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CLINICS



A Message from Associate Dean for Clinics and Experiential Programs

Erica Hashimoto (L'97)

I'm excited to share this update about our clinics with our Georgetown Law clinical alumni family. Especially at a time when the pandemic and the ongoing effects of systemic racism have negatively impacted so many, I've been heartened and renewed by the wonderful work our clinics have done to mitigate and counteract the effects of both. Our clinical faculty, students, fellows, and staff have worked tirelessly this year to help realize the Law Center's vision that "law is but the means, justice is the end." We write to share these updates as a few examples of the many ways that our clinics have fought for and achieved justice as they sought to protect clients from the effects of the pandemic and to promote racial justice in new and innovative ways during a time of intense need.



[For Georgetown Law's Criminal Clinics, A Banner Year for Compassionate Release Wins](#)

The Criminal Justice Clinic and Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic have significantly expanded their work on compassionate release cases – successfully freeing over a dozen prisoners who were especially at-risk of exposure to COVID-19 as the virus rampaged through prison systems. Initially represented by clinic faculty and the E. Barrett Prettyman Fellows – and now represented by clinic students – these clients have finally returned to their families and communities after years of incarceration.

[Social Enterprise & Nonprofit Law Clinic Pivots to Represent Nonprofits Confronting the Pandemic and Anti-Black Racism](#)

During a typical semester in the Social Enterprise & Nonprofit Law Clinic (SENL), students represent D.C.-area social enterprises and nonprofits working in a range of fields, including social services, education, and international development. During the atypical fall 2020 semester, SENLC students have not only pivoted to virtual representation, but they have also sharpened the focus of their representations to serve organizational clients who are responsive to the converging COVID-19 pandemic and our national reckoning of anti-Black racism.

[Health Justice Alliance Responds to New Challenges Facing Their Clients Due to COVID-19](#)

The havoc created by the COVID-19 health crisis has made the work of the Health Justice Alliance (HJA) — using law as a tool to improve individual and community health and well-being — all the more important and impactful. HJA students and faculty have spent the spring and fall semesters of 2020 training their medical partners to understand their patients' rights being impacted by COVID-19, developing know-your-rights and resource materials, and advocating for educational supports for students during this period of distance learning.

[Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative Continues to Lead in the Fight for Racial Justice](#)

Georgetown's Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative (JJCI) is on the frontline of the fight for racial justice in America's juvenile and criminal legal systems, and the JJCI policy team has been working hard in 2020 to mitigate the impact of twin pandemics — the coronavirus and over-policing — plaguing the United States.

[IPIP Creates Cutting-Edge Guide to Clinical Technology During COVID-19](#)

Georgetown's clinics' unprecedented shift to virtual teaching presented a crucial opportunity to the Intellectual Property and Information Policy Clinic (IPIP) to reassess how technology is used to support clinical work and reflect on how clinics can do so consistent with their ethical obligations. At the start of the fall 2020 semester, a team of IPIP clinic students began drafting Georgetown Law's first-ever guide to clinical technology.

[Breaking the Shell: DC Clinics Help to Expose Migrant Crab Pickers' Heightened Vulnerability to the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

This fall, the Federal Legislation Clinic co-authored a report on the unsafe working conditions

for migrant workers in Maryland's crab industry. The report exposed workers' heightened vulnerability to the coronavirus as frontline workers and made recommendations for change at the local, state, and federal levels.

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