

Immigrants' Rights & Human Trafficking Program

Helping Vulnerable Populations and Shaping National Policy

The Immigrants' Rights & Human Trafficking Program launched in 2017, combining BU Law's nationally recognized Immigrants' Rights Clinic and its Human Trafficking Clinic to create an integrated new clinical program. In the Program, students learn practical legal skills while providing representation to vulnerable non-citizens facing deportation and survivors of human trafficking. They also work through projects to increase protections available to vulnerable populations and contribute to the national policy landscape by providing new models that address emerging challenges in the immigrants' rights and human trafficking contexts.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In this year-long, 12-credit clinical program, students learn practical legal skills under faculty supervision while providing *pro bono* representation to indigent clients. Students represent clients in immigration court and before the Board of Immigration Appeals, before family and probate courts, in law enforcement interviews, and before administrative agencies, while refining their skills in client-centered interviewing, fact investigation, cross-cultural lawyering, legal writing, and oral advocacy.

Each semester, students earn three credits for their fieldwork and an additional three credits for coursework. In the fall, students take a seminar focusing on core lawyering skills. In the spring, they take an advanced advocacy seminar that focuses on either immigrants' rights or human trafficking.

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

Annually students provide more than 400 *pro bono* hours to immigrants and survivors of human trafficking, representing a value of over \$330,000 in student legal services. Students successfully represented more than 100 survivors of gender-based violence, political persecution, and human trafficking, and successfully drafted and advocated for passage of a vacatur bill in Massachusetts to enable survivors of human trafficking to vacate certain criminal convictions in coordination with Mintz Levin, the EVA Center, Greater Boston Legal Services, and other leading victim rights attorneys. Students also:

- drafted an amicus brief to the Board of Immigration Appeals to protect the rights of vulnerable immigrants facing deportation, which received

sign-ons from 36 other law school clinics, leading national nonprofit organizations, and law professors;

- collaborated with BU Spark!, an initiative of the BU Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering, to develop a multi-functional app to help law enforcement personnel identify victims of labor trafficking; and
- partnered with the PAIR Project and other organizations to provide Know-Your-Rights presentations and legal trainings to over 250 individuals, including attorneys, community members, *pro se* litigants, and the general public, at Rosie's Place, Boston International High School, the Bristol and Suffolk County Houses of Correction, Brookline High School, and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

 bu.edu/law/clinics-apply