Technology Law Clinic
Supporting Student Research, Advocacy, and Innovation in Technology

Created in 2016 in partnership between BU Law and MIT, the Technology Law Clinic provides BU and MIT students with free legal representation in areas of law related to their technological research, advocacy, and entrepreneurial activities. Through the clinic law students counsel clients in areas including data privacy, intellectual property, cybersecurity, and media law. Law students frequently apply these laws to cutting-edge technological fields, including artificial intelligence, online platforms, and cryptographic and security research. Clients include developers and engineers, technology critics, and those who advocate for fairness and justice in technological systems.

No prior technology experience is needed to participate in the Technology Law Clinic.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Clinic is a one-year, 12-credit program in which students counsel clients through legal issues, draft documents like software license agreements, Privacy Policies, and Terms of Use, and represent clients as needed in negotiations, dispute resolution, and occasional litigation. Students frequently meet and work with clients at locations around the MIT and BU campuses, and most students have the opportunity to work with over a dozen clients throughout the academic year. In addition to advanced education in the substantive areas of data privacy, intellectual property, and media law, students develop practical skills in the areas of client counseling, formal and informal legal writing, and effective lawyer–client teamwork in innovative settings. Students are also exposed to a variety of areas of technology and learn how to work with technology-oriented clients.

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
During the 2020-2021 academic year, Clinic students worked with 67 clients on 111 different legal matters. Recent Projects include:

- working with an MIT PhD student studying racial and gender bias in facial recognition systems, helping the student deploy a first-of-its-kind experiment to audit publicly deployed facial recognition technologies, and counseling the client through the cybersecurity and intellectual property risks of the study;
- helping a client studying the security of digital voting systems engage in a coordinated disclosure of their research, making sure that federal and state elections security officials were able to protect voters during the 2020 presidential elections; and
- representing an MIT PhD student in a Freedom of Information Act case against the Central Intelligence Agency and successfully arguing a motion in federal district court which resulted in the court ordering the Agency to produce further records in response to the client’s FOIA request.

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