IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

Goal of Clinic

The Immigration Law Clinic provides a practical skills experience where students gain professional skills in client interviewing, identifying and resolving legal issues, providing legal advice, and developing and implementing a case plan for their clients. Clinic students interview and counsel clients, as well as prepare declarations, legal briefs and supporting exhibits in their representation of clients before the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration Court. Representative cases include VAWA, asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions, and family-based applications. The Clinic represents underserved non-citizens living below the poverty level.

Structure of Clinic

Each enrolled student will handle a variety of actual cases and will represent clients under the direct supervision of an immigration attorney. Case work will be complemented by a required weekly seminar. The Clinic is located on campus. Students will be certified by the California State Bar under the Practical Training of Law Students program.

Prerequisites for Enrollment

To qualify for the Immigration Law Clinic a student must be an upper-division student in good standing. Enrollment in the Immigration Class or successful completion of the Immigration Class is a prerequisite. In addition, a student must be enrolled in, or have successfully completed Evidence and Civil Procedure in order to meet the California State Bar certification requirements.

Instructors

Blake Nordahl, Professor of Lawyering Skills: bnordahl@pacific.edu
Kishwer Vikaas, Clinical Legal Fellow: kvikaas@pacific.edu.

Unit Credit and Limit on Enrollment

- This is a one semester clinic for three graded units, which includes an hour long, weekly instructional clinic meeting. In addition, law students will engage in client representation and counseling for a total commitment of 150 hours.
- Enrollment for two semesters is strongly encouraged.
- Enrollment in the Immigration Clinic is limited to eight students.

Why This Clinic is Valuable

The Clinic represents non-citizens who otherwise would be unable to obtain legal representation. The Clinic provides in-depth practical training where students have an opportunity to work closely with real clients and develop their lawyering skills. Students work on cases at each stage from the initial consultation to final resolution.