CALS applicants must complete both the general clinic application and a CALS-specific supplemental application. A link to the CALS-specific supplemental application can be found on the general clinic application (address above).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Prof. Andrew Schoenholtz (Fall 2019), Prof. Philip Schrag (Spring 2020) and Fellows Faiza Sayed and Deena Sharuk.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do students do</td>
<td>Students provide pro bono representation in federal immigration court for refugees who seek the safety of asylum in the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester or year-long</td>
<td>One semester, Fall or Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open to</td>
<td>All 2Ls and 3Ls (at least 30 credits and 3.0 GPA as of July before clinic begins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite(s)</td>
<td>All first year courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires Student Bar Certification</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many students</td>
<td>12/semester. We try to accept approximately equal numbers of second and third year students (or part-time division equivalents).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflicts</td>
<td>Students with part-time or full-time jobs with the Federal government are ineligible for this clinic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average time commitment</td>
<td>At least 35 hours/week, on average. Clinic casework may disrupt the normal Georgetown Law Center’s holidays and may continue through the end of exam period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar hours</td>
<td>Wednesdays, 1:30pm-3:15pm; Fridays, 9:30am-11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>In the Fall semester, orientation begins on the first day of class. In the Spring semester, orientation occurs from Wednesday-Friday of Week 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information session(s)</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 26, 3:30pm-4:30pm, Room 140 In addition, feel free to visit our website, stop by the clinic (McD 332) or e-mail us at <a href="mailto:lawcalsclinic@georgetown.edu">lawcalsclinic@georgetown.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR

In 2019-2020, the Center for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) will continue its international human rights project. Students will provide highest-quality pro bono representation for non-U.S.-citizen refugees who seek the safety of asylum in the United States because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution in the countries from which they have fled.

Under U.S. law, people facing removal from the United States may win asylum and the right to stay in this country by proving that they have suffered persecution in their home country (or that they face a well-founded fear of such mistreatment in the future if they returned), because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. We also serve immigrants who seek protection under the Convention Against Torture because they fear they will be tortured, often by their own government.

Working in pairs, CALS students will be assigned to represent one or more refugees, ideally taking a case all the way from start (initial client interview) to finish (a hearing before a federal Immigration Judge) within a single semester. The students will interview the client; become experts on the human rights record of the client’s country.
of origin; develop documentary and testimonial records to prove that the client either suffered past persecution or would suffer future persecution if forced to return; locate and prepare lay and expert witnesses (including political, medical, psychological, and other experts); identify and generate documentation that can corroborate a client’s story; write a brief, affidavits, and other legal instruments; and present testimony and legal arguments at a hearing before an Immigration Judge.

This hearing before the Immigration Judge, at which experienced lawyers from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are the opposing counsel, therefore usually represents the final good opportunity to avoid removal from the United States. Some asylum seekers are forced to assert their claims while being detained, and CALS regularly represents detained as well as non-detained refugees.

Nationwide, asylum applicants are successful in their Immigration Court hearings only about 40% of the time. The CALS success rate, due principally to the exhaustive efforts of student representatives, is considerably higher. Because our cases are often, literally, a matter of life or death, we insist upon the highest standards of practice, and our students consistently rise to that challenge. Immigration Judges have praised our students as reaching a level of preparation and professionalism at least as high as, if not higher than, that of the practicing bar.

In recent years, CALS students have represented refugees from the following countries, among others: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Honduras, Pakistan, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Sudan, Syria, Togo, and Turkey. Global political conditions, among other factors, will determine where we concentrate our resources next year.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

Direct student responsibility for representation of clients is the outstanding feature of CALS. CALS will accept 24 students each year. (About half of them are selected from the current first year class). Each semester, the twelve students assume direct responsibility for all aspects of case management, including interviewing and counseling, case evaluation and planning, legal research and writing, fact investigation, and presentation of the full case before an Immigration Judge. In this Clinic, the cases are fundamentally the students’ responsibility: you will draft and sign the court papers, you will sit at counsel table and speak in court, and you will undertake all the critical lawyering tasks.

At the same time, students receive frequent, in-depth support and assistance from the teaching staff. CALS instructors will help to prepare students for each of the case-handling tasks through a variety of instructional sessions. Our classes meet twice per week, concentrating on simulation exercises and other practice sessions, as well as devoting attention to the “big picture,” reflecting upon the historical evolution of U.S. asylum law and the larger social and political context within which our cases arise.

Each pair of students is assigned to one or two CALS instructors, and the case team meets in tutorial sessions at least weekly, and much more often when events warrant. We also conduct intensive mock examinations or hearings to prepare students, clients, and other witnesses for the real proceedings.

Essentially, CALS instructors regard their function as helping the students to observe, understand, act, create, and evaluate -- not as telling you what to do. We will help you prepare, practice, plan, and assess, but the decisions, and the actions, are fundamentally yours and your client’s. The teacher/student ratio in CALS is 1:4, ensuring extensive supervision in the preparation and execution of each case. Our faculty and fellows are all lawyers with extensive experience in the relevant law and procedures.
CALS cases are selected and assigned -- and the caseload is deliberately kept quite small -- with the goals of affording students the opportunity to scrutinize every aspect of the cases and procedures in great detail; to plan and practice the key events; to analyze each step with care and precision as it occurs; and to reflect upon the experience immediately afterward.

CALS is also designed to encourage intensive examination by each person enrolled in the program of his or her own transition from student to lawyer. This examination emphasizes analysis of the personal and interpersonal dimensions of practicing law; the emotions that lawyers encounter, experience and must deal with in the course of working with clients, peers, supervisors and others within and outside the legal system; the process of formulating goals, expanding options, planning strategy and making decisions in the context of ambiguity, urgency and incomplete information; the interrelationship of strategic and ethical issues; and, generally speaking, techniques for enhancing professional self-consciousness and self-education.

Some CALS clients are detained by ICE in facilities that are between one and three hours from Washington. Some students may therefore need to travel to visit their clients. CALS pays for mileage or rental cars so that students are not out of pocket for this travel.

In the Fall semester, orientation begins on the first day of class. In the Spring semester, orientation occurs from Wednesday-Friday of Week 1.

**SELECTION CRITERIA/APPLICATION PROCESS**

Complete the general clinic application at [www.law.georgetown.edu/go/clinic-registration](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/go/clinic-registration).

If you list CALS as your “first choice” on the general clinic application, the next steps are to read an informational document providing additional insight into our aspirations, watch a ten-minute video, and then complete both the general clinic application and the CALS-specific supplemental application. Please note that CALS’s supplemental application is different from that of other clinics; please see the general clinic application for details and for a link to the questions you will be asked to answer.

- The informational document is a chapter on Goals from our Office Manual, available now at [https://www.law.georgetown.edu/experiential-learning/clinics/center-for-applied-legal-studies/educational-goals/](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/experiential-learning/clinics/center-for-applied-legal-studies/educational-goals/)
- The ten-minute video is at [http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/webcasts/eventDetail.cfm?eventID=2284](http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/webcasts/eventDetail.cfm?eventID=2284)

The general application must be submitted online by 12 noon, on Monday April 8, 2019. The completed supplemental application is due directly to CALS -- by email to lawcalsclinic@georgetown.edu – by the same deadline, Monday, April 8, 2019, at 12 noon. You can access this CALS-specific supplemental application via the general clinic application.

We make admissions decisions based on your application; we do not interview applicants. Admission is determined in substantial part on the interest, enthusiasm, and experience that the applicant would bring to the Clinic. Factors affecting this judgment may include the applicant’s statement of interest as expressed on the general clinic application form, and the responses on our supplemental application form. Please note: students who will be federal government employees are, by law, ineligible to participate in this clinic during their period of employment. Also, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA, as of July before the clinic begins, to take CALS.
CALS Students Win Asylum for Venezuelan Political Dissident
https://gulawweekly.org/2018/02/22/cals-students-win-asylum-for-venezuelan-political-dissident/

Atid Kimelman (right) and Emma Mlyniec (second from right) recently helped their client Mateo (left) win asylum with the help of translator Marisela Vazquez (second from left), a former LLM student.

Mateo (whose name has been changed to protect his privacy) fled his home country of Venezuela after the government enforcers brutally beat him, stalked him, and threatened him with death because of his anti-Chavismo political activism. When he came to Dulles airport in April 2017 and claimed asylum, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) immediately placed him in expedited removal proceedings and detained him at the Farmville detention center in rural Virginia. CAIR, the Capitol Area Immigrant Rights Coalition, referred Mateo’s case to the Center for Applied Legal Studies, Georgetown Law Center’s asylum law clinic. Over the course of their semester in CALS, Mateo’s student representatives, Emma Mlyniec and Atid Kimelman, worked intensely with Mateo to develop an evidentiary record and write a legal brief to convince the immigration judge that Mateo should be allowed to remain in the United States. Ultimately, the hard work paid off – the judge granted Mateo asylum, putting him on a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Mlyniec and Kimelman had enrolled in CALS hoping to learn about immigration law, develop practice skills, and serve a vulnerable client. “Especially as the political winds blow against welcoming refugees into our country, I wanted to represent an asylum seeker hoping to start a new life in the United States,” Kimelman said. “The experience helped me develop skills in client representation and trial advocacy that will help me wherever my career takes me.”

Traveling to the Farmville detention center eight times over the course of the semester, the students learned the details of the persecution that Mateo faced in Venezuela because of his political beliefs and actions. Mateo was a well-educated tax auditor working for a municipality in Venezuela when new, pro-government leadership in his office began to discriminate against and harass him for his oppositionist political views. Despite this, Mateo went to countless political protests and vocally expressed his political views on social media, working as a member of an oppositionist political party. Government-backed paramilitaries vandalized Mateo’s car and left a threatening note for him, and he was brutally beaten when he tried to obtain evidence of corruption and misconduct by the regime-backed mayor of the municipality he worked for. The government later stalked Mateo in an unmarked SUV and finally threatened him with death.

The students faced numerous obstacles in developing the record for Mateo’s hearing. Corroborating evidence is critical in asylum cases, but from day one, the students learned how difficult it would be to serve a client locked in a detention center over three hours from Washington. Even basic communication with Mateo, like phone calls, email, and fax, were extremely difficult because of the conditions of confinement. The students had to arrange for Mateo to be transferred to Fairfax, VA for a psychological evaluation, which provided critical corroborating evidence of the persecution he suffered, because finding a psychologist who could provide such services in Farmville was impossible. Additionally, Mateo’s asylum hearing was conducted by videoconference because he was detained, making it even less likely that the judge would be able to adequately judge Mateo’s credibility, which is central to asylum determinations. “This experience vividly demonstrated the host of due process issues that immigrant detention poses,” reflected Mlyniec. “From incredibly limited access to counsel to not being allowed to appear in person for your own
court hearing, it is clear that the system is stripping detained immigrants of the relatively few rights afforded to refugees in general.”

Mlyniec and Kimelman advocated vigorously for their client, procuring affidavits from nine of Mateo’s friends, family and work colleagues from Venezuela. They also meticulously investigated human rights conditions in Venezuela, researched applicable asylum law, and wrote (and re-wrote again and again) a substantial brief. At the same time, the students also obtained expert affidavits from a psychologist and trauma surgeon corroborating the trauma and physical injuries Mateo suffered, as well as three political scientists who bolstered Mateo’s case by explaining the dire conditions in Venezuela for political dissidents. In total, they compiled a 754-page submission, including dozens of evidentiary exhibits that they filed in court.

“The difficult work of developing an evidentiary record is a crucial aspect of lawyering that you can’t learn by reading a casebook,” Kimelman said. “It was also incredibly rewarding. Speaking with Mateo’s friends and family, and seeing the ways in which he was loved and supported, showed the best in humanity.”

Before Mateo’s hearing, the DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement trial attorney essentially stipulated to a grant of asylum because of the depth of evidence in the written submission. ICE’s attorney still wanted to hear Mateo testify to make sure his testimony lined up with his written affidavit and supporting evidence. Emma Mlyniec, an aspiring public defender, conducted Mateo’s direct examination and reflected afterwards that she was “grateful for the opportunity both to develop trial skills and to help our client tell his side of the story in his own words.” After a short and perfunctory cross-examination by ICE’s attorney, the Immigration Judge granted Mateo asylum and ICE waived appeal. Mlyniec and Kimelman immediately drove down to Farmville to pick up Mateo, who was now free after seven months in detention. Days later, Mateo celebrated his first Thanksgiving.

“CALS students perform such heroic efforts because the cases are so demanding—we carry a significant burden of proof in immigration court,” said Professor Andy Schoenholtz, director of CALS in the fall semester. “Our students have proven to be incredibly dedicated, sustaining the long hours and creativity necessary to build the case, and learning how to pull it all together in court on the day of the hearing.”

CALS prepares its students for the demands of asylum cases through twice-weekly classes and weekly, student-led case team meetings with a faculty advisor. The classes cover a range of litigation skills, such as interviewing, researching, legal writing, and hearing preparation. Through simulations, students have the opportunity to practice these skills before they have to perform those tasks in their real cases. Classes also cover the “softer” legal skills, such as dealing with some of the psychological pressures that arise when serving survivors of torture and other trauma, time management, collaboration with a partner, and learning to accept responsibility for a client’s case.

The clinic grants 10 semester credits, and students devote an average of 35 hours per week to CALS activities. Each semester, the clinic enrolls 12 students who work in pairs to represent six different asylum-seekers, who come from all over the world. In recent years, CALS has represented political activists, racial minorities, victims of gender-based violence, and other survivors of torture or repression, from Cameroon, El Salvador, Honduras, Libya, Guatemala, Eritrea, Russia, Liberia, Togo, and elsewhere.

Reflecting on his CALS experience, Kimelman stated, “CALS is hard, but professionally, it was the most productive and meaningful semester of my life. The opportunity to help someone as kind, generous, and humble as Mateo remain safely in the United States was incredibly rewarding and taught Emma and me so much about zealous and effective advocacy.”
STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN CALS

CURRENTLY 3L or above

Cedric Asiavugwa
Stefan Babich
Jeffrey Boblick
Kindra Crawford
Clayton Davis
Timothy Driscoll
Nicole Endsley
Grace Figueroa
Meha Goyal
Hayden Johnson
Laura Kaplan
Avery Kelly
Atid Kimelman
Christina LaRocca
Kelly McGee
Emma Mlyniec
Laura Muse
Claire Saba
Emma Vasta-Kuby
Melody Vidmar
Leah Wissner
Brennan Wortmann

CURRENTLY 2L

Sabiya Ahamed
Reshma Baig
Grace Benton
Kristen Blosser
Elizabeth Crivaro
Sarah Decker
Grace DeNoon
Kathryn Dowling
Rachel Finn
Esther Galan
Carlos Garcia Medina
Rachel Sumption
Isaac Hoenig
Grace Paras
Marissa Priceman
Ellen Watlington

CALS CLINIC FACULTY

ANDREW I. SCHOENHOLTZ
Professor from Practice;
Co-Director, Center for Applied Legal Studies;
Director, Human Rights Institute
B.A., Hamilton; J.D., Harvard; Ph.D., Brown

Professor Schoenholtz directs the Center for Applied Legal Studies at the Law Center, where students represent non-citizens claiming asylum from persecution in immigration removal proceedings. He also directs the Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies and the Human Rights Institute. He teaches courses on Refugee Law and Policy, Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies, Immigration Law and Policy, and the Rights of Detained Immigrants. Prior to teaching at the Law Center, Professor Schoenholtz served as Deputy Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform and practiced immigration, asylum and international law with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Covington & Burling. Dr. Schoenholtz has conducted fact-finding missions in Haiti, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, Malawi, and Zambia to study root causes of forced migration, refugee protection, long-term solutions to mass migration emergencies, and humanitarian relief operations. He researches and writes regularly on refugee law and policy. His publications include: Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security (co-author); Rejecting Refugees: Homeland Security's Administration of the One-Year Bar to Asylum (co-author); Refugee Roulette: Disparities in Asylum Adjudication (co-author); Refugee Protection in the United States Post-September 11th; The Uprooted: Improving Humanitarian Responses to Forced Migration (chapter on “Improving Legal Frameworks”); and Aiding and Abetting Persecutors: The Seizure and Return of Haitian Refugees in Violation of the U.N. Refugee Convention and Protocol.
PHILIP G. SCHRAG
Delaney Family Professor of Public Interest Law; Co-Director, Center for Applied Legal Studies
A.B., Harvard; LL.B., Yale

Professor Schrag teaches Civil Procedure and Professional Responsibility, and he directs the Center for Applied Legal Studies, in which students represent refugees who are seeking political asylum in the United States. Before joining the Law Center faculty in 1981, he was assistant counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense Educational Fund, Consumer Advocate of the City of New York, a professor at Columbia University Law School, and Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, from which he received a Meritorious Honor Award in 1981. Professor Schrag has also had a distinguished and varied career in civic service, which has included positions as a delegate to the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention in 1982, an editor and consultant on consumer protection during the Carter-Mondale transition, a consultant to the New York State Consumer Protection Board, a consultant to the Governor’s Advisory Council of Puerto Rico, and an Academic Specialist for the United States Information Agency in the Czech Republic and Hungary. In addition, he drafted New York City’s Consumer Protection Act of 1969. He is also a prolific author, having written dozens of articles on consumer law, nuclear arms control, political asylum, legal education, and various other topics for both law journals and popular publications. He is the author of fifteen books, including A Well-founded Fear: The Congressional Battle to Save Political Asylum in America (Routledge, 2000); Asylum Denied: A Refugee's Struggle for Safety in America (with Kenney, Univ. of Calif. Press 2008); Refugee Roulette: Disparities in Asylum Adjudication and Proposals for Reform (with Ramji-Nogales and Schoenholtz, N.Y.U. Press, 2009), and Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security (with Ramji-Nogales and Schoenholtz, N.Y.U. Press, 2014). In 2008, he was honored with the Deborah C. Rhode award for public service; the Daniel Levy Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in immigration law; the Equal Justice Works Outstanding Law Faculty Award; and the Myers Outstanding Book Award for Asylum Denied. In 2013, he received the William Pincus Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Legal Education. In 2014-15 he was awarded Georgetown University’s Presidential Award for Distinguished Teacher-Scholars.

FAIZA W. SAYED
B.A. University of California, Los Angeles; J.D. Columbia Law School

Before coming to Georgetown, Faiza was a Staff Attorney with the LegalHealth Unit of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). At NYLAG, Faiza was a part of LegalHealth’s Action NYC program, a partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. Through this program, she ran an immigration legal clinic in the South Bronx and represented clients in an array of immigration matters, including in applications for asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U visas, Violence Against Women Act petitions, medical deferred action, visa extensions, and family based petitions.

Prior to her work at NYLAG, Faiza was a Refugee Officer with the Refugee Affairs Division of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. During her time as a Refugee Officer, Faiza conducted refugee interviews in Thailand and drafted proposed policy. Previously, she was an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow at Sanctuary for Families, where she represented survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking in immigration matters, and a Kirkland & Ellis New York City Public Service Fellow at Her Justice, where she represented South Asian survivors of domestic violence.

Faiza serves on the advisory committee of the Immigrant Justice Corps. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was a James Kent Scholar, Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and recipient of the Lowenstein Fellowship. She also served on the editorial board of the Columbia Law Review. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of California, Los Angeles. Faiza speaks Urdu.

**Deena N. Sharuk**  
B.A. Wellesley College, J.D., Northeastern University School of Law

Before coming to Georgetown, Deena was a Staff Attorney at the Immigrant Advocacy Program at the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) and Lecturer at the University of Virginia School of Law (UVA). At LAJC, Deena managed the Special Immigrant Juvenile Project, where she represented and coordinated the pro bono representation of abandoned, neglected, and abused immigrant children throughout the state of Virginia. Through a partnership between UVA and LAJC, Deena led the UVA Immigration Law Clinic, guiding students through representation of immigrants in a variety of matters including removal proceedings, defensive and affirmative asylum, and federal litigation.

Deena also taught U.S. Refugee and Asylum Law at UVA. Deena was one of the Core Team Members of the Welcoming Greater Charlottesville Task Force, seeking to make the greater Charlottesville area more welcoming to immigrants and people of color. She is a member of the Massachusetts and Virginia Bars.

Prior to her work at LAJC, Deena practiced immigration law in both Virginia and Massachusetts. She was also a fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts where she conducted research on civil liberties issues arising from the war on terror and the militarization of local police forces. Deena received her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, where she was a Dean's Scholar, Recipient of the Melvin R. Wintman Scholarship, and was selected as a Commencement Speaker. She received her B.A. in International Relations from Wellesley College. Deena speaks Spanish and Arabic.