

# POLICY CLINIC:

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

Learn more about the Policy Clinic and the Harrison Institute [here](#).

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 & food, human rights for workers, and trade policy
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 of interest	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. 3:00pm – 5:00pm and Fri. 10:00am – 1:00pm
Orientation	Mandatory orientation is on Thursday and Friday afternoons, August 26-27
Information sessions Please let us know if you're coming <a href="#">here</a> .	Monday, March 29 – 2pm-3pm via Zoom (email <a href="mailto:fb573@georgetown.edu">fb573@georgetown.edu</a> for link) Wednesday, March 31 – 11am-12pm via Zoom (email <a href="mailto:5b573@georgetown.edu">5b573@georgetown.edu</a> for link) <i>Or email <a href="mailto:stumberg@georgetown.edu">stumberg@georgetown.edu</a> to make an appointment.</i>

## ABOUT THE POLICY CLINIC – The Harrison Institute for Public Law

The Harrison Institute involves students in its mission—to enable communities, public officials, and universities to make and shape policy at all levels: local, state, national, and international. Past students have advised state legislatures, worked with local groups to advance community priorities, and created solutions to thorny problems for non-profit coalitions. All students leave Harrison with deep subject matter expertise, improved analysis skills, and experience in managing clients, projects, and strategy.

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

**Community equity** – Supporting community development in underserved neighborhoods.

- Strengthen the resilience of frontline communities to the impacts of climate change.
- Expand and preserve affordable housing in Washington, DC, neighborhoods facing gentrification, displacement, and other economic and social pressures.

**Health justice & healthy food** – Achieving health justice and healthy food.

- Expand oral health access for children and families in Washington, DC.
- Reinvent a better food chain for universities, schools, hospitals, and shelters.
- Develop a consortium to improve working conditions in university food supply chains.

**Human rights for workers** – Implementing human and labor rights for workers.

- Develop a consortium to improve working conditions in university supply chains (see health above).

- Develop job-quality standards for the BlueGreen Alliance of labor and environmental organizations.
- Protect workers in the FIFA World Cup 2026 in North America: construction, hotels, food, transport.

**Trade policy** – Balancing democracy and trade.

- Develop mutually supporting climate and trade policies.
- Reform international investment agreements to protect policy space to address the pandemic and pursue other public policy objectives.

### Clients and collaborators

Our clients include community groups, nonprofit organizations, university programs, coalitions, 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 help clients plan a strategy, organize coalitions, analyze law-making authority, identify policy alternatives, 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.
- Help organize coalitions of advocacy organizations, institutions, and individuals to push for change.
- Help plan a strategy to achieve their goals.
- 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

***Combating housing displacement in Washington, DC***—New project in development

Rapid development and racist housing laws and policies – combined with other threats like climate change and pandemics– have escalated the rate of gentrification and displacement of under-served and under-represented residents in communities around the country. We work with community groups like the [Ward 8 Community Economic Development](#) group to bring legal and advocacy resources to residents.

### Support clients & partners

- DC agencies (e.g., Office of Planning, Department of Housing & Community Development)
- Legal assistance partner (e.g., Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless)
- Community groups
- Community development financial institutions

### Learn and build on law & policy

- Community benefits agreements
- Community land trusts
- Inclusionary zoning and other regulatory incentives
- Right to purchase for tenants and city government
- Distributed ownership – coops, condos, and trusts

### Build a strategy

- Analyze policy barriers: zoning, land-use, community organizing
- Identify funding opportunities to reach scale
- Engage with community-based organizations
- Build a city-wide support group

### Learn business practices

- Public capital for private housing development
- Blended funding streams from public and private sources
- Mixed uses and incomes to build a sustainable community

## Health Justice and Healthy Food

### *Oral health for children and families in Washington, DC*

Oral health can be a life and death issue for low-income children and families with special needs like physical disabilities, autism, or behavioral disorders. We lead work with the Georgetown's Health Justice Alliance to overcome barriers to oral health. In fall 2021, we anticipate working to introduce and pass legislation in the DC Council to expand access to care by giving dental hygienists more opportunity to work independently in areas.

### Support clients & partners

- Georgetown's Health Justice Alliance
- DC Pediatric Oral Health Coalition
- O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law
- Children's Dental Health Project

### 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

### Build a strategy

- Organize forums with local experts and practitioners
- Create a legislative strategy to expand oral health access
- Develop and draft solutions to barriers
- Vet solutions with the Health Justice Alliance, local experts, and the DC Medicaid agency

### 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 food worker rights below*

### Learn business practices

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

### ***Food worker rights and health – the Just Purchasing Consortium***

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. Workers across all parts of the supply chain have been ravaged by COVID-19 outbreaks without a strong government response. We are leading a national working group to create a Just Purchasing Consortium to enable universities to develop a purchasing code and monitor conditions for workers who produce their food.

#### **Support clients & partners**

- Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor
- Georgetown’s Workers’ Rights Institute
- Worker Rights Consortium
- Other universities – California, Michigan, Washington, Vermont, Jesuit schools
- Students Against Sweatshops, Real Food Challenge, and other national networks

#### **Build a strategy**

- Assess risks to food workers
- Map university supply chains
- Examine the role of food service management companies in the supply chain (FSMCs)
- Convene experts, universities, and worker-led organizations in a national working group
- Provide leadership training for workers
- Involve workers in educating universities

#### **Develop law & policy**

- Purchasing code with specific health protocols to reinforce and fill in gaps in existing law and enforcement
- Monitoring system to support worker remedies
- Transparency platform to reveal the supply chain

#### **Learn business practices**

- Structure of corporate supply chains (including FSMCs)
- Commercial privacy arguments against supply-chain transparency
- Sustainability rating services that reduce monitoring cost
- Incorporating enforceable requirements into contracts

## **Human Rights for Workers**

### ***Food worker rights and health – the Just Purchasing Consortium***

Same project as noted above under food and health.

### ***BlueGreen Alliance for labor standards in public spending***

The BlueGreen Alliance of labor and environmental organizations promotes creating quality jobs while reducing energy consumption, carbon pollution and the worst impacts of climate change. Priorities include procurement of energy-intensive building materials for infrastructure and incentive programs to expand the markets for zero-emission vehicles.

#### **Support clients & partners**

- BlueGreen includes the United Auto Workers, United Steel Workers, Teamsters, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LANE), and the Natural Resources Defense Council

#### **Build a strategy**

- Convene alliance members to develop a consensus on spending programs
- Present drafting choices to the coalition and lawyers for state agencies

#### **Develop law & policy**

- Draft eligibility standards for state subsidy programs based on whether manufacturers of zero-emission vehicles comply with state law and create jobs for disadvantaged workers.
- Draft transparency standards to reveal supply chains and carbon-intensity of state and federal procurement of building materials such as steel, glass and cement

#### **Learn business practices**

- Arguments to preempt state law based on federal law that aim to block state labor standards for public spending programs
- Commercial privacy concerns with respect to disclosing supply-chain locations and working conditions

## Human rights in the FIFA World Cup 2021

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 and potential host cities to ensure that FIFA and United 2026 implement a human rights strategy that prevents worker abuse, globally and in American host cities. Importantly, this strategy must be responsive to changing economic, political, and social landscapes in cities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 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* (for host cities to be transparent and accountable in negotiations with FIFA )
- 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

## Trade & Investment Policy

### Carbon pricing that complies with trade rules

#### Support clients & partners

- The Atlantic Council
- Resources for the Future
- Georgetown’s International Institute for Economic Law

#### Build a strategy

- Support a Transatlantic Climate and Trade Agenda process between the US and the EU
- Develop options to avoid conflict between trade and climate policies and coordinate International climate policies
- Connect to networks that advocate a carbon tax
- Develop guidance and draft border adjustments

#### Learn and build on law & policy

- WTO agreements: GATT, ASCM, GPA, TBT
- 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.)
- 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

### Learn business practices

- Project investment agreements
- Private investment litigation tactics
- 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup>; yearlong students must complete work by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## SELECTION CRITERIA/APPLICATION PROCESS

### Application Process

- Information session. Come to an information session at the following times:
  - Monday, March 29 – 2pm-3pm – See page 1 for Zoom links.
  - Wednesday, April 1 – 11am-12pm – See page 1 for Zoom links.*Or email [stumberg@georgetown.edu](mailto:stumberg@georgetown.edu) to make an appointment at a different time.*
- 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 your statement.**

### 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 – 2020-21

Community equity team	Human rights team	Trade team
Linn Groft David Leeds Rolland Giberson	<i>FIFA &amp; human rights</i> Jessica Doumit (fall) Rolland Giberson <i>BlueGreen Alliance</i> Mansi Gaur Cameron Mixon Isabella Peek Zeqing Kate Zheng	Brian Chen (fall) Philipp von Pelsler Berensberg
Food and health team		
Matthew Behrens Danielle Brooks Kay Lee (fall) Aiseosa Osaghae		

#### Robert Stumberg

Director and Professor of Law, [stumberg@georgetown.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Applesseed Center for Law and Justice.

**Jennifer Li**

*Staff Attorney (community equity, human rights) and Adjunct Professor, [jennifer.li@georgetown.edu](mailto:jennifer.li@georgetown.edu)*  
BA, New York University; JD, Fordham Law School; LLM, Georgetown University. Jennifer's work focuses on increasing the resilience of communities, such as through equitable policies for adapting to climate change and supporting development initiatives in under-resourced communities. 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 also taught international human rights at Jindal Global Law School.

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.

You can also email this form to [Stumberg@georgetown.edu](mailto:Stumberg@georgetown.edu).

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

**Community equity** – Rate general interest (this line) and specific projects (below)

*Combatting housing displacement in Washington, DC*

- Develop legislation and advocate for policies to increase affordable housing and mitigate displacement.
- Support community groups in combatting gentrification and development pressures.
- Support neighborhood advocacy for climate equity.

**Health justice & healthy food** – Rate general interest (this line) and specific projects (below)

*Oral health for children with special needs*

- Expand access to oral health care for children and families in Washington, DC.
- Organize an advocacy campaign to adopt health policies.

*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.

*Food worker rights and health – the Just Purchasing Consortium*

- Develop an equity dashboard: hotspots of health and labor abuses
- Develop a purchasing code: health and safety standards
- Develop a monitoring system: protecting worker privacy and job security
- Develop a transparency platform: reveal supply chains and location of workers

**Human rights for workers** – Rate general interest (this line) and specific projects (below)

*Food worker rights and health – the Just Purchasing Consortium*

- Use the lines for this same project above under health and food.

*Human rights in the FIFA World Cup 2026*

- Develop a scorecard to compare worker rights and remedies of state and local governments.
- Partner with host cities to identify policies to support FIFA workers during & after COVID-19.
- 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 & trade** – Rate general interest (this line) and specific projects (below)

*Climate policies that comply with trade rules*

- Analyze the impact of trade rules on climate policies, e.g., carbon border adjustments, green stimulus spending, and renewable energy incentives.
- Develop options for international coordination of carbon pricing at all levels (local, national, global).

*Reforming international investment agreements (IIAs)*

- Contribute options to reform IIAs in the UN Comm. on Int'l Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
- Develop legal strategies for mitigating the risk of pandemic-related investment claims.
- 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: