Wrongful Convictions Clinic
Fighting for the Unjustly Convicted

The Wrongful Convictions Practicum investigates the innocence claims of incarcerated men and women convicted of murder or other serious felonies. The Practicum takes a deep dive into each case, meeting with the client, lawyers, and investigators, and other practitioners in the field, hoping to uncover a path that will prove the client’s innocence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
In this one-semester, two-credit practicum, students screen applications from prisoners who claim an unjust result in their cases after conviction at trial or pleading guilty. Practicum students represent incarcerated clients and handle multiple aspects of post-conviction litigation.

Fieldwork
Over the course of the semester, students meet with their clients at correctional centers, review transcripts, judicial decisions, pleadings and attorney files in the case, identify and research potential areas of investigation—including forensic testing and witness interviewing—that may result in the discovery of exculpatory information or exonerative evidence, conduct legal research, and analyze the requirements for obtaining a new trial.

Coursework
In addition to meeting to discuss case status, students attend a weekly seminar focused on relevant substantive law and the issues raised by their case. Students discuss and develop a better understanding of the causes of and potential remedies for the structural and systemic flaws in our criminal justice system that lead to wrongful convictions, such as false confessions, mistaken eyewitnesses, faulty forensic evidence and “junk science,” the use of jailhouse informants, government misconduct, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

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 Practicum gives students a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity to address systemic injustice within the criminal justice system while developing their interviewing and counseling skills, honing their legal research and writing, learning substantive criminal and constitutional law, and developing a habit of keen factual investigation. Students may also have an opportunity to participate in public policy projects related to the criminal justice system.

bu.edu/law/clinics-apply