Startup Law Clinic
Advising the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

The Startup Law Clinic is a collaborative program between BU Law and MIT that offers law students the unique opportunity to represent student clients at two major universities, all in the midst of one of the country’s most exciting innovation and entrepreneurial communities. The Clinic aims to break down a major barrier to student entrepreneurship and mission-driven leadership by providing free legal assistance to student entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders embarking on for-profit and nonprofit startup ventures. Clinic students get a hands-on chance to develop a broad range of legal skills, with a focus on business and transactional work.

No technology or industry experience is required for this clinic. All interested students are encouraged to apply.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Clinic is a one-year, 12-credit program that combines classroom instruction and clinical experiences. As they would in legal practice, students take primary responsibility for the client relationships assigned to them.

Students in the Clinic can expect to:
- interact with MIT and BU students on a weekly basis
- interview prospective student clients and handle the client intake process; and
- prepare and give presentations on key legal concepts relevant to startups and nonprofits in both the MIT and BU entrepreneurship communities.

Clinic work runs the gamut of entrepreneurship, social causes, and innovation matters, including forming Delaware and Massachusetts for-profit and nonprofit entities, preparing founding documents, advising clients on allocating founder and employee equity, counseling clients in founder disputes and the legal aspects of strategic business planning, advising non-profit founders on proper governance and compliance with applicable laws, and reviewing and drafting business contracts such as customer and vendor agreements. On the intellectual property side, students handle agreements involving the ownership, transfer, and licensing of intellectual property; prepare trademark and copyright filings; and advise clients about patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret issues.

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 all BU Law academic programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
The Clinic handles a high volume of clients. In the 2020-2021 academic year, the Clinic represented over 96 clients from MIT and BU on over 551 different legal matters.

The Clinic’s recent projects include:
- assisting the winner of the 2020 MIT 100K competition in a venture to design and market a device that allows eye injuries and diseases to be diagnosed through high resolution eye images in settings where an eye specialist cannot be physically available;
- advising an athletic training service from formation through investment and initial product release, and
- advising separate nonprofit ventures that address issues of algorithmic bias and extremist communities on the internet.