

AALS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

SURVEY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN U.S. LAW SCHOOLS

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**Center for Applied Legal Studies
Georgetown University Law Center**
<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/cals/>

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Questions about your Human Rights Centers, Institutions or Programs (CIP):

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

For each separate one, please answer the following questions:

See survey response by Susan Deller Ross. These questions are answered only for the Center for Applied Legal Studies.

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)

This is an academic program (clinic) for 10 credits, one semester, offered both in the spring and in the fall. 2 half time professors, two full time supervising lawyers (Fellows), one Office Manager, 12 students each 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.)

They represent asylum seekers, usually in Immigration Court.

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.)?

Asylum representation.

5. What classes, seminars, symposiums, or other presentations have been offered in

conjunction with the CIP?

The clinic includes two classes every week, plus occasional additional training exercises.

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

No, but several of our graduates have gone on to full time jobs in such organizations, including HIAS, CLINIC, and others.

7. In general, how is the CIP funded?

It is an academic program of the Law Center.

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?

No formal affiliations, but Judith Okawa, a psychologist who works with torture survivors at the Center for Multicultural Human Services in Virginia, is an adjunct professor at the Law Center associated with the clinic.

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

Yes, representation of clients in Immigration Court.

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

The opportunity to learn law by meeting an important client need in an international context.

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

Representation of individual clients.

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

Yes, we use volunteer interpreters and translators supplied by clients or located among the student body at the university.

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)?

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?

Immigration courts in Baltimore, MD, and Arlington, VA, and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Occasionally we represent a client in the Arlington Asylum Office.

17. Who are your case referral agencies?

Private attorneys and many non-governmental organizations.

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

As noted, we cooperate with Dr. Judith Okawa at the Center for Multicultural Human Services.

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)?

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)?

Our syllabus is so geared to our specialized, local practice that it would not be helpful to others. However, others might find useful our website at

<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/cals/index.html>

This website includes materials on our goals, methods, staff, and graduate Fellowships.

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

None

22. Do students have the opportunity to meet their clients in person?
Yes, and they do so very often.

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

The cases are all “domestic” but the facts and law include international elements.

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?

Yes, Prof. Koplow, the Fellows, and I are frequently involved in related projects in our individual capacities. For example, I was significantly involved in educating members of Congress during the battle over the 1996 immigration bill, and in dealing with administration thereafter as it wrote implementing legislation and forms. This experience is described in my book *A Well-founded Fear: The Congressional Battle to Save Political Asylum in America* (2000).

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.?

No