

UVA's **FAMILY LAW CENTER** creates opportunities to cultivate and exchange **premiere family law scholarship** on these topics through lectures and symposia.

# Family Law



**FAMILY LAW raises questions of social justice with profound personal significance: Who is a parent? Who can marry? What are the rights of nonmarital couples? Who can get an abortion?** Legal regulation of family life can set the financial terms of divorce, determine a person's immigration status, or remove a child from the home for abuse or neglect.

In exploring family law's practical and policy issues at Virginia, students benefit from outstanding law school classroom teaching combined with clinical experience, skills training, scholarly inquiry and interdisciplinary collaboration. Family law faculty are involved in research and policy work that profoundly affects the law at the local, regional and global

levels, and students have the opportunity to become involved in those activities as well.

UVA Law faculty bring their distinctive insights to complex issues such as: how should the law intervene in adult intimate relationships; how should the law regulate markets for assisted reproductive technology; how should states reform the juvenile justice

systems to strengthen children and families; who should qualify as a family member in wealth transfer law; and how should the law respond to family-based vulnerabilities at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, class, religion and age?

► The student group **Women of Color** is among those connecting to family law issues.



► Professor Naomi Cahn is an expert in family law, trusts and estates, feminist jurisprudence, reproductive technology, and aging and the law. She is a co-author of casebooks in both family law and trusts and estates, and she has written numerous articles exploring the intersections among family law, trusts and estates, and feminist theory, as well as essays concerning the connections between gender issues and international law.

Meet the Family Law Center Directors



► Professor Gregg Strauss' research interests lie at the intersection of family law, jurisprudence and political philosophy, and he serves as director of the Family Law Center. He writes about the limits of legitimate law in situations of fundamental disagreement, with an emphasis on familial relationships. His latest articles argue that the law has a legitimate reason for regulating adult relationships through marriage.

**STUDENTS CAN ENGAGE IN FAMILY LAW ISSUES** through a number of student organizations, including:

- Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law
- Advocates for Life at Virginia Law
- Child Advocacy Research and Education
- Domestic Violence Project
- Feminist Legal Forum
- If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice at UVA Law
- Lambda Law Alliance
- Virginia Law Families
- Virginia Law Women
- Women of Color

## FAMILY LAW CLINICS

### Civil Rights Clinic

Students work on cases that have potential to provide real and concrete relief to people and communities that have been harmed by the criminalization of poverty and other forms of discrimination or deprivation of rights. Students provide direct representation to clients and participate in impact advocacy, including federal litigation, legal support for community education and organizing, administrative advocacy, and legislative and policy advocacy. This yearlong clinical course is offered in partnership with the Legal Aid Justice Center.

### Holistic Youth Defense Clinic

This semester-long clinic provides students an opportunity to practice holistic and zealous lawyering by representing juvenile clients on delinquency, school discipline and special education matters, in order to help keep youth in their homes, schools and communities with appropriate supports. Law students handle cases from the initial intake to the case disposition and subsequent appeal.

### Litigation and Housing Law Clinic

Offered in partnership with the Legal Aid Justice Center, this yearlong clinic teaches and develops trial skills using housing law as the substantive vehicle, and qualified students also appear and argue in local courts under the direction of a clinic supervisor. The caseload includes trials, administrative proceedings and interaction with low-income clients. Students handle eviction cases, rent escrow cases, abatement of substandard building conditions and other enforcement of residents' rights.

### Youth Advocacy Clinic

In the yearlong clinic, offered in conjunction with the JustChildren Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center, students represent low-income children in the context of education and the justice system. The clinic is focused on addressing the legal needs of Virginia's low-income children and youth, both through individual client representation and broader reform efforts such as local and state policy advocacy, impact litigation and community education.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

After Dobbs  
Aging and the Law Lecture  
Children and the Law  
Decriminalizing Mental Illness  
Education Law Survey  
Estate Planning: Principles and Practice

Family Law  
International and Comparative Family Law  
Juvenile Justice Seminar  
Parental Choice in K-12 Education  
Practical Trust and Estate Administration

Reproductive Ethics and Law  
Reproductive Rights and Justice  
Therapeutic Justice and the Evolving Role of Specialty Courts  
Trusts and Estates

## CLINICS

Civil Rights Clinic  
Holistic Youth Defense Clinic  
Housing Litigation Clinic  
Youth Advocacy Clinic

These courses represent the 2020-23 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

CONTACT

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