

BerkeleyLaw

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Pro Bono Program

Student Initiated Legal Services Projects (SLPS) 2019-2020 Project Descriptions

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ANIMAL LAW AND ADVOCACY

The Animal Law and Advocacy SLP will focus on administrative law advocacy (such as rulemaking petitions, rulemaking comments, and enforcement letters) for issues under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of the Interior (DOI), and possibly other agencies. These agencies have jurisdiction over laws such as the Animal Welfare Act, many laws regulating slaughterhouses and agriculture systems, food safety, and wildlife resource management. For example, the first year's assignment will involve factual and legal research relating to USDA and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS)'s "fine and dash" policy. "Fine and dash" policy penalties and license revocations are imposed on facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act, but the USDA/APHIS does not account for the disposition of animals leaving them to suffer unknown fates at closed facilities. After researching these issues, students will draft a supplemental rulemaking petition to ask USDA to account for animal disposition/confiscation as part of AWA enforcement actions.

Supervision: Students in Animal Law and Advocacy provide legal services under the supervision of the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#).

Time commitment: 10-20 hours per semester.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at animallawsociety@berkeley.edu.

BERKELEY IMMIGRATION GROUP

The Berkeley Immigration Group (BIG) seeks to provide pro bono opportunities to Berkeley Law students passionate about protecting immigrants' rights, while also bringing together students interested in pursuing a career in immigration law. As members of BIG, students have diverse volunteer options, including preparing bond packets for detained immigrants, conducting know your rights trainings at immigration court, immigration court observations, and fundraising for BIG's immigration bond fund. Students who speak Spanish will have opportunities to contribute their language skills to BIG's work, but there are also ample opportunities for those who do not. BIG also organizes and sponsors events to expose Berkeley Law students to important and innovative immigration work, and to provide them with immigration law networking opportunities. Members have the option of either dedicating themselves exclusively to their BIG volunteer work, or to committing fewer pro bono hours to BIG while still being a part of our organization.

Supervision: Students in BIG provide legal services under the supervision of attorneys at [Centro Legal de la Raza](#).

Time Commitment: Time commitment will vary depending on which projects students choose to participate in. We expect students will contribute five hours, at a minimum, each semester. Members are expected to attend a one-hour team meeting every month.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at berkeleyimmigrationgroup@berkeley.edu.

BERKELEY LAW ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT

The Berkeley Law Anti-Trafficking Project (BATPro) seeks to empower youth involved with, or at risk for, child sex trafficking by educating them about the realities of human trafficking, healthy alternatives, and their legal rights in situations of exploitation and abuse. Our organization is broken out into three sub-groups; these groups all have specific projects unique to their focus area, but all incorporate aspects that target improving legal research and writing skills. There are opportunities within the group to organize speeches, work with local attorneys, and create advocacy projects. BATPro is a community, and programs require teamwork, professionalism, and interpersonal skills. The three subgroups of BATPro are:

Legal Services Support: This year BATPro is excited to announce a new partnership with [Dolores Street Community Services \(DSCS\)](#). DSCS has recently launched an Anti-Trafficking program that aims to educate and assist communities throughout the Bay Area. The program focuses primarily on increasing awareness and the identification of immigrant survivors of labor trafficking as well as providing survivors with legal consults, referrals, and full representation in their immigration cases. Students would be supporting DSCS's anti-trafficking work by conducting community outreach and working in monthly clinics under the supervision of DSCS attorneys. At the monthly clinics, students would work in pairs to conduct preliminary screenings and route survivors to attorneys as needed.

Additionally, students may have the opportunity to work on the development of a self-identification tool that will be used to help survivors identify signs of exploitation, and would give service providers (namely, attorneys) a better understanding of what services may be needed by those survivors.

Immigration Research: In partnership with the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#), BATPro members work on researching and drafting legal guidelines for practitioners. In previous years, members drafted a complex litigation guide for victims of trafficking who sought to apply for a T-Visa. Projects change depending on the semester, but one project per semester is standard.

Community Coordination Team: BATPro actively works to educate the community about the clandestine criminal enterprise that is human trafficking. This comes in the form of legal writing, educational presentations, planned lectures, and working with local organizations to bring awareness to the cause. In the past, BATPro presented an expert attorney panel lunch discussion focused on how Super Bowl 50, held in the Bay Area, affected local human trafficking. Last year, BATPro developed a

student information guide and gave interactive presentations at local high schools on the topics of labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Next year, BATPro hopes to expand this group, engaging with other local nonprofits and anti-trafficking groups to impact change on the local level. Depending on the number of interested students, this prong of BATPro may also work in conjunction with DSCS to develop the self-identification tool discussed above.

Time Commitment: Normal time commitment, including trainings, varies by program. Some programs only require approximately 10 hours per semester, where others would fall more in the range of 20-30 hours per semester. Flexibility exists in assigning programs, and if someone expresses an interest in a lower time commitment, they can be placed accordingly.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at BATPro@berkeley.edu.

BERKELEY LAW AND ORGANIZING COLLECTIVE

The Berkeley Law and Organizing Collective (BLOC) introduces law students to the world of labor advocacy. BLOC members work closely with UAW Local 2865, the largest academic student employee union in the country. They gain experience in union contract enforcement, “know-your-rights” training, strategic research, and labor organizing. They hone their skills in conducting intake, assessing claims, devising arguments, speaking publicly, and filing and digitizing official records. BLOC members also gain ample familiarity with union governance and labor policy initiatives in California.

Additionally, law students who join BLOC for the 2019-2020 academic year will have the following opportunities: creating a union guidebook for grievance-handling, training department stewards in local policies and procedures, and negotiating common projects with campus groups and institutions.

Supervision: Students engaged in BLOC’s efforts receive supervision from attorneys at the law firm, [Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrmann & Sommers](#).

Time commitment: 2-3 hours per week; 4-6 hours of training and orientation early in the semester.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at ProBonoBLOC@berkeley.edu.

BERKELEY POLICE REVIEW PROJECT

The Berkeley Police Review Project (BPRP) assists in representing civilians who file complaints with the Berkeley Police Review Commission, alleging misconduct by the Berkeley Police Department. Our students review complaints and evidence collected by the Commission, interview complainants, communicate with the Commission regarding any new evidence and witnesses, prepare complainants for their hearing, and appear on behalf of complainants at their hearing. Our mission is to provide

support to these members of our community who have been negatively impacted by alleged police misconduct, so they do not have to navigate this unfamiliar process on their own. This year, we are hoping to expand to representing people in a civilian oversight program of BART Police.

Supervision: Students in the Berkeley Police Review Project receive supervision by an attorney and member of the Berkeley Law community.

Time Commitment: The hours of BPRP are dependent on the clients that request our services. Approximately 15-20 hours a semester.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at berkeleypolicereviewproject@berkeley.edu.

CALIFORNIA ASYLUM REPRESENTATION CLINIC

CARC partners with the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC), a Board of Immigration Appeals recognized nonprofit organization. Based right here in Berkeley, EBSC is one of the highest volume providers of asylum representation in the country. Once students are accepted to CARC, they are placed into teams of two based on their interests and past experience. Occasionally students will work on a case alone, but more typically they work in pairs. An initial training covers client interviewing skills, ethics and confidentiality, asylum law, case management, and working with interpreters. Following this training, student pairs are assigned an affirmative asylum case and a supervising attorney. Over the course of the semester, students interview the client, draft the client's declaration, prepare the asylum application, collect additional evidence and potentially accompany the client to the Asylum Office interview (timing dependent). About halfway through the semester, CARC holds a workshop on drafting declarations. Students will develop interviewing skills and gain an understanding of substantive asylum law.

Supervision: Students providing pro bono legal services through CARC will be trained and supervised by an attorney from the [East Bay Sanctuary Covenant](#) (EBSC).

Time Commitment: There will be a mandatory three-hour training at Berkeley Law and one two-hour training at EBSC. After that, hours will vary by week as students work on their individual cases, but students should expect to spend about 20 hours per semester.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at carc@berkeley.edu.

COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Students in the Community Restorative Justice Project (CRJ) have the opportunity to explore an alternative to the retributive model of our criminal punishment system. SLP members will engage with restorative justice practices on the Berkeley campus and in the broader local community.

In the last several years, Berkeley Law students in CRJ attended restorative roundtables at San Quentin State Prison on a biweekly basis. The roundtables were led and facilitated by the people incarcerated in the prison. Due to changes in the program administered by San Quentin, CRJ will not be attending roundtables at San Quentin this year, but will be promoting and practicing restorative justice principles on campus and in the local community.

Time Commitment: Students are expected to commit up to 10-15 hours a semester.

Applying to CRJ? Community Restorative Justice Project will begin to taking applications from new students in Spring 2020.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at CommunityRJ@berkeley.edu.

CONSUMER RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Students will be assisting clients to develop, file, and present cases against abusive businesses, primarily through the small claims court system. Students will be called upon to interview clients, gather facts and evidence, and analyze the strength of the client's case as well as the collectability of the potential judgment. This will include researching the legal claims and defenses in a broad variety of substantive consumer law, as well as the true name of the business and the appropriate manner of serving the business with a lawsuit.

If there is a viable claim, students will present the client with the options, likelihood of success, and potential outcomes. Students will then assist the client to draft demand and dispute letters, to prepare the small claims demand, and to advise the client on how to properly serve the demand.

Students will then prepare the client to present the case at the small claims hearing, including preparing for the pre-hearing negotiations. This will include preparing the client to concisely present the evidence required to win their case, as well as to rebut potential defenses and counterclaims.

Students might also assist the client in post-judgment recovery.

When possible, students will work with the same clients throughout the clients' cases, allowing students to see a case through from start to finish.

Supervision: Students in CRW will provide pro bono legal services under the supervision of Berkeley Law's clinical partner, the [East Bay Community Law Center](#).

Time Commitment: 4 hours/meeting. Bi-weekly.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at crw@berkeley.edu.

CONTRA COSTA REENTRY PROJECT

The Contra Costa Reentry Project (CORE) assists the Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender with its Clean Slate practice, which works to help remove the barriers that a prior conviction can present to employment, housing, public benefits, and family reunification. Students will assist attorneys and advocates with expungement, Proposition 47 relief, and Proposition 64 record clearance. Students will have the opportunity to:

- Research Prop 47 and Prop 64 applicants' eligibility for reclassification or record clearance
- Draft expungement applications
- Communicate with incarcerated clients and returning citizens regarding required documentation and services provided
- Compose legal memoranda on topics related to the office's Clean Slate practice
- Help coordinate provision of legal services at community outreach events and Clean Slate workshops
- Attend attorney court appearances

Supervision: Students in CORE provide legal services under the supervision of the [Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender](#).

Time Commitment: Time commitment is 3-5 hours per week (including transportation). Students can arrange to deviate from their set schedule or defer weeks if there is a conflict. Traveling to and from the office takes about 30 minutes each way. At minimum, students should commit to spending two hours in the office but can work longer depending on availability and interest.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at contracostareentry@berkeley.edu.

DIGITAL RIGHTS PROJECT

Technological advancement has undoubtedly benefited society, but it raises new questions about how to protect civil liberties in the age of information. Should law enforcement surveillance technology be equipped with facial recognition? Can government officials legally block users from following them on Twitter? How should we regulate access to DNA from commercial genetic services? What is the ideal content moderation policy and how does it balance concerns about cyberbullying with robust free speech protections?

The Digital Rights Project gives Berkeley Law students an opportunity to think about some of these questions and to conduct substantive work at the intersection of law, technology, and social justice.

Students in DRP will support the work of the ACLU of Northern California's Technology and Civil Liberties Team in conducting research and organizing community trainings. This work will focus on monitoring cases involving compliance with the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act (CalECPA), monitoring lawmaker agendas in communities around California for surveillance developments, and planning trainings for community groups about how to challenge surveillance ordinances and protect their rights online. Students who are interested in committing more time may also have the opportunity to assist the ACLU with PRA and FOIA requests, subject to the organization's needs.

Fall 2019 will be DRP's inaugural semester.

Supervision: Students will receive training and be supervised by attorneys at the [ACLU of Northern California](#).

Time Commitment: 8-12 hours per month. This includes an initial SLP training with the ACLU, bi-weekly work meetings, some time spent monitoring cases and legislation independently, and a community training towards the end of the semester.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at digitalrightsproject@berkeley.edu.

DISABILITY RIGHTS PROJECT

The Disability Rights Project (DRP) at Berkeley Law advocates for people with disabilities. Students will provide pro bono legal research support to the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), a leading national civil rights law and policy center. DREDF engages in impact litigation on behalf of

people with disabilities on issues such as education, housing, medical care, transportation, and emergency response.

In Fall 2019, the DRP will focus on research related to Medicaid and the Americans with Disabilities Act, settlement and discovery protocol, and legal requirements for emergency services. This work will further DREDF's mission to advance the civil and human rights of people with disabilities through legal advocacy and public policy.

Supervision: Students in DRP will receive training and be supervised by attorneys at the [Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund](#).

Time Commitment: 3-4 hours every other week, including:

- 1 hour in-person meeting
- Trainings (DREDF training - 1 hour, library training - 1 hour, and general legal research and writing training - 3 hours).

For more information, please contact drp@berkeley.edu.

EAST BAY DREAMERS PROJECT

Purpose and unmet legal need:

The purpose of EBDP is to partner with East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) to provide immigration legal services to support and empower Bay Area residents. EBDP was created with a focus on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), but has expanded to assist with a wider breadth of immigrant petitions and applications. Many immigrants have legal claims to remain in the United States, but don't have the resources to fight for those claims. The goal of our pro bono work is to support local nonprofits and to help them reach as many clients seeking immigration assistance as possible. Members of EBDP will have the opportunity to volunteer at workshops to help prepare and file DACA applications by assisting with legal intake.

Work of participants:

EBDP members will receive training on how to complete different applications and will have the opportunity to participate in DACA workshops or work one-on-one with clients on more time-intensive applications.

Supervision: EBDP helps provide direct legal services to immigrant communities in the East Bay under the supervision of [East Bay Community Law Center](#) attorneys.

Time Commitment: All volunteers must attend an initial training with our supervising attorneys at EBCLC which typically lasts three to four hours. Thereafter, all volunteers will have the opportunity to attend at least one 3-hour clinic per month.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at dreamersclinic@berkeley.edu.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OUTREACH

ECO is planning two main project areas for the upcoming year. The first project involves assisting an environmental non-profit organization develop comments on administrative actions regarding public lands leasing. The second project involves addressing electricity regulations to aid the development of low-cost renewable energy in an under-resourced area of California. Students will work with faculty advisers to conduct legal research, draft legal memoranda, and develop administrative comments about these issues.

Supervision: Students will perform their work under the supervision of Professor Eric Biber.

Time Commitment: 25 hours per semester

For more information, please contact the student leaders at ecoslp@berkeley.edu.

FOOD JUSTICE PROJECT

With the understanding that hunger on college campuses is a serious and preventable problem, the Food Justice Project serves undergraduate UC Berkeley students who have been denied CalFresh benefits. Members will assist students in navigating the appeals process by providing direct client services in an intake interview system. We partner closely with the Basic Needs Center on campus and work together to provide resources to students who need help obtaining benefits.

In addition to direct services, the Food Justice Project will also be focusing on several research projects on the topic of access to benefits for college communities. Members will also have a chance to draft public comments on various policy issues.

The Food Justice Project is in its second year and continues to grow and evolve based on the needs of the community, collaboration with the Basic Needs Center, and the interests of our members. We are looking forward to partnering with new members to explore new ways of helping students and others in the UC Berkeley community to gain access to the resources they need and deserve.

Supervision: Students in FJP provide legal services under the supervision of attorneys from the [East Bay Community Law Center](#).

Time Commitment: 12-18 hours a semester, which includes trainings, meetings, and clinic hours. Meetings will occur Wednesday nights on a biweekly basis, and clinic hours will be subject to member availability.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at foodjustice@berkeley.edu.

FOSTER EDUCATION PROJECT

Foster youth are significantly more likely to experience unplanned school changes: in California, foster youth lose four to six months' worth of learning time with every transfer. Compared to a statewide graduation rate of 85%, foster youth have a 58% graduation rate. They are more likely to be enrolled in the lowest-performing schools, have the lowest participation rate in state testing, and experience suspensions and expulsions at more than three times the rate of the rest of California's students.

The Foster Education Project at Berkeley Law pairs law students with local foster youth in need of an educational advocate. Law students become the legal educational rights holders for a single child, ensuring the child receives an appropriate school placement, any services for disabilities or special needs, and the supports needed to succeed.

Law students can expect to learn about education and disability law, and to work with established attorneys in the field that will serve as mentors. Members get to practice a direct service approach to the law, utilizing communication, negotiation, and advocacy skills to make a real difference in a young child's life.

Supervision: Foster Education Project students provide pro bono legal services under the supervision of attorneys at [East Bay Children's Law Offices](#) and the [National Center for Youth Law](#).

Time Commitment: 30-40 hours/semester

SOURCE: Vanessa X. Barrat & BethAnn Berliner. [The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 1: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools](#) (WestEd, 2013).

For more information, please contact the student leaders at FosterEd@berkeley.edu.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECT

This will be GVPP's second year as Berkeley Law's first student group focused on using legal tools to reduce and prevent gun violence in the U.S.

In 2014, California enacted a law that allows family and household members or law enforcement officers to petition a court directly for an order temporarily restricting a person's access to guns. This law, known as a Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO), is a vital public safety tool that allows the people most likely to notice when loved ones or community members become a danger, to take concrete steps to disarm them. Research has shown that these laws are particularly effective at preventing gun suicides, which make up about two-thirds of all gun deaths in the U.S. Creating public awareness about GVROs and developing systems that allow laypeople to make use of it is critical to the effectiveness of the law.

Students in GVPP will support the Giffords Law Center in developing guides, fact-sheets, and other resources to educate individuals and organizations on what California's GVRO law is and how it can be used to keep communities safe. Our efforts will focus on contributing to a best/promising practices guide for courts, attorneys, law enforcement, and other stakeholders addressing disarming prohibited persons. This will include researching law enforcement directives and practices, local rules of court, and other policies around serving orders, requesting and obtaining firearms and search warrants in civil restraining order cases, and storing/returning those firearms. We will also be researching who is hearing GVRO cases around the state and taking a look at whether or why that matters in terms of how evidentiary and other legal standards are applied and laws in this area are implemented. Our research will culminate in memos, charts, and other materials to be used at statewide conferences occurring in November/December.

Finally, we are looking forward to expanding into a new area of research: examining the intersection between the data privacy movement (ensuring anonymity of user data and preventing third-party access/limiting the amount of data that platforms collect) and the growing understanding of how the internet functions as a tool for radicalization and the glorification of violence (incels/4chan/Christchurch/Elliot Rodger). We intend on collaborating with other data privacy groups on campus in brainstorming new legislation strategies to serve the dual goals of protecting privacy and preventing the further growth of the internet's capacity to lead to gun violence.

GVPP participants will develop critical skills in legal research and writing, and gain invaluable experience in making a statute understandable and usable. Because GVPP is a relatively new SLP, there will be room for participants to contribute to shaping its direction long-term and make the work their own.

Supervision: Students will receive training from and provide pro bono legal services under the supervision of attorneys at the [Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#) in San Francisco, California.

Time Commitment: Three hours every other week.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at gvpp@berkeley.edu.

HOMELESSNESS SERVICE PROJECTS

The Homelessness Service Project (HSP) provides legal assistance to the homeless and low-income community in the East Bay. Our work includes helping clients seek out other legal assistance or take the first steps in advocating for themselves in local courts. HSP is not limited to issues of homelessness, but covers any type of legal issues that people of the homeless and low income-community encounter.

Our primary project is at the Suitcase Clinic in Berkeley, where we provide legal counseling and referral services to individuals who come for healthcare and housing services. In addition to the Suitcase Clinic we provide legal services at other clinics, shadow our supervising attorneys at the Homeless Action Center, and perform direct outreach to gain a deeper understanding of common legal problems faced by the homeless and low-income community.

Supervision: Students will provide legal services under the supervision of attorneys from the [Homeless Action Center](#) in Berkeley, California.

Time Commitment: 15 hours/semester

For more information, please contact the student leaders at HSPProBono@berkeley.edu.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP

The International Human Rights Workshop (IHRW) partners with the [Human Rights Center](#) (HRC), under the supervision of the Director of the Sexual Violence Program, Kim Thuy Seelinger. Students conduct legal research to support projects related to sexual and gender-based sexual violence in conflict and migration. Students will have the opportunity to hone their legal research and writing skills and develop knowledge of domestic and international laws.

Time Commitment: IHRW participation requires a full-year commitment (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020). Students typically work on the project an average of five hours per week. In addition, students are required to attend mandatory full-group meetings three times per semester and monthly small group meetings.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at ihrw@berkeley.edu.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT

WHAT IS IRAP?

Student group, pro bono project, and advocacy organization rolled into one, the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) utilizes pro bono legal representation, strategic litigation, and policy advocacy on behalf of refugees seeking resettlement, as well as assists those who have already resettled. IRAP Berkeley coordinates with pro bono counsel, IRAP National in New York, NGOs in the Middle East and around the world, and fellow IRAP Chapters across the country and in Canada to help refugees. IRAP's thirty law school chapters and hundreds of pro bono attorneys have helped resettle over 3,000 refugees in life or death situations.

WHAT IRAP DOES:

Case Work: IRAP members work with pro bono counsel and IRAP staff attorneys to represent refugees and visa applicants who are located outside of the United States.

Projects: IRAP members will have the opportunity to work on projects related to client screening, research, policy advocacy, and community engagement and education. This year we plan to host a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) training and intake clinic with the local Afghan community, as well as lobby congressional representatives to support refugee petitions for relatives of families residing in their districts. For the first time, we also plan to create a dedicated policy team which will work with IRAP National to research and advocate for comprehensive and humane reform in refugee law and practice.

Student Trips: A few IRAP student members are selected each year to participate in trips to Jordan and Lebanon to meet with NGOs that work with refugees to learn more about the refugee process and to assist IRAP staff conduct intakes.

Training: IRAP provides students with comprehensive training on refugee issues and relevant law. Past training sessions have covered:

- UNHCR Refugee Status Determination
- Psychological Training: Clients with PTSD and the effects of trauma

- The Nuts and Bolts of Working Cases

Supervision: Students' work is supervised by the [International Refugee Assistance Project](#) in New York, New York.

Time Commitment: The time commitment is 30-40 hours per semester, although potentially the hours can far exceed this estimate. This includes both work on the case, trainings, and IRAP meetings. We expect students to work with IRAP for the life of the case, absent serious extenuating circumstances (such as leaving school, taking a job that disallows continued work (like a clerkship), or other situations beyond a student's control). This means that students do not commit to a semester or year, but for the entire application, which can be several years. While this is quite a commitment, students need to be realistic when deciding whether to join this group due to the gravity of leaving a refugee case halfway through, which can further endanger already vulnerable clients.

Students should also be aware that the time commitment is highly volatile. Periods of intense work can pop up at any time. Although you'll always have the support and experience of the chapter behind you, it's important to understand that we have to work on the cases' timelines.

Additional Information: IRAP is a great opportunity to do impactful and timely work. It is a big commitment, but we aim to make the experience one that brings people together as students and advocates. Besides the work with our clients, we want IRAP Berkeley to be a community. Since we are working with an international parent-organization, students who are considering doing asylum/refugee work post-law have the opportunity to network with people at an important organization in that field. For those who do not intend to work in public interest after graduation, working with IRAP is a great way to start developing your future pro-bono practice and get expose to some of the law firms who supervise our cases.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at irap@berkeley.edu.

LA RAZA WORKERS' AND TENANTS' RIGHTS CLINIC

Students assist tenants and workers under attorney supervision on housing and employment issues in one-on-one meetings at Centro Legal de La Raza, a legal services organization that advances the rights of working-class immigrant communities in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland. Students conduct intakes where they screen for legal issues, identify and propose solutions for the client, and draft legal documents as necessary.

Students may have the opportunity to write demand letters, complaints, Rent Board petitions, help with policy initiatives, testify at city council hearings, and attend hearings. Students will have the opportunity to hone their interviewing, client service, and legal research and analysis skills. Students

may also help plan educational events and panels about housing and employment issues and get involved in local community actions.

Some ability to speak Spanish is a plus for any of these projects. For those students who already have some Spanish speaking ability, resources are available to help learn the vocabulary required to conduct legal intake. Additionally, Cantonese and Vietnamese speakers are encouraged to apply.

Supervision: Students will receive training from and provide pro bono legal services under the supervision of attorneys at [Centro Legal de La Raza](#).

Time Commitment: Students have to attend one mandatory training at the beginning of the fall semester that runs from 5:30pm to 9pm and takes place at Berkeley Law. Additional trainings will be offered periodically throughout the semester before clinic starts. Students must participate in a minimum of four clinics per semester in either workers' or tenants' rights OR a minimum of six if students choose to do both in order for them to be fully trained to the extent Centro Legal would like and for them to meaningfully engage in housing and employment law. The clinics take place from 5:30pm to 9pm at Centro Legal de La Raza in Oakland almost every Thursday. There may be additional clinics on other days. Students are free to choose the clinics they want to attend.

If students would like to take on additional policy, client representation, or advocacy projects, they may set up their own reasonable time commitments with a supervising attorney.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at LaRazaSLP@berkeley.edu.

LEGAL AUTOMATION WORKSHOP

Students in the Legal Automation Workshop (LAW) partner with other SLPS and Bay Area pro bono service providers with legal automation needs. Each student will identify high-impact areas where legal automation can help streamline existing workflows and research. Students will scope the minimum-viable product, build it, test it, and ship it. Students have wide latitude in setting the hours, pace, and volume of work while receiving support from LAW leadership and members.

Technology Experience Requirement: Law requires programming experience in Python or equivalent. Law recommends data analysis experience with statistical programming packages as r.

Supervision: Students will receive training from and be under the supervision of attorneys at [Morgan Lewis](#) and [Oasis Legal Services](#).

Time Commitment: 10-40 hours a semester depending on project needs and member drive.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at legalautomation@berkeley.edu.

NAME AND GENDER CHANGE WORKSHOP

Students participating in the Name and Gender Change Workshop will:

- Conduct intake interviews with clients seeking to obtain court-ordered name and gender changes
- Identify possible legal issues
- Research and discuss findings with supervising attorneys
- File pleadings on behalf of clients
- Discuss options with clients including changing name and gender markings on driver's licenses, passports, and other government-issued IDs

Note: Many of the workshop's clients are Spanish speakers, so Spanish language proficiency will be considered in all applications.

Supervision: Students will provide legal services through NGCW under the supervision of attorneys from Berkeley Law's clinical partner, the [East Bay Community Law Center](#) (EBCLC).

Time Commitment: There will be one training at the beginning of the fall semester and about one workshop per month from September to April. Students should expect a monthly commitment of 3-4 hours not including training, which will likely take 3 hours. Completing all workshops with NGCW should provide student volunteers enough time to fulfill the 25 hour Dean's Grant Requirement.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at ngcw@berkeley.edu.

NATIVE AMERICAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

NALA will focus primarily on researching and drafting legal documents. In partnership with California Indian Legal Services (CILS), we will address legal problems faced by Native Americans. Students may have the opportunity to work on a diverse set of projects across many fields of law. The work may involve environmental issues, expungement, and land contracts.

Supervision: Students in NALA provide legal services under the supervision of attorneys at [California Indian Legal Services](#).

Time Commitment: We estimate the workload will be about 20 hours per semester. This will include trainings, which will be mandatory. There may also be an additional, brief, and optional trip taken to Sacramento to see the CILS offices and the other attorneys, as well as some clients if possible.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at NALAProject@berkeley.edu.

POLITICAL AND ELECTION EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

We work with national nonprofit organizations fighting for voting rights. We focus our efforts on historically marginalized and oppressed populations across the country. Our work has previously addressed re-districting efforts that would disenfranchise poor voters and voters of color, voter roll purges, and election monitoring. We have been primarily a research-based SLP with a focus on legal and historical research and on writing letters and legal memos. We hope to expand our work this year to include more community-facing efforts such as “Know Your Rights” workshops and working at polls. This work is especially crucial with the impending 2020 presidential election and that’s at the top of our minds.

Supervision: Students in PEEP will be working under the supervision of attorneys at the [Campaign Legal Center](#).

Time Commitment: A 15-hour commitment per semester. Research can be done at meetings or on your own. Non-research opportunities are available but not required.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at peep@berkeley.edu.

POST-CONVICTION ADVOCACY PROJECT

The purpose of the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project (P-CAP) is to train Berkeley Law students to assist incarcerated people in California with the parole process. Our group’s mission is to attain justice for the thousands of men and women who may spend the rest of their lives in prison, even if they pose no current threat to society. Indigent prisoners regularly receive inadequate representation from board-appointed attorneys, and students’ support can help ensure that prisoners are well-prepared and have a fair chance at their hearings. P-CAP pairs law students with individuals serving life sentences to aid them in preparing for their parole hearing and to represent them at that hearing under attorney supervision.

Supervision: P-CAP students are supervised by attorneys at [UnCommon Law](#).

Time Commitment: Joining P-CAP is a substantial time commitment because you and your partner(s) will be directly representing an incarcerated client as they prepare for their parole hearing.

A 14-18 month commitment is necessary to ensure proper preparation and zealous representation at your client's hearing. Students who join P-CAP in Fall 2019 can expect to have a hearing between October 2020 - May 2021. The time commitment per semester is about 45-50 hours with significant variation depending on client needs.

Other requirements include: (1) obtaining gate clearance to enter prison for monthly client visits; (2) the ability to work with one or more partners; (3) the ability to work empathetically and professionally with incarcerated individuals serving life sentences; and (4) attending trainings, part of which includes observing a parole hearing.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at p-cap@berkeley.edu.

PRISONER ADVOCACY NETWORK

The Prisoner Advocacy Network (PAN) works to support prisoners incarcerated in California State Prisons. PAN at Berkeley Law focuses on supporting people in prison who have severe unmet needs, including people in solitary confinement, security housing units, administrative segregation, and gender-based segregation. PAN provides non-litigation advocacy for incarcerated people experiencing discrimination, retaliation, medical needs, and civil rights violations. PAN is especially interested in working with activists and jailhouse lawyers who are advocating for their rights from the inside.

PAN at Berkeley Law is a SLP for law students who want to learn first-hand about the challenges faced by people incarcerated in California State Prisons.

After undergoing training, Berkeley Law students will be partnered with an experienced advocate to work with an incarcerated correspondent. Under the supervision of an attorney mentor, the advocates will provide non-litigation advocacy assistance on an issue or issues identified by the correspondent. Tasks will vary according to the needs of each advocate's correspondent, but at minimum involve writing to the correspondent, researching prison rules and regulations, and executing an advocacy plan which may involve demand letters to prison officials. The advocate may travel to the prison to meet their correspondent and better understand the correspondent's needs.

Additionally, over the course of the 18 months, Berkeley Law students will receive training on specific issues which target a significant number of California prisoners, such as failures to receive needed medical care and conditions of confinement which put prisoners at risk of violence. Berkeley students will work with PAN to host trainings and drop-in clinics to support and advise family members and loved ones of prisoners in understanding what rights prisoners are entitled to and how to support incarcerated people in advocating for changes in conditions.

Supervision: Students will receive training from and be supervised by attorney members of the [National Lawyers' Guild of San Francisco](#).

Time Commitment: Participation in PAN requires at least an 18-month commitment in order to ensure sufficient time to learn about the prison system and gain expertise in order to advise your incarcerated correspondent and family members who attend the drop in clinics. Probable time commitment is:

Fall semester total estimate:	Spring semester total estimate:
4-6 hours of training	10+ hours for a prison visit (optional)
8 hours for group workdays	8 hours for group workdays
4 hours of weekend time - drop in clinics	16 hours of weekend time – drop in clinics
20-30 hours of correspondence & research	20-30 hours of correspondence & research

The time commitment varies depending on how needy your correspondent is. PAN will attempt to spread the work evenly and flexibly so that correspondents with greater needs have more than one advocate.

This SLP requires committed, self-motivated students who are looking for more than their 25 pro bono hours for the year. The work is extremely rewarding and eye-opening for individuals interested in learning first-hand about the California criminal punishment system.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at PrisonerAdvocacy@berkeley.edu.

REENTRY ADVOCACY PROJECT

Students who participate in the Reentry Advocacy Project (RAP) have the opportunity to work with [Root & Rebound](#), a non-profit in Oakland founded by Berkeley Law alums, to provide legal information to individuals who are reentering society from prison. Root & Rebound's mission is to transfer power and information from the policy and legal communities to the people most impacted by our criminal justice system through public education, direct legal services, and policy advocacy, so that the law serves, rather than harms, low-income communities and communities of color in the United States.

RAP Volunteers work alongside Root & Rebound attorneys to resolve nuanced legal questions and to provide reentry resources for formerly incarcerated individuals and their loved ones. Students who are available on Fridays assist with the Reentry Legal Hotline, which offers free legal information on reentry-related topics. Root & Rebound also receives approximately 400+ letters a week from currently incarcerated individuals; under the direction of an attorney, students research and respond to reentry-related questions in the letters. Students may also assist staff attorneys with other research or support

projects. Using the Roadmap to Reentry guidebook developed by Root & Rebound, RAP Volunteers will grow familiar with California and federal law regarding reentry issues such as voting rights, registration laws, employment, and housing.

Supervision: Students will receive training and be supervised by attorneys at [Root & Rebound](#).

Time Commitment: RAP Volunteers will complete 15-20 hours of pro bono work per semester. Volunteers will work on a bi-weekly basis with supervising attorneys at the Root & Rebound office in Downtown Oakland. Volunteers will be split into two cohorts: a Thursday Cohort that meets every other Thursday from 1:30pm-4:30pm to research and write letters and to assist with other legal research and advocacy needs and a Friday Cohort that meets every other Friday from 12pm-3pm to help with inquiries made through the Root & Rebound Reentry Legal Hotline. All volunteers are required to attend an evening training at the beginning of the semester (approximately three hours; exact time and date to be announced) and at least one Root & Rebound Clinic each semester (approximately two to eight hours, depending on the clinic; exact times and dates to be announced).

For more information, please contact the student leaders at ReentryAdvocacy@berkeley.edu.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

Reproductive justice, at its core, is about bodily autonomy and the right to choose whether and under what circumstances people have and raise children. This year, RJP will be offering a variety of projects with reproductive justice groups around the country. With the continuing state and national attacks on abortion rights and access, many organizations are focusing on a person's right and ability to choose. Additionally, RJP will be getting involved with LGBTQIA organizations and racial justice organizations in a variety of other areas, potentially including such general topics as advocacy for intersex youth, research on black maternal health, and policy recommendations for sex education in high schools. Students will have the opportunity to rank their preferences for which organization and which project they want to be assigned. Due to the sensitive nature of RJP's partner organizations' work, the exact details of each project are highly confidential unless indicated otherwise.

Projects take the form of (1) national or state-level (2) proactive (policy) or reactive work (litigation). Regardless of the topic, students will engage in research related to statistics, policy initiatives, cases, and existing regulations. Depending on the organization's needs, students will then create work product in the form of research spreadsheets, policy recommendations, memoranda, and/or briefs. There will also potentially be the opportunity to get involved in oral advocacy in Sacramento.

RJP works closely with the Berkeley Law chapter of If/When/How to engage in reproductive justice advocacy outside of SLP work, including bringing speakers to campus, fundraising for local abortion funds and domestic violence clinics, networking with attorneys, and hosting social events. Starting in the fall, If/When/How will also be organizing trainings and regular transportation for abortion clinic

escorts. These various events and activities are not a requirement for participating in RJP; they are simply further opportunities to get involved in reproductive justice work at Berkeley Law.

Supervision: Students in RJP are supervised by the Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice (CRRJ – pronounced courage), Berkeley Law.

Time Commitment: 25 hours per semester, breaks down to around three hours every other week plus trainings and minimal research on their own.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at reproductivejusticeproject@berkeley.edu.

STARTUP LAW INITIATIVE

Through the Startup Law Initiative (SLI), 1L students team up with law firms to provide free legal incorporation services to local entrepreneurs. SLI's services allow Bay Area founders to overcome costly barriers to conducting business. Students are put into small groups and assigned a client to work with over the course of the semester. Students' work includes research, client intake, interviews, drafting and filing documents (e.g., articles of incorporation), and interactions with clients and supervising attorneys. The business owners must meet income requirements to qualify for assistance.

Supervision: Students in SLI are supervised by an attorney and member of Berkeley Law.

Time Commitment: 15-20 hours per semester

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Can all Berkeley Law students apply?* Yes, both J.D. and LL.M. students are welcome to apply, but applicants should keep in mind that our capacity is limited. SLI was limited to 12 members last year given supervising attorney capacity and will be again this coming year.
2. *I came to Berkeley Law because I want to be part of the start up law culture at the law school. If I do not receive an offer to join SLI, how else can I get involved?* SLI is only one way to get involved in startup law efforts at the law school. Students should check out startup@BerkeleyLaw for more information. There are also several courses at the law school, including the New Business Legal Bootcamp and the New Business Law Clinic. Finally, the Berkeley Center for Law and Business hosts events throughout the year, including several related to startup law.
3. *What times/days of the week will meetings take place?* Trainings will likely take place at lunch or in the evenings as they will be conducted by our supervising attorneys. Specific dates and

times have not yet been set. Client work will be done on your own time, coordinated with your teammate(s).

4. *Is prior experience required/preferred?* No! Training will be provided, so no experience is necessary. One of the goals of the organization is to provide exposure to corporate transactional work for students who are interested but have not had prior opportunities to explore this type of work.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at StartupLawInitiative@berkeley.edu.

SURVIVOR ADVOCACY PROJECT

The Survivor Advocacy Project (SAP) seeks to help local attorneys with Title IX cases, as they advise and represent survivors in school administrative hearings. In addition, SAP volunteers will have an opportunity to improve their writing skills by researching and writing legal memos for attorneys on a variety of topics relating to sexual harassment and sexual assault. Projects for the 2019-2020 year include writing a guide for survivors to navigate the reporting process and educate them about their due process rights; drafting a research memo on the intersection of disability rights and Title IX, focusing on accommodations for survivors with PTSD; and writing a template for a writ of administrative mandate to be used by Title IX attorneys. The subject matter of sexual violence can often be difficult and triggering. We encourage students to be aware of self-care, and we seek to support all volunteers with vicarious trauma training.

Supervision: Students in SAP provide legal services under the supervision of attorneys at private law firms.

Time Commitment: 5-10 hours per month

For more information, please contact the student leaders at berkeleylawsap@berkeley.edu.

TENANTS' RIGHTS WORKSHOP

The Tenants' Rights Workshop helps protect the legal rights and remedies of tenants in Oakland, Berkeley, and Alameda. During weekly clinics, students interview clients and then work one-on-one with staff attorneys from the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) to provide the client with advice and limited legal services. Issues include habitability, foreclosure, subsidized housing, and evictions. Follow-up work often includes students drafting letters to landlords about the tenants' housing issues.

Supervision: Students in the Tenants' Rights Workshop provide legal services under the supervision of attorneys at the [East Bay Community Law Center](#).

Time Commitment: Three hours per week.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at trw@berkeley.edu.

WAGE JUSTICE CLINIC

The Wage Justice Clinic provides free legal assistance to help low-wage workers with their claims against employers who violate state and local law by paying below minimum wage.

The clinic is held once a month where law students work with attorneys to help low-wage workers file claims against their employers for wage theft. Wage theft is a pervasive problem among low-wage workers, minority, non-English speaking, and/or immigrant workers. As the cost of living in the Bay Area skyrockets, the legal services provided by students in this clinic will become increasingly critical to help low income folks in our community make ends meet.

Students will get a chance to use their legal skills in the real world from interviewing clients all the way to representing the very same clients in settlement conferences before the California Labor Commission. Lunch and refreshments are provided for students at each clinic.

We look forward to working with a great group of students who love helping people and are committed to addressing income inequality in the Bay Area!

What students will be doing:

- interview & intake clients
- investigate claims
- research employment law issues
- draft documents (claims, demand letters, etc.)
- attend and represent clients at settlement conferences and hearings

Supervision: Students will receiving training from and be supervised by attorneys at [Legal Aid at Work](#).

Time Commitment:

- **Estimated number of hours per semester:** 20-25 hours.
- **Estimated number of hours per week:** Once a month only for ~6 hours.
- **Days and times for any weekly commitments:** Fridays from 10:00AM-4:00PM.
- **Trainings:** One day training around the start of each semester for 4-5 hours.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at wagejusticeclinic@berkeley.edu.

WORKERS' RIGHTS CLINIC

The Workers' Rights Clinic hosts free weekly clinics to assist low-income community members with employment-related legal issues. Students will conduct one-on-one, face-to-face interviews with clients, and then complete research alongside an attorney to provide the client legal advice. Students can expect to encounter and become familiar with a broad range of legal issues, such as employment discrimination, worker's compensation, and workplace torts. Students will also gain skills in client interactions, issue spotting, and legal research. Prior to every session, a visiting attorney will give a lecture on a specific topic in employment law. Dinner is provided.

Supervision: Students will receive training from and be supervised by attorneys from [Legal Aid at Work](#).

Time Commitment: Students will be split up into two groups, so that each student will commit to working every other Thursday evening (biweekly). Sessions start at 5:30pm and run approximately three hours. If student counselors ever need to miss a session, it is their responsibility to find another student to swap weeks with them.

For more information, please contact the student leaders at workersrightsclinic@berkeley.edu.

WORKERS' RIGHTS DISABILITY LAW CLINIC

Workers' Rights Disability Law Clinic (WRDLC) provides legal aid and resources to workers and employees with disabilities who confront workplace harassment, discrimination, and other legal issues at work. Clinic counselors conduct client intakes, perform research into relevant issues, and confer with attorneys to advise clients on legal remedies and the best course of action. Through WRDLC, students can expect to develop effective client communication skills and an understanding of employment law litigation.

Supervision: Students will receive training from and be supervised by attorneys from [Legal Aid at Work](#).

Time Commitment: Approximately 15 hours per semester

For more information, please contact the student leaders at workersrightsclinic@berkeley.edu.

YOUTH ADVOCACY PROJECT

Students will work as youth advocates to support juveniles who are currently, or were previously, incarcerated at Contra Costa County's juvenile hall. Student work will support the public defenders who represent these juveniles in court.

Throughout the year, students will work one-on-one, or with a fellow Berkeley student, with 1-2 clients to help prepare them for release. Students will meet with clients while in custody and will further support their clients by helping connect them with community resources that will enable clients to achieve success post-release. While each student's experience is highly case specific, students can expect to: support the public defender by identifying case needs, help juveniles navigate in-custody education rights, provide re-entry planning, help clients navigate probation violations and provide support for any additional challenges juveniles face while in custody and reentering the community.

Students will develop client interviewing skills and gain valuable experience by spending time at the juvenile facility in Martinez and/or Brentwood. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to accompany their client(s) to their hearings at the Juvenile Court. Observing and testifying in juvenile court provides students with an opportunity to develop a significantly more nuanced understanding of the juvenile justice system in California. Most importantly, students will have an opportunity to improve the lives of their clients.

Supervision: Students will provide services to clients through YAP under the supervision of attorneys at the [Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender](#).

Time Commitment: Approx. 15 hours during first semester and 30 hours during second semester.

1. Early semester group trainings (3 hours)
2. Bi-monthly (twice a month) client meetings at juvenile hall/Ranch/out of custody and brief memos regarding the meeting to be written and sent to the supervising attorney. Because of the security clearance process, the earliest these meetings will start is November.
3. Monthly case conference meetings
4. Attendance of court hearings highly encouraged
5. Attendance at special events—attorney panel, film screening, juvenile hall tours

For more information, please contact the student leaders at yap@berkeley.edu.

