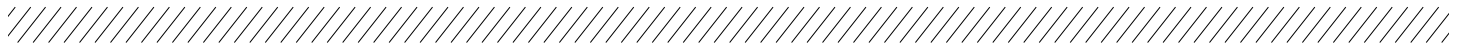


Criminal Law Clinical Program

Where Students take to the Courts

In the Criminal Law Clinical Program, students learn:

- how to sort through the factual possibilities of a case and conduct investigation to discover facts;
- how to apply legal doctrine from criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, professional responsibility, and trial advocacy courses in a real-life context;
- to study the criminal justice system in operation, as participants rather than mere observers, to **experience and reflect on the difference between the law on the books and the law in action**; and
- the nuances of criminal trial litigation in an environment where they make critical decisions and implement case strategy, with supervision and feedback from experienced faculty.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Program has both a Defender and Prosecutor component. Defenders represent indigent adult and juvenile clients in the Boston Municipal Court and the Boston Juvenile Court in a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases. Prosecutors handle felonies and misdemeanors on behalf of the Norfolk District Attorney's Office in the Quincy District Court.

Students participate for two semesters, during either their 2L and 3L years or their entire 3L year, earning up to 16 credits over the course of the Program. In their first semester, "Juniors" are assigned to assist 3L students with their cases in both the Defender and Prosecutor components. In their second semester, "Seniors" are assigned to be Defenders or Prosecutors, and lead the teams whose members include new Juniors. In addition to their fieldwork, students take a related trial advocacy course.

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.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Students conduct trials, evidentiary motion hearings, bail hearings, and other matters in court. Fieldwork includes various forms of investigation, including interviewing witnesses and visiting crime scenes. Students also engage in client counseling, conduct legal research, and draft pleadings. Many of the Defenders' clients have mental health diagnoses and/or substance use disorder that can present complex counseling issues. In addition to trial representation, students may also work in other levels of the court system. Defender students regularly

appear in the Superior Court for bail appeals. Students have filed amicus briefs at the appellate level, including in a landmark case before the Supreme Judicial Court dealing with demands by ICE that the Massachusetts courts honor immigration detainers. Both Defender and Prosecutor students have argued cases before the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the Supreme Judicial Court. Program faculty, with support from Program students, argued a case before the United States Supreme Court.

Since its inception six decades ago, nearly 2,000 students have participated in the Program. Its alumni include judges, elected district attorneys, prominent capital defense litigators, government lawyers, and leaders of law firm litigation departments across the country.

 bu.edu/law/clinics-apply