, which will be posted online to provide judges and legal practitioners with easy access to the primary documents behind Massachusetts statutes;
- contributing to a report by the International Association of Legislation to the Oireachtas (Parliament) of Ireland on best practices of codification from around the world; and
- assisting the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the First Nations of Saskatchewan Canada on a legislative drafting project.

Clinic students have gone on to a range of careers including at private law firms, positions in Congress and state legislatures, as counsel to government agencies, and as lobbyists. Former clinician Nika Elguardo was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature to represent the Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Roslindale neighborhoods of Boston.

 bu.edu/law/clinics-apply