

POLICY CLINIC:

Community Equity, Health, Human Rights, Trade (part of the Harrison Institute for Public Law)

Apply online at: <http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/clinic-application/> (available March 25th—April 13th).
Learn more about the Policy Clinic and the Harrison Institute [here](#).

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| Faculty | Prof. Stumberg; Adj. Profs. Porterfield, Hoverter, and Li |
| What do students do | Students work in one of four teams to support clients who make or shape policy. Students analyze lawmaking authority, develop policy alternatives, and help clients plan their strategy. They present work to clients, coalitions, and policymakers. Seminars develop management, analysis, and communication skills. |
| Project teams | Community equity, health, human rights, or trade |
| Semester or year-long | Full year or fall only |
| Open to | All rising 2Ls and 3Ls (at least 30 credits) |
| Prerequisite(s) | First-year courses |
| Credits | 8 for Fall only; 14 for full year (8 in Fall, 6 in Spring) |
| Requires Student Bar Cert. | Yes |
| How many students | 14, at least 10 of whom will enroll for the full year |
| Conflicts | Handle on a case-by-case basis |
| Average time commitment | Average per week: Fall semester, 28 hours average – Spring, 22 hours average. Work on projects ends by December 18 (fall) or May 15 (spring). |
| Seminar hours | Tues. 3:30pm -5:00pm and Fri. 9:00am -12:00pm |
| Orientation | Mandatory orientation is on Thursday and Friday afternoons, August 27-28 |
| Information sessions Please let us know you're coming here . | Monday, March 30 – 11am-12pm – Zoom https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/905882671 Wednesday, April 1 – 1pm-2pm – Zoom https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/545649965 Thursday, April 2 – 9am-10:00am – Zoom https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/488162996 Or email stumberg@georgetown.edu to make an appointment. |

ABOUT THE POLICY CLINIC – The Harrison Institute for Public Law

The Harrison Institute involves students of the policy clinic in its mission—to enable communities, public officials, and universities to make and shape policy at all levels: local, state, national, and international.

Policy teams and goals. Students work in four teams to advance client goals, which include:

Community / equity team – Combatting displacement in at-risk and/or underserved communities.

- Strengthen resilience of frontline communities to the impacts of climate change.
- Expand and preserve affordable housing in communities facing gentrification.

Health / food team – Achieving health justice and healthy food.

- Expand oral health access for children with special health needs.
- Reinvent a healthier food chain for universities, schools, hospitals, and shelters.

Human rights team – Implementing human rights for workers.

- Protect workers in the FIFA World Cup 2026 in North America: construction, hotels, food, transport.
- Develop purchasing standards to respect human rights in university supply chains, starting with food.

Trade team – Balancing democracy and trade.

- Design a carbon tax that is consistent with international trade agreements.
- Reform international investment agreements and protect policy space for regulation in the public interest.

Clients and collaborators

Our clients include nonprofit organizations, university programs, and decision-makers—legislators, attorneys general, local governments, national associations, and international policy networks. See [our web page](#) (linked under Georgetown clinics) for details on clients and collaborators for each team.

Student work and policy skills

Students analyze law-making authority, identify policy alternatives, help clients plan a strategy, and draft documents based on client choices. Students develop three skill sets that they can transfer to any job, anywhere:

- Management – manage clients and supervisors, collaborate in teams, relate to professional culture.
- Analysis– interpret statutes/treaties, analyze legal authority, plan strategy, and frame policy choices.
- Communication – hone writing and presentation skills for diverse clients, media and audiences.

Range of services

Our clients ask us to:

- Analyze lawmaking authority and its limits – at multiple levels.
- Analyze policy options at all levels – local, state, federal, and international.
- Draft policy proposals (e.g., model legislation and agency rules).
- Prepare policy briefs and web pages for public education.
- Create the legal structure for an association or network.
- Organize hearings or conferences and make presentations.

Clinical teaching methods

Students work an average of 28 hours/week in the fall and 22 hours in the spring. A typical fall week looks like:

- Seminars – 6.5 hours per week including preparation.
- Team meetings and peer critique – 2.5 hours per week.
- Supervisor meetings – 1.5 hours per week.
- Client or constituency meetings – 2 hours per week.
- Independent student work – 15.5 hours per week.

POTENTIAL POLICY PROJECTS

Community / Equity

Combatting housing displacement in Washington, DC—New project in development

Rapid development and a history of racial exclusion in housing fuels escalating fears of gentrification and displacement of under-served and under-represented residents. We are helping a community coalition strengthen policies to build 12,000 units of affordable housing by 2025.

Support clients & partners

- Churches across DC with property to develop
- DC agencies (e.g., Office of Planning, Department of Housing & Community Development)
- Community development organizations

Build a strategy

- Analyze policy barriers: zoning, financing conditions
- Reveal equity tradeoffs: location versus cost
- Identify funding opportunities to reach scale
- Engage with community-based organizations

Learn and build on law & policy

- Inclusionary zoning
- Right to purchase for tenants and city government
- Distributed ownership – coops, condos, and trusts
- Public capital for private housing development

Learn business practices

- Zoning and other regulatory incentives and constraints
- Blended funding streams from public and private sources
- Mixed uses and incomes to build a sustainable community

Sea level rise on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Rising seas are an existential threat to many coastal communities. Six Maryland counties and two municipalities organized the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership to preserve their housing, jobs, economy, and culture.

Support clients & partners

- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership (ESCAP)
- Georgetown Climate Center
- State of Maryland

Build a strategy

- Survey and compare community goals to preserve housing, jobs and culture.
- Contribute to a regional plan for local governments.
- Present alternatives to local governments and draft policies to implement the regional plan.
- Enlist support from state agencies and other regions.

Learn and build on law & policy

- Delegation of state authority for land use controls
- Regional land use plans
- National Flood Insurance – Identify policies that reduce premiums (Community Rating System)
- Zoning and building codes
- Transferable development rights (TDRs)

Learn business practices

- Conservation easements
- Risk management for floods and weather events by utilities, banks, insurance companies, and other businesses
- Incentives for real estate development
- Build political buy-in from decisionmakers, community

Local climate equity in Washington, DC

We are consulting with recent collaborators to develop a local climate equity project to advance grassroots goals including job creation, affordable housing, and emergency management / resiliency.

Support clients & partners

- Georgetown Climate Center
- DC Department of Energy and Environment
- Community-based organizations

Build a strategy

- Identify forums for decision-making, including building bridges across siloed agencies
- Engage with community residents and adapt climate policies to achieve co-benefits for jobs, affordable neighborhoods, and resilience
- Engage legislative oversight to prompt agency action

Learn and build on law & policy

- Asset mapping – existing community resources
- Emergency management – services and shelter
- Job creation – local hiring, wage subsidies, job training

Learn business practices

- Climate opportunities for nonprofit developers
- Sustainable energy investments
- Legal work: after engaging with stakeholders,
- Community engagement

Health Justice and Healthy Food

Oral health for children with special needs

Oral health can be a life and death issue for low-income children with special needs like physical disabilities, autism, or behavioral disorders. We lead work of the Health Justice Alliance to overcome barriers to oral health.

Support clients & partners

- Georgetown's Health Justice Alliance
- DC Pediatric Oral Health Coalition

Build a strategy

- Identify barriers to access for dental services
- Organize forums with local experts and practitioners

- O’Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law
- Children’s Dental Health Project

- Develop and draft solutions to barriers
- Vet solutions with the Health Justice Alliance, local experts, and the DC Medicaid agency

Learn and build on law & policy

- Federal and state Medicaid statutes and rules
- DC “state plan” for health care services
- Federally qualified health centers
- State scope-of-practice laws

Learn business practices

- Contracts for managed-care services
- Medical/dental school curriculum and policies
- Billing practices of doctors and dentists
- Regulatory frameworks for health professions

Good food purchasing

The cheapest food is usually not fresh, nutritious, or humanely produced. Our clients lead a reform movement to advance “good food” values, which lead us to reinvent the food chain for consumers and producers alike.

Support clients & partners

- DC Food Policy Council
- Large urban school districts (including DC)
- Hospitals and hospital systems
- University procurement and supply chains
- Center for Good Food Purchasing

Build a strategy

- Set goals for nutrition, local sourcing, worker protection, animal welfare, sustainable agriculture
- Identify state and local forums
- Engage food, labor, and agriculture networks
- Identify pathways and barriers for making change

Learn and build on law & policy

- State and local procurement law
- National School Lunch Program rules
- Nutrition and quality standards
- Worker rights – *see university purchasing below*

Learn business practices

- Labs for regional innovation
- Purchasing contracts
- Procurement process
- Transparency platforms

Human Rights for Workers

Human rights in the FIFA World Cup 2026

In 2026, the FIFA World Cup will take place across three countries in North America, hosted jointly by the United States, Mexico, and Canada (“United 2026”). Harrison is working with NGOs to ensure that FIFA and United 2026 implement a human rights strategy that prevents worker abuse, globally and in American host cities.

Support clients & partners

- Human Rights Watch
- Centre for Sport and Human Rights
- AFL-CIO, Solidarity Center
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Worker Rights Consortium, Electronics Watch
- Int’l Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)

Build a strategy

- Assess risk of abuses: stadiums, food, apparel
- Identify targets (FIFA, United, host cities)
- Organize a coalition that is too big to ignore
- Advocate *locally* (based on a scorecard that compares the policies of host cities)
- Advocate *globally* (based on FIFA licensing and procurement from global supply chains)

Learn and build on law & policy

- Scorecard to compare laws of host cities
- Sourcing codes
- Transparency platform
- Contract clauses
- Remedies & arbitration process

Learn business practices

- Contracts for supply chain management
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Transparency mandates and mechanisms
- Risk management roles and strategies
- Coalition building among stakeholders

University purchasing and supply chains

Like other institutions, universities purchase food, apparel, and electronics from supply chains that abuse their workers. In the food industry, for example, poultry workers endure high risks of amputation, exposure to hazardous chemicals, and wage theft. Starting with food service, the Kalmanovitz Initiative is organizing a university working group to develop a sourcing code to protect workers and aggregate purchasing power to influence markets on a significant scale.

Support clients & partners

- Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor
- GU's Health Justice Alliance (law and medicine)
- Worker Rights Consortium
- Students Against Sweatshops
- Other universities – California, Michigan, Jesuit schools

Build a strategy

- Assess risks to poultry workers
- Map university supply chains
- Consult with food service companies on scale
- Convene other universities in a working group
- Develop a shared sourcing code that protects workers

Develop law & policy

- Code of conduct for multiple purchasing sectors
- Standards specific to the food industry
- Procurement incentives and remedies

Learn business practices

- Structure of corporate supply chains
- Business barriers to supply-chain transparency
- Sustainability rating services that reduce monitoring cost

Balancing Democracy & Trade ***Carbon pricing that complies with trade rules***

Support clients & partners

- Resources for the Future
- Climate Leadership Council
- Citizens Climate Lobby
- Congressional staff

Build a strategy

- Develop options to avoid “carbon leakage” and tax avoidance (e.g., via transshipments)
- Analyze trade conflicts in proposed legislation
- Connect to networks that advocate a carbon tax
- Develop guidance and draft border adjustments

Develop law & policy

- WTO agreements: GATT, TBT, ASCM
- Regional / bilateral trade agreements
- International standards for carbon content

Learn business practices

- Trade rules on border tax adjustments
- Transshipment practices
- Industry approaches to standard-setting

Reforming International Investment Agreements

Support clients & partners

- Columbia University's Center for Sustainable Investment
- Center for Advancement of the Rule of Law in Latin America (CAROLA), Georgetown Law
- Negotiators from countries involved in the UNCITRAL process

Build a strategy

- Set goals to minimize IIA exposure and preserve policy space to regulate in the public interest
- Collaborate with a coalition of academics, think tanks, and government officials
- Engage with UNCITRAL forum and US congressional committees
- Present potential IIA reforms to networks of developing countries

Learn and build on law & policy

- Multilateral conventions – implementation of tax (BEPS conv.) and investment treaties (Mauritius conv.)

Learn business practices

- Project investment agreements
- Private investment litigation tactics

- US Model Bilateral Investment Treaty and related investment chapters in NAFTA, USMCA, and other FTAs
- Other IIA models: EU, ASEAN, others
- EU model for investment court
- Domestic investment laws in South Africa & elsewhere

- Trade association approaches to trade advocacy

Recommend future projects

The Harrison Institute seeks your recommendations for projects or clients that the Policy Clinic should consider in future semesters. Use the clinic's supplemental application form, or send your ideas to stumberg@georgetown.edu.

CLINIC WORK AT END OF SEMESTER

The Harrison Institute depends on its students to complete the work commitments they make to their clients or project teams. This requires careful planning throughout the year in order to create reasonable expectations. Fall-only students must complete work by December 18th; yearlong students must complete work by May 15th.

SELECTION CRITERIA/APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Process

- **Information session.** Come to an information session at the following times, or email stumberg@georgetown.edu to make an appointment at a different time. All sessions are on Zoom at the following links. Please let us know you are coming by signing up here.
 - Monday, March 30 – 11am-12pm – Zoom <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/905882671>
 - Wednesday, April 1 – 1pm-2pm – Zoom <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/545649965>
 - Thursday, April 2 – 9am-10:00am – Zoom <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/488162996>
- **Application deadlines.** Submit your online clinic application by noon on April 12th.
 - The general application asks you to rank up to three clinics.
 - If you rank the Policy Clinic, indicate “full-year” or “fall-semester only.”
 - As part of your application, please upload your resume, transcript, a general statement of interest, and up to three statements of interest for specific clinics.
- **Supplemental preference form.** When you submit your statement of interest for the Policy Clinic, please cut and paste the project preference form (last page below) as page two of that same document. Type your preference rating into the blanks on that form.

Criteria for Selecting Students

- **Matching interests.** As part of your clinic application, we ask you to cut-and-paste a supplemental preference form as page two of your statement of interest in the Policy Clinic.
- **Personal interest.** We look for personal interest in clinic goals, subjects and clients as stated in your application, your supplemental preference form, and your resume.
- **Student diversity.** Diverse life experience strengthens our seminar, teamwork, and client relations. Our students typically span the political spectrum. We also value non-legal education or work experience.

STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE HARRISON INSTITUTE

STUDENTS – 2019-20

Climate team

Alexandra Votaw
Linn Bumpers

Human rights team

Matt McKenna
Katherine Rumer

Food and health team

Ezra Tanen
Samantha Weiner
Maya Desai
Ashley Lee

Trade team

Alexander Keyser
Christina Welch
Greg Hawkins
Sophia Panero
James Carey
Sam Pickerill

Robert Stumberg

Director and Professor of Law, stumberg@georgetown.edu

BA, with honors, Macalester College; JD, Georgetown University; LLM Georgetown University. His experience includes human rights for workers, international trade and investment, climate adaptation, community food systems, economic development, and housing policy. Recent publications include *Supply chain transparency in public procurement: lessons from the apparel sector*, in *Public Procurement and Human Rights: Opportunities, risks and dilemmas for the state as buyer* (Claire Methven O'Brien and Olga Martin-Ortega eds., Edward Elgar, 2019); *Turning a Blind Eye? Respecting Human Rights in Government Purchasing* (International Corporate Accountability Roundtable, 2015); *Safeguards for Tobacco Control*, 39 Am. J. Law & Med. 382 (2013); and *The WTO, Services and the Environment*, in *Handbook on Trade and the Environment* (2008).

Matthew Porterfield

Deputy Director and Adjunct Professor, porterfm@georgetown.edu

BA, University of Vermont; JD, Magna Cum Laude, Vermont Law School; LLM, Georgetown University. Matt works on various aspects of international economic law, with a focus on the relationship between international trade and investment rules and environmental policy. Recent publications include *Border Adjustments for Carbon Taxes, PPMs, and the WTO*, U. Penn. Journal of Int'l Law (2019); *Rethinking International Investment Governance: Principles for the 21st Century* (contributing author, August 2018); *Assessing the Climate Impacts of U.S. Trade Agreements*, Mich. Journal of Env'tl & Admin. Law 51 (coauthor, 2017); and *Exhaustion of Local Remedies in Investor-State Dispute Settlement: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?*, Yale Journal of International Law Online (2015).

Sara Pollock Hoverter

Staff Attorney (food and health) and Adjunct Professor, smp32@georgetown.edu

BA, Yale University; JD, Cum Laude, Georgetown University; LLM, Advocacy, Georgetown University. Her areas of concentration are public health and climate policy, including supporting the transformation of food systems, increasing access to health care (including oral health services), assisting local governments in protecting their most vulnerable residents from the public health and environmental impacts of heat in urban areas, and development of a community health worker network. Relevant publications include guest editing *Legal Solutions in Health Reform* (JLME, 2009), *Urban Heat Adaptation: A Toolkit for Local Governments* (2012), *Federal Funding Compendium for Urban Heat Adaptation* (2013), and a chapter on heat in the casebook, *Climate Change*,

Public Health, and the Law (2018). Sara's past positions included jobs at the National Partnership for Women and Families, the Center for Law and the Public's Health, and the DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice.

Jennifer Li

Staff Attorney (community equity, human rights), jennifer.li@georgetown.edu

BA, New York University; JD, Fordham Law School. Jennifer works on policies for adapting to climate change with the Georgetown Climate Center and local government partners like the District's Department of Energy and Environment and Maryland towns and counties. Jennifer also supervises student work for the clinic's human rights team to support worker rights in global supply chains. Before coming to Georgetown, Jennifer was a Fulbright scholar in India, where she researched climate policy and developed an international human rights course at Jindal Global Law School. She has also worked at the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, Human Rights in China (New York), the Human Rights Law Network (New Delhi), and the Innocence Project.

Policy Clinic – Harrison Institute for Public Law
Supplemental Application – Project Preferences

Copy, paste and upload this preference form as page 2 of your clinic-specific statement of interest at <http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/clinic-application/> (available March 25—April 13).

You can also email this form to Stumberg@georgetown.edu.

Preferences: Rate your interest in potential (not guaranteed) projects. Use a scale of 10, 10 being highest.

Community equity – Rate your general interest and specific projects

Combatting housing displacement in Washington, DC

___ Develop legislation and advocate for policies to increase affordable housing and mitigate displacement.

Climate equity in Washington, DC – project in development

___ Policies to increase community resilience (renewable energy, emergency management, job creation).

___ Neighborhood advocacy for climate equity.

Adapting to sea level rise (SLR) on Maryland’s Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay

___ Analyze state and local authority to prepare for rising seas and flooding.

___ Help local governments develop land-use, building, and infrastructure policies for SLR.

Health justice and healthy food – Rate your general interest and specific projects

Oral health for children with special needs

___ Expand access to oral health care for children with special health care needs.

___ Develop advocacy projects for Georgetown’s Health Justice Alliance.

Good food purchasing

___ Support purchase of fresh local food by schools and hospitals.

___ Support multi-district and/or multi-sector collaboration, e.g., between school districts and hospitals.

___ Create policy to reduce food insecurity in D.C.

___ Develop a “sustainable” sourcing code for university food purchasing (including worker rights).

Human rights for workers – Rate your general interest and specific projects

___ Organize a coalition on human rights in the FIFA World Cup 2026 in North America.

___ Develop a scorecard to compare worker rights and remedies of state and local governments.

___ Develop a sourcing code to protect workers in FIFA supply chains: construction, hotels, transport.

___ Develop a working group on worker rights in university purchasing.

___ Develop a sourcing code to protect workers in university supply chains: food, apparel, electronics.

Balancing democracy and trade – Rate your general interest and specific projects

Carbon pricing that complies with trade rules

___ Analyze the impact of trade rules on climate-change policies, e.g., solar incentives.

___ Provide guidance to jurisdictions that are drafting carbon taxes.

___ Analyze the WTO-consistency of carbon taxes.

___ Develop options for international coordination of carbon pricing programs.

Reforming international investment agreements (IIAs)

___ Contribute options to reform IIAs in the UN Comm. on Int’l Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

___ Develop models for multilateral reform of investment treaties (including a framework treaty).

Recommend future projects – The Harrison Institute seeks your recommendations for projects or clients that the Policy Clinic should consider in future semesters.

___ Project topic or potential client: