

**AALS International Human Rights  
Section Survey of Human Rights Activities in  
U.S Law Schools**

International Human Rights Law Clinic  
University of California, Berkeley  
School of Law (Boalt Hall)  
Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

Contact Person for Further Information (name, phone and email):

**Prof. Laurel Fletcher**

Phone: 643-4792

E-mail: [lef@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:lef@law.berkeley.edu)

**Prof. Roxanna Altholz**

Phone: 643-8781

E-mail: [raltholz@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:raltholz@law.berkeley.edu)

Questions about your Human Rights Center, Institutions of Programs (CIP):

1. How many Human Rights Centers, Institutions or Programs do you have and what they called?

International Human Rights Law Clinic

For each separate one, please answer the following questions:

2. What is the makeup of the Center/Institute/Program staff? (full-time staff, part-time staff, law professors, law students, other professors or students, and advisory board)

F/t Director

F/t Clinical Lecturer

F/t Administrator

6-10 law students per semester

3. How are law students involved with the CIP? (i.e. are there journals, newsletters, briefs, or other publications, human rights programs abroad, other international human rights campaigns, etc.)

The clinic is open to second- and third-year law students.

4. If it's not obvious from the name of the program, does the CIP focus on any specific international human rights law issues (i.e. refugees, women's rights, etc.)?

We currently focus our work in (i) human rights and natural disasters; (ii) globalization; (iii) social & cultural rights; (iv) promoting human rights in the United States and (v) anti-impunity.

5. What classes, seminars, symposiums, or other presentations have been offered in conjunction with the CIP?

A companion clinical seminar is a co-requisite for the clinic.

6. Does the CIP assist students in acquiring internship/externship opportunities with human rights organizations (NGOs, IGOs, etc.)? Which organizations?

The clinic works with Boalt's career services department to counsel students on internship availability, selection and financing.

7. In general, how is the CIP funded?

Private funding.

8. Does the CIP have any affiliations with Human Rights groups outside the law school or university? Which ones? What is the nature of the affiliation?

The Clinic is affiliated with UC Berkeley's Human Rights Program and we collaborate on research and policy initiatives. The Clinic also works in collaboration with local partners in our cases and projects.

9. Does the CIP allow student involvement in actual International Human Rights cases? What is the degree of that involvement?

Students are full participants in clinic projects and serve as advocates, researchers and legal representatives in court proceedings.

10. What, in your opinion, attracts students to participate in the CIP?

Students are drawn to the opportunity to contribute to human rights work through hands-on experience on live cases and projects. The ability to make a tangible contribution to the human rights movement is an incredible draw to the work.

11. What are some specific projects or cases that the CIP has undertaken in recent years?

- litigating the right to education before the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and the Inter-American Court;
- filing suit against torturers in U.S. courts under the Alien Tort Claim Act;
- documenting mass expulsions of Haitians in the Dominican Republic using interdisciplinary methods;

- conducting interdisciplinary research on social reconstruction in Bosnia;
- exposing forced labor in the United States;
- reforming the anti-trafficking law in California;
- reforming Africa's human rights institutions;
- documenting the human rights impact of the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

12. Are there cultural and language barriers that impede your work? If so, how have you overcome these barriers?

We work through translators when needed.

13. Are there any other suggestions you may have concerning the organization of a CIP?

**Questions about your human rights clinical work:**

14. How many clinics do you have that are handling international human rights litigation or projects (by using international law in domestic fora and/or by taking matters to IGOs)?

International Human Rights Law Clinic

For each such clinic, please answer the following questions:

15. What is the makeup of the clinic staff? (full-time staff, part-time staff, permanent/non-tenure track/temporary law professors, law students, other professors or students)

See above

16. In what fora do you practice?

Inter-American System;

U.S. federal courts;

Policy work at the national and international (UN) level

17. Who are your case referral agencies?

N/A

18. Please list any partner NGOs that assist you in casework or in teaching the clinic.

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA\_

19. If you were planning to start up a human rights clinic, what are the most important substantive books to have on your shelf, the top websites you would bookmark and the most important listservs to join (you do not have to catalogue your library

for us, we would just like to let our colleagues know your “top ten list” of items you most strongly recommend for people who are starting out)?

*Human Rights* by Louis Henkin and Gerald L. Neuman

*International Human Rights: law, Policy and Process* by Frank C. Newman

*How Does Law Protect War?* By ICRC

*Promoting Justice* by International Human Rights Law Group

20. Do you have syllabi, simulations or any other material that you are able to make available to others, either upon request or by putting it up for colleagues on a shared link between the AALS human rights section website and your clinic’s website (the AALS link could be password protected if this would be helpful)?

See previous questionnaire

21. What percentage of the students in this clinic typically travel abroad for their clinic work?

10-20%

22. Do students have the opportunity to meet their clients in person?

Not generally.

23. What mix of domestic work (if any) and international cases does this clinic handle?

50/50

**Individual Faculty Efforts:**

24. Do you have any faculty that are performing or supervising significant international human rights litigation or projects outside the formal structure of centers and clinics? If so, what type of project and how many students are involved?

No.

**Externships:**

25. Do you have students receiving credit for human rights service performed outside your law school? Roughly how many students are doing this each year? What percentage of externships involve placement outside the U.S.?

Students may participate in externships locally; generally these tend to be in the areas of immigration and refugee representation, Few students go out of state or abroad during the academic year, as these programs require a minimum of 10 unit commitment, which exhausts most of the allotment of non-academic units permitted.

***AALS Human Rights Section:***

26. As you know, the AALS human rights section is just getting off the ground and we would be grateful for your suggestions and leadership. Please let us know in writing or by calling Beth Lyon at 610-519-7126.

**A final draft of your responses will be circulated to you before it is uploaded to the Section website. Please let us know if you would prefer that any of your answers *not* be placed on the website.**