

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY LAW CLINIC (IPR)

Faculty	Professor Laura Moy Fellow Victoria Tang Second fellow (to be hired)
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 per 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	Mon. 1:20–3:20 PM Wed. 1:20–3:20 PM
Orientation	Orientation will take place starting at 10:00 AM on the first day of the semester, regardless of whether or not we would otherwise have class that day. Please inquire about any anticipated conflicts.
Open house	Thursday, March 30, 2021 4:00PM - 5:00PM via Zoom

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 by promoting access to and inclusiveness of communications technologies and networks, promoting the integrity and fairness of communications technologies and networks, and 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 courts and Congress. Examples of recent student projects include:

- Filing comments with the FCC on behalf of communications disability organizations pushing for strong enforcement of rules requiring 911 services to be accessible by text;
- Filing an amicus brief on behalf of racial justice advocates arguing that the warrantless use of mass surveillance planes over Baltimore violates the Fourth Amendment;
- Filing comments on behalf of privacy organizations advocating for the FCC not to change rules requiring phone carriers periodically to certify their compliance with privacy regulations;
- Filing a complaint with the FTC alleging that TikTok is in violation of its existing consent decree with the FTC for children's privacy violations;
- 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;
- 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 typically are nonprofit organizations, but on occasion, we also represent individuals. In the recent past, we have represented the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood; the Center for Digital Democracy; Common Cause; Consumer Reports; the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.; and the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law.

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 typically work on projects in pairs 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 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. When not operating remotely, most of the clinic work takes place on-site in the clinic's office, which has recently moved to the new building at 500 First Street, alongside the 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 during the semester when they are enrolled in the clinic.

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. When not operating remotely, 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.
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, clinic projects may demand more than 32 hours of work per week.

GRADING

Approximately midway through the semester, students conduct self-evaluations and 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.

Victoria Tang is a staff attorney and teaching fellow at the Communications & Technology Law Clinic (Institute for Public Representation). Before joining Georgetown Law, she was a legal fellow at the Student Press Law Center.

During law school at Berkeley, Victoria participated in the International Human Rights Law Clinic and led the California Asylum Representation Clinic. She was a legal intern at the American Civil Liberties Union, National Coalition Against Censorship, and Southern Poverty Law Center. She served as Senior Online Editor of the California Law Review and Senior Articles Editor of the Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law. Her writing has also been published in Human Rights Quarterly.

Prior to her legal career, Victoria was a science and technology journalist, working as an editor at Wired magazine. She received her JD from UC Berkeley; MA in Newspaper, Magazine, and Online Journalism from Syracuse University; and BA in Molecular & Cell Biology, Political Science, and Rhetoric from UC Berkeley.

We will be hiring a second teaching fellow to begin in the summer of 2021.

2020-2021

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY LAW CLINIC STUDENTS

Fall 2020

Laura Haak
Samuel Hanks
Tyler Kaufman
Gabriel Khoury
Nicholas Paniagua
Alessandra Schaszberger
Mariestela Somarriba
Caitlin VerBrugge

Spring 2021

Elizabeth Americo
Ian Carrico
Panya Gupta
Amber Morrow
Ellen Gardiner
Shreya Kundur
Niki Wasserman
Monty Roberson