

Policy Advocacy Clinic News



Our fall 2019 clinic team

Dear PAC friends and alumnx,

With your help and hard work, in just a few short years we have built the nation's premier interdisciplinary clinic where law and public policy students team up to take on systemic racial, economic, and social injustice.

On behalf of the PAC team, I am delighted to share some of our 2019 highlights, including major advances in our efforts to end monetary sanctions in the youth and adult legal systems. In California alone, fee reform has relieved families of hundreds of millions of dollars!

This semester, 24 law and public policy students pursued juvenile fee reform in the South (LA, MS, TX) and West (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, OR), and we are collaborating with groups working on fee reform on the East Coast (CT, DE, ME, NJ) and in the Midwest (IL, MI, OH).

In 2020, we expect to launch a five-year national juvenile fee abolition campaign to make these regressive and racially discriminatory practices the exception and not the norm in states across the country.

We are grateful that our work has been featured in outlets like [The Washington Post](#), [Mother Jones](#), and a [national podcast](#) hosted by Arnold Ventures—please keep up with these and other PAC developments on our [website](#) and via our [Twitter account](#).

And if you feel so inclined, [we always welcome donations](#) to our post-graduate fellowship fund, which over the years has supported PAC faculty like [Stephanie Campos-Bui](#), [Ahmed Lavalais](#), and our newest fellow [Devan Shea](#)!

From the four of us, PAC paralegal [Olivia Layug-Balbarin](#), and our fabulous students, we wish you and yours the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year—please stay in touch with us.

Peace and love,

Jeff

Clinic News



Clinical Teaching Fellow Ahmed Lavalais '17 (standing) works with law and public policy students in the clinic's weekly seminar.

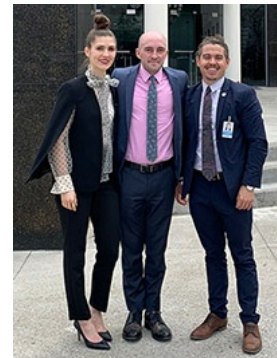
PAC's report aims to ensure debt-free justice in California

Since 2013, we have worked to end fees charged to families with youth in California's juvenile legal system, culminating with the passage of [Senate Bill 190](#) that repealed all such fees starting January 1, 2018. We have continued to [monitor the implementation and impact of the new law](#), which to date has relieved California families of more than \$237 million in old fees and prevented counties from imposing tens of millions of dollars in new fees annually on families.

See our [policy report](#), [press release](#), [interactive map](#), and [state](#) and [national](#) coverage.

Clinic students driving force behind Nevada youth justice bill

Outside of California, PAC students Savannah Reid '20 and Dagen Downard '20 partnered with community groups in Nevada on juvenile fee reform. Together, our research and advocacy efforts led to the passage of [Assembly Bill 439](#), which [repealed all juvenile fees in Nevada](#) effective July 1, 2019. Clinic students worked on all aspects of the project, including identifying the problem, consulting with key stakeholders, drafting the bill, and testifying in legislative committee hearings. *Photo: Savannah (left) and Dagen (center) outside the Nevada State Legislature building with Jared Busker from the Children's Advocacy Alliance.*



See our students in action [here](#), and check out our [press release](#) and [local](#) coverage.



Clinical Supervising Attorney Stephanie Campos-Bui '14 (second from left) shares a laugh during small-group work in the weekly seminar.

[UC Berkeley pushes back against excessive California court fees and fines](#)

In addition to expanding juvenile fee reform to other states, we have been working closely with a statewide [fee abolition coalition](#) to bring fee reform to the California adult system. Following San Francisco's lead, in November 2018, the [Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to end adult fees](#) and to discharge more than \$25 million in outstanding fees, and [Contra Costa County placed a moratorium](#) on adult fees in September 2019. Earlier this year, Senator Holly Mitchell introduced [Senate Bill 144](#) to abolish fees in the criminal system statewide.

See one of our students in action [here](#), and [national](#) coverage.



[Welcome new M.P.P. clinic fellow Devan Shea!](#)

This summer, we were thrilled that [Devan Shea](#) joined us as our first post-graduate master's in public policy (M.P.P.) fellow! Devan is a 2019 graduate of Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and was a PAC student all four semesters in graduate school. Before graduate school, Devan developed global partnerships, facilitated coalitions, and trained advocates to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in U.S. foreign policy. We were sad to say goodbye to PAC Research Fellow Angela Carter, but delighted to have Devan on board.

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Clinic**