

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY LAW CLINIC

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Faculty	Professor Laura Moy Fellow Lindsey Barrett Fellow Michael Rosenbloom
What do students do	Students represent nonprofit organizations before federal agencies and courts to advocate for agency regulations, agency enforcement actions, and judgments that protect the public interest in communications and technology matters.
Semester or year-long	One semester, fall or spring
Open to	All 2Ls and 3Ls (at least 30 credits)
Prerequisite(s)	All first year courses
Credits	12 (three separate 4-credit grades)
Requires Student Bar Certification	No
How many students	8/Semester
Conflicts	Handled on a case-by-case basis
Average time commitment	42 hours per week total. 32 hours per week M–F on cases. 10 hours per week preparing for and attending seminar. Full-time work on cases will continue for one week into the reading period.
Seminar hours	Tues. 9:00am-11:00am Wed. 9:00am-11:00am
Orientation	Orientation will take place during the week before classes begin. Specific dates TBD, but likely on Wednesday and Thursday. To balance out the time spent in orientation, some seminar sessions will be canceled toward the end of the semester.
Open house	TBD

OVERVIEW

As technology advances, will society harness it to promote equity, or to serve and preserve systems of oppression? This question doesn't just affect some of us; it affects us all. The primary goal of the Communications & Technology Law Clinic is to equip law students with the competencies they need to thoughtfully and effectively shape technology policy in the direction of justice. In accordance with this foundational goal, the clinic aims to help students gain three things: a rich understanding of technology policy as social justice, skills and habits of an effective policy advocate, and professional qualities needed to be a good colleague and a constantly-improving lawyer.

The Communications & Technology Law Clinic works on highly visible matters at the intersection of law and technology. The clinic advocates on behalf of nonprofit organizational clients seeking to advance social justice technology policy in three ways: first, by promoting access to and inclusiveness of communications technologies and networks; second, by promoting the integrity and fairness of communications technologies and networks; and third, by defending justice movements from surveillance and other technological interference.

Our practice takes place mostly before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), with occasional matters before US Courts of Appeal and Congress. Examples of recent student projects include:

- Filing comments with the FTC on behalf of children’s advocacy organizations regarding the agency’s implementation of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act;
- Filing a complaint with the FTC alleging that Google Play is engaging in deceptive marketing by promoting certain apps as appropriate for children under age 13 that do not comply with children’s privacy law and that contain inappropriate content;
- Filing comments with the FCC on behalf of civil rights organizations arguing that the FCC should collect demographic information about broadcast licensees in order to better study diversity (or the lack thereof) in media ownership;
- Drafting an amicus brief for Consumers Union filed in the net neutrality appeal in the D.C. Circuit;
- Advising congressional staff on children’s privacy legislation on behalf of children’s advocacy organizations; and
- Meeting with representatives of a major media company on behalf of a disability rights organization regarding the company’s failure to provide adequate closed captions for content streamed on its platform.

Our clients are nonprofit organizations including Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood; Center for Digital Democracy; Common Cause; Consumers Union; the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; and Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

Students take substantial responsibility for their cases under the supervision of faculty and fellows. Projects in the clinic often involve issues of administrative law, privacy law, communications law, advertising law, and the First Amendment. Students have opportunities to communicate and strategize with clients and allied organizations; advocate for their clients in meetings with agency staff; gather facts; research statutes, regulations, and case law; and analyze how the law applies to specific circumstances. Students draft a wide variety of documents including letters to clients and agencies; comments on proposed rules; administrative appeals; complaints and requests for investigation filed with administrative agencies; and memoranda to clients. Students in the clinic often work alone but sometimes work in pairs or groups, and are frequently advised to consult with each other and review each other’s work.

Students in the clinic also attend and participate in a lively seminar that meets twice weekly to help develop skills needed to conduct effective tech policy advocacy. The seminar covers skills such as persuasive writing, face-to-face advocacy, one-pagers, oral presentations, legislative advocacy, and recent developments in law and technology. As part of the seminar, students have the opportunity to deliver presentations before their peers, discuss their projects, and occasionally attend hearings and conferences on law and technology topics.

TIME COMMITMENT

The clinic requires a substantial commitment of time, most of which takes place on-site in the clinic’s office, which starting in fall 2020 is expected to be located in the new building at 500 First Street, alongside the new Intellectual Property and Information Policy Clinic and near several other technology programs from across Georgetown University.

Because students’ work in the clinic has significant real-world consequences that affect people’s lives, they must devote significant time to learning about their clients, understanding the issues, understanding

the legal and political context in which they are working, and analyzing how they can best help their clients achieve their policy goals. Students also need time to write, to revise drafts in response to the comments of the faculty and clients, and to ensure that all filings with courts and agencies are persuasive, clearly written, carefully proofread, and meet all procedural requirements. Moreover, a substantial commitment of time is necessary to meet the law school's policy with regard to credits. Students receive 12 credits for the clinic, and are not permitted to enroll in more than 16 credits per semester. Many students plan their studies so that they do not need to take other classes.

There are three overlapping aspects to the time commitment.

1. Project hours. Students are expected to work on their projects for a minimum of 32 hours per week. All project work must be recorded in detail on time sheets that are turned in weekly.
2. Office hours. Students are expected to establish a regular schedule of 32 hours per week when they will work in the clinic office. Office hours must be scheduled on weekdays between 7:30 AM and 6:30 PM. Working in the office facilitates interactions with faculty, fellows, other students, and clients and is an important part of learning to be a lawyer.
3. Seminars. Students spend four hours per week in seminars. Students are expected to read assigned material in advance, complete any assigned exercises, and actively participate in class.

Students should expect to do some project work and class preparation outside of their scheduled office hours. At times, their projects may demand more than 32 hours of work per week.

GRADING

Approximately midway through the semester, students will conduct self-evaluations and will receive written and oral evaluations of their progress from the fellows and faculty supervising their work. At the end of the semester, students receive separate letter grades worth four credits each in three categories: 1) research and analysis, 2) written and oral communication, and 3) professionalism and advocacy.

SELECTION CRITERIA/APPLICATION PROCESS

We welcome applications from rising 2L and 3L students. While we have no course prerequisites, we recommend taking one or more courses in communications law, privacy law, and administrative law. If more students apply than can be accommodated, we will select students based on their experience and demonstrated interests in communications and technology law and public interest work.

STAFF

Professor Laura Moy directs the Communications & Technology Law Clinic. She is also the Associate Director of Georgetown Law's Center on Privacy & Technology. She has written, spoken, and advocated before agencies and Congress on a broad range of technology policy issues, including consumer privacy, law enforcement surveillance, security research, encryption, device portability, copyright, and net neutrality. Her current work focuses on policy issues at the intersection of privacy and the criminal legal system.

Before joining the Law Center faculty full-time, Professor Moy was Executive Director of the Center on Privacy & Technology and co-taught the Privacy Legislation Practicum in conjunction with faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Moy previously held positions as senior policy counsel at New America's Open Technology Institute and staff attorney at Public Knowledge. Professor Moy

completed her JD at NYU School of Law and her LLM at Georgetown as part of the law school's clinical teaching fellowship program. She was a teaching fellow in the Communications & Technology Law Clinic from 2011–2013—and loved it so much, she decided to return permanently.

Lindsey Barrett began as a graduate teaching fellow in summer 2018. Before joining the clinic, she was the Georgetown Policy Fellow at Future of Privacy Forum, where she worked closely with the Student Data Privacy Project. While a student at Georgetown Law, Lindsey served as a Research Assistant for the Center on Privacy and Technology, and worked for Facebook's Privacy & Public Policy group, the Senior Advisor for Privacy at the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Justice, FPF and the Electronic Privacy Information Center. Her work has been published in the NYU Review of Law & Social Change, the Georgetown Law Journal, and the Georgetown Law Technology Review, of which she was the Managing Editor and co-founder.

Michael Lee Rosenbloom began as a graduate teaching fellow in summer 2019. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 2017. He also holds an MSc in Social Science of the Internet from the University of Oxford, and a BS in Science, Technology and Society from Stanford University. Michael previously worked as a Legal Fellow at the Electronic Frontier Foundation in San Francisco.

2019-2020

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY LAW CLINIC STUDENTS

Fall 2019

Niki Arakelian
Harsimar Dhanoa
Jonathan Greengarden
Kevin Hotchkiss
Joanna Torres
Mary Weaver

Spring 2020

Jeffrey Brown
Celia Calano
Qingqin Chen
Abigail Ellerman
Michael Ingram
Grant Loriaux
Leetal Weiss