



Boston University School of Law

# Clinical & Experiential Programs

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# Vision

Clinics, externships, practicums, and simulations offer students an opportunity to gain practical lawyering skills and have a real-world impact.





# Goal of Experiential Education

“Moving from a stance of observer on the outside or periphery of the practice through graduated stages toward becoming a skilled participant at the center of the action.”

(Holloran Center)



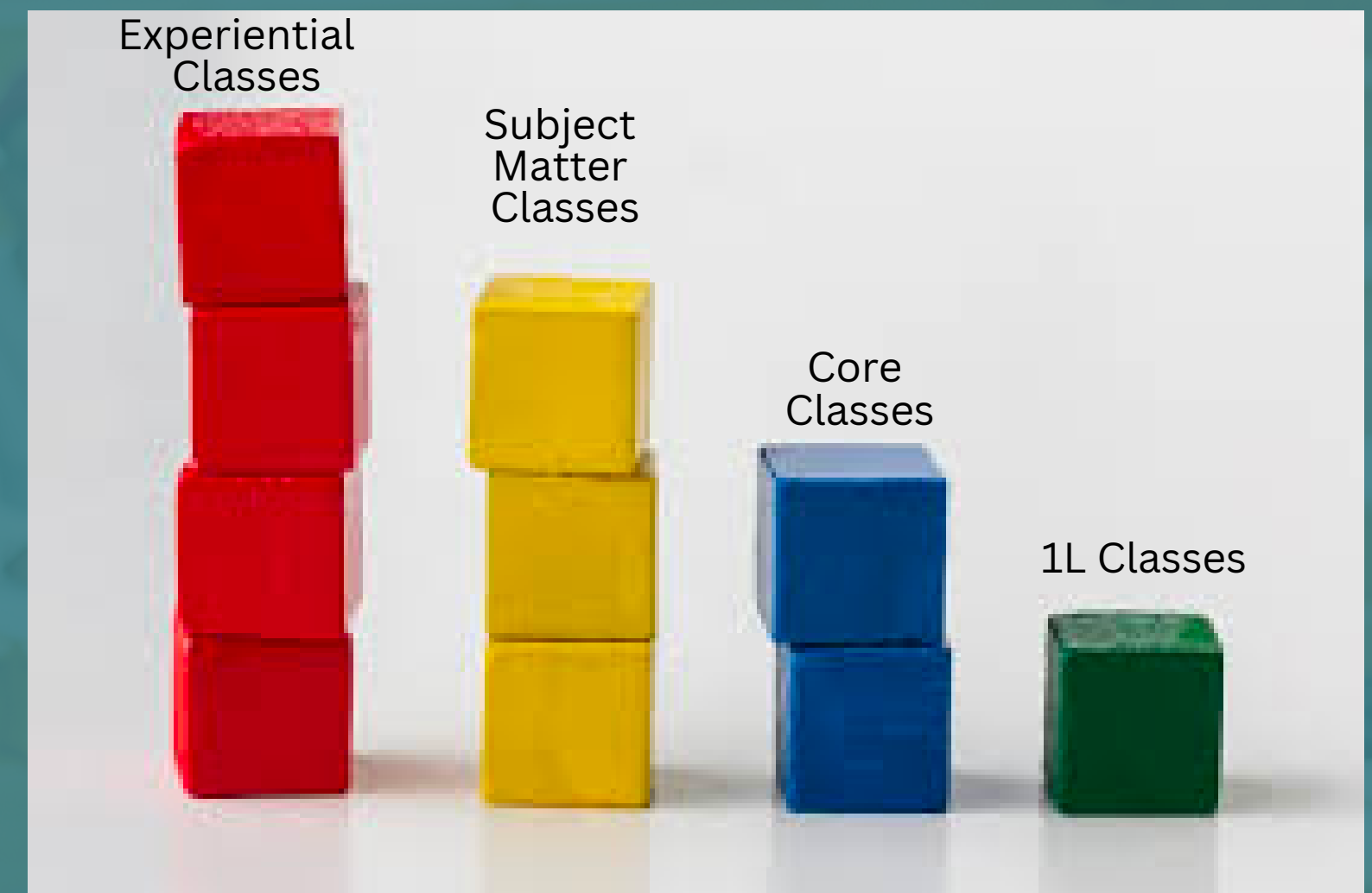
Law is....

Rules  
Social Construction  
Hierarchy  
Injustice  
Way to challenge injustice  
Way to fight for marginalized  
groups  
Profession  
System  
...



# Building Blocks

You gain exposure and understanding of law through 1L classes, core classes (Evidence, Administrative, Professional Responsibility, etc.), subject matter classes, and experiential offerings.





# Building Connections & Skills

Experiential classes offer ways of putting into practice what you have learned through:

- **Practice**
- **Performance**
- **Reflection**



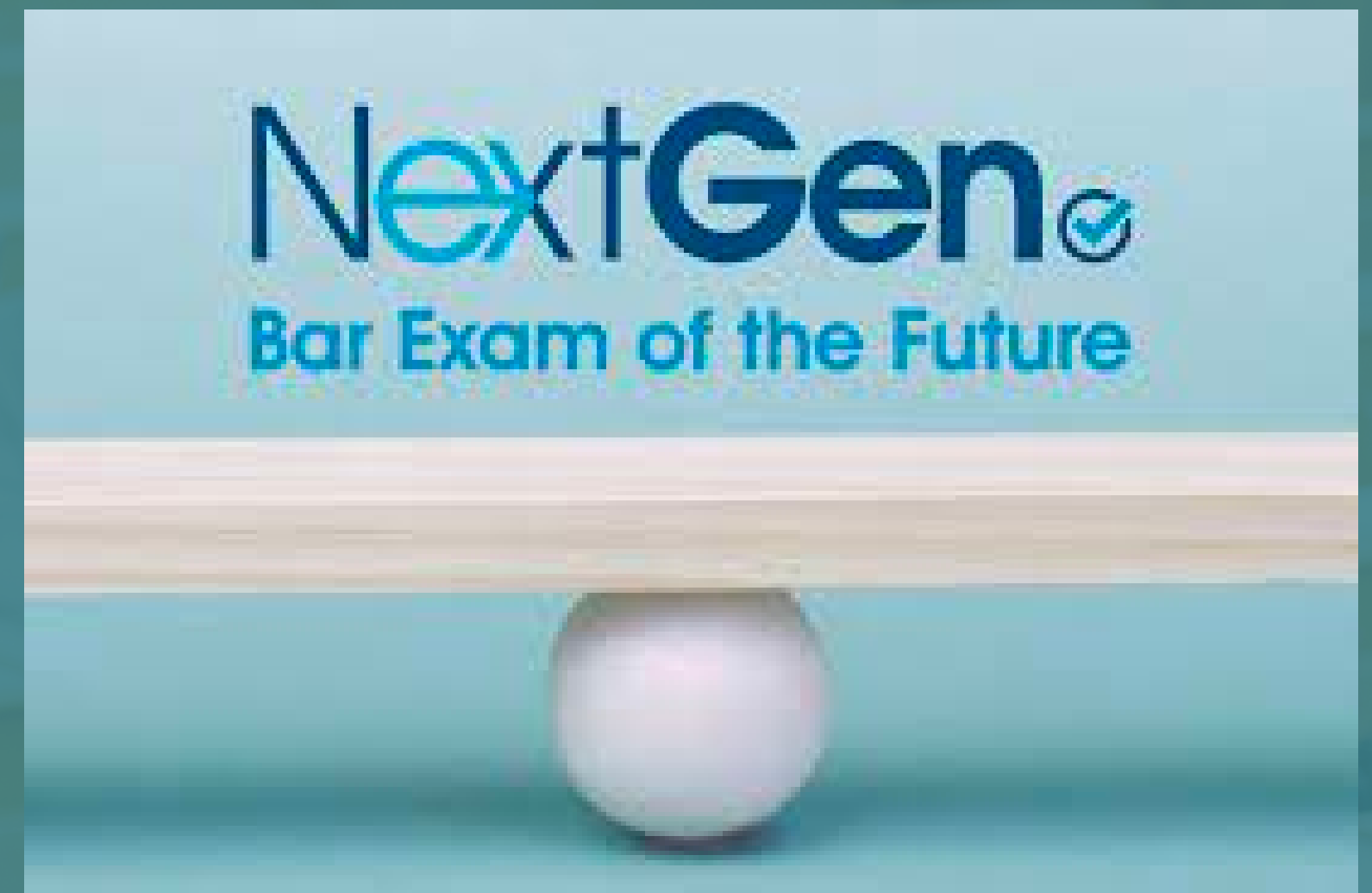


# Preparing for the Bar

Experiential programs prepare you for the bar exam by solidifying your knowledge of core concepts.

They help get you ready for the **NextGen Bar exam (2027/28 graduates)**, which incorporates lawyering concepts:

- Learning across areas of law;
- Lawyering skills, like reading a complaint, drafting a memo, negotiation skills, etc.





# Preparing for Practice

- Learn real-world practice skills to prepare to engage in lawyering.
- Opportunities to develop transactional, policy-oriented, and/or litigation skills.





# Becoming “Justice-Ready”

“Justice ready graduates are able to recognize injustice and appropriately evaluate the consequences of their actions in a way that mere practice readiness does not teach.”

-Jane Aiken, [The Clinical Mission of Justice Readiness](#)





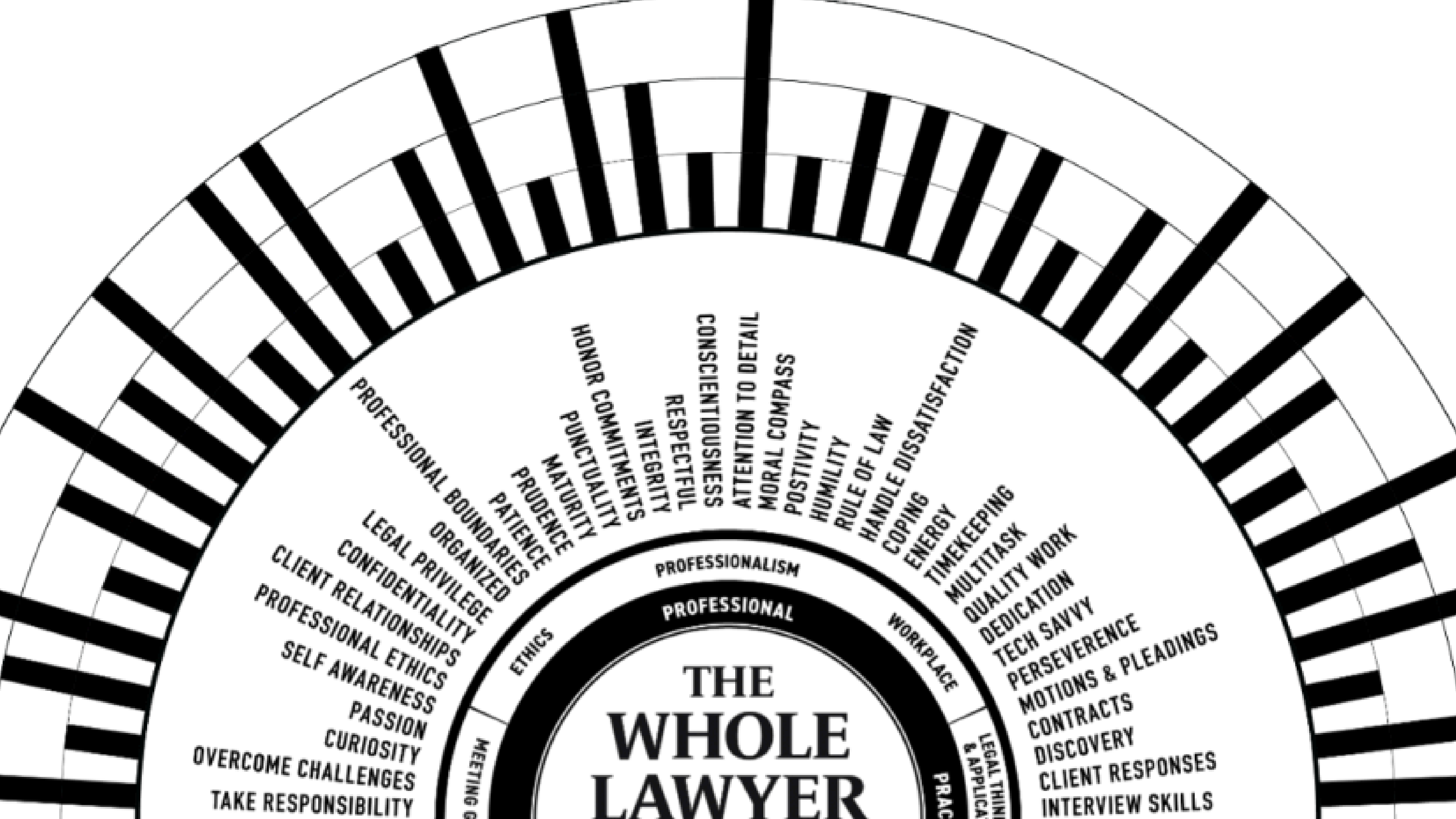


# Preparing for Life

## *Life Design*

- Opportunity to engage in **professional identity formation**. Consider what type of lawyer you want to be and develop the competencies you want to be successful.
- Chance to **go deep or wide** across areas of law.





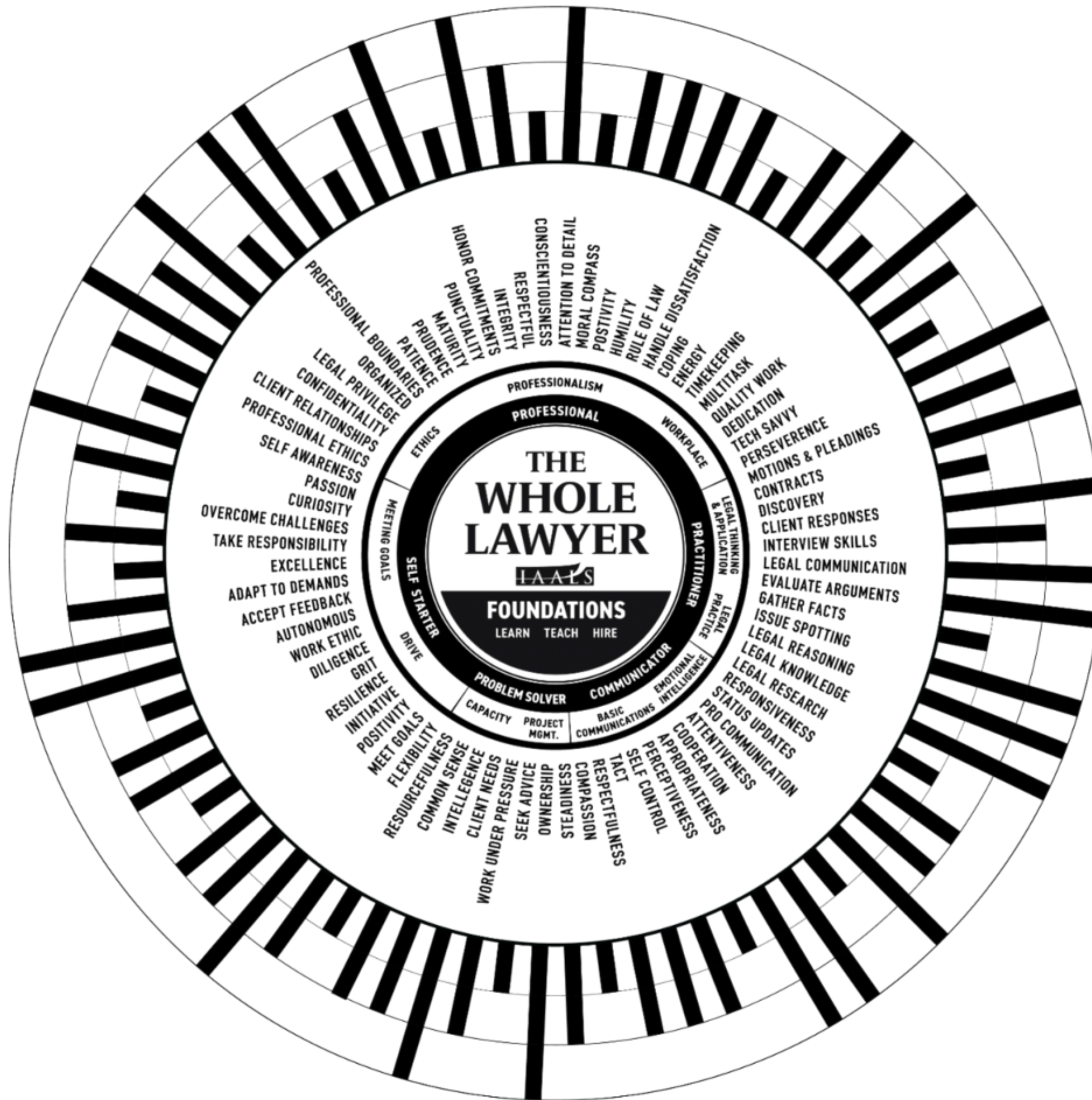


# Preparing for Life

## *Life Design*

Determine which skills you want to develop: E.g.,

- Intelligence
- Accept feedback
- Meet goals
- Flexibility
- Work ethic
- Integrity





# Experiential Offerings

- The ABA requires that students take at least six credits of experiential learning.
- BU Law is unique in guaranteeing students a clinical experience.
- Experiential learning includes: clinics, externships, practicums, and simulation-based courses.
- Faculty/student ratio is 8:1 in clinics and practicums.



# Clinics, Externships, and Practicums

- **Cornerstones:**

- Engage with skilled faculty and supervisors
- Work with clients, projects, legislation, or policies
- Collaborate with colleagues/peers
- Identity formation
- Applied ethics
- Well-being
- Training on racism, bias, and cross-cultural competency
- Reflection and/or Rounds





# Clinics (AY 2025-2026)

- Civil Litigation & Justice Program
- Criminal Law Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking Program
- Legislative Policy & Drafting Clinic
- Racial Justice and Movement Lawyering Clinic
- BU/MIT Student Innovations Clinic (SILC)





## Civil Litigation & Justice Program Year-Long Clinic

The Civil Litigation & Justice Program allows students to use their lawyering skills in a diverse array of courtrooms—from local trial and housing courts, to the state's Supreme Judicial Court, to the federal court.

**Students can participate in one of the following programs:**

- Access to Justice Clinic
- Appellate Clinic
- Consumer Economic Justice Clinic
- Civil Litigation Clinic (Spring only)





# Criminal Law Clinic

## Year-Long Clinic

Students enrolled in the Criminal Law Clinical Program learn first-hand what it means to be a criminal law attorney. They formulate case strategies, engage in client counseling, draft legal pleadings, and litigate trials, evidentiary motion hearings, bail hearings, sentencing hearings, and other matters in court.

**In the second semester, students can choose a concentration:** (1) prosecution or (2) defense.





# International Human Rights Clinic

## Year-Long Clinic

Work for global and regional human rights while representing non-governmental organizations and group clients from all parts of the world. Learn about treaties, policies, and other legal mechanisms for implementing and enforcing international human rights and humanitarian law.



# Immigrants' Rights & Human Trafficking Program

## Year-Long Clinic

In the only program of its kind nationally, students represent non-citizens facing deportation and survivors of human trafficking, persecution, and torture. Law students participate in a seminar led by experienced faculty that challenges them to consider the intersections between immigrants' rights and human trafficking.

**Participate in one of two concentrations:** (1) immigrants' rights or (2) human trafficking.







# Legislative Policy & Drafting Clinic

Semester-Long Clinic, Fall/Spring

Through a combination of classwork and fieldwork, you will learn the theoretical and practical aspects of law-making bodies: how statutory law is created through a variety of case examples; Constitutional limits to law-making; the ethical responsibilities for those involved in the process; and how law makers anticipate and shape the way the public and courts will interpret their work product.





# Racial Justice and Movement Lawyering

## Semester-Long Clinic, Fall/Spring

The Racial Justice and Movement Lawyering Clinic provides legal support to organizations, coalitions, and grassroots groups seeking to challenge forms of subordination and build community power. The primary goals of the clinic are to (1) employ legal skills in solidarity with movement partners; (2) explore different theories of social change and the role of lawyers in social movements; and (3) develop tangible legal skills that students can employ across a range of practice areas.





# BU/MIT Student Innovations Clinic (SILC) Year-Long Clinic

The BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic (SILC) provides students with the opportunity to engage in legal assistance to BU/MIT student entrepreneurs related to their research, advocacy, and creative projects.

**Students can participate in one of three practice groups:** Intellectual Property Practice Group; Privacy, Health, and Media Practice Group; and Venture & Finance Practice Group.





# Practicums

- Compassionate Release Practicum
- Environmental Law Practicum
- Health Justice Practicum
- Mental Health Litigation Practicum
- Prison Education Practicum





# Externships

Externships provide students with the opportunity to develop legal skills in the community. We have placements in firms, with judges, at corporations, government agencies, non-profits and legal services organizations. They are supervised by a practicing attorney and a faculty member through an accompanying seminar.





# Externships

- **Part-time placement seminars:**
  - Corporate Counsel Externship Seminar (in-house and compliance placements)
  - Health Law Externship Seminar (health law placements)
  - Judicial Externship Seminar (judicial placements)
  - Learning From Practice Seminar (all placement types)
  - Legal Ethics Seminar
- **Full-time placement seminar:**
  - Semester in Practice





# Simulation Courses

Through a simulation course, students develop lawyering skills by participating in practice-based exercises in which they perform the legal tasks required to effectively represent a client in the type of dispute or transaction being simulated or with respect to the type of legal issue being researched. The instructors evaluate student performance and provide feedback so that students may improve from one exercise to the next. It is the essence of learning-by-doing.





# Transactional Law Program

Our Transactional Law Program complements our excellent business and finance doctrinal course offerings.

- Foundational course in drafting and negotiating contracts
- Intensive, hands-on training through simulations
- Courses taught by seasoned transactional lawyers
- Useful for students entering a wide range of legal practices
- Option to elect concentration in transactional practice





# Transactional Law Program: Simulations

In simulation courses, students learn and practice skills as if they were junior attorneys staffed on actual transactions.

Recent course offerings include:

- Forming and Financing a Start-up
- Pharma/Biotech Collaboration
- International Business Collaboration

New Course offerings in development, e.g., public interest, public company



# Key Dates

- **The application period for clinics and practicums is March 3-21, 2025.** This is also the priority deadline for externships. The application period does not apply to simulations.
- **February 14, 2025, 1-2 pm:** Externship Information Session (Zoom)
- **February 27, 2025, 4-5 pm:** Externship Information Session (Zoom)
- **March 3, 2025, 1-2 pm:** Experiential Program Open House (Barristers Hall)
- **March 21, 2025:** AY25-26 Application Deadline, Externship Priority Deadline



# Application Process



- Submit application by the deadline.
- Rank three offerings.
- 3Ls receive priority.
- Externships do not have deadline.



# Questions?

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