



CRIMINAL LAW

AN UNDERSTANDING OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE is fundamental to any lawyer’s education. At the University of Virginia, the nation’s leading criminal law faculty offer an in-depth array of courses on both the substantive criteria of guilt or innocence and the procedures used in the arrest, prosecution and punishment of offenders. On topics ranging from the unreliability of eyewitness identifications to the consequences of plea bargaining, Virginia’s faculty are looking at the criminal justice system with fresh eyes and helping students focus on how to make a more just society.



VIRGINIA STUDENTS do not study criminal law only from a distance. They also enroll in clinics that offer hands-on involvement in death penalty cases, criminal prosecution or defense, and innocence cases. In these courses, students explore real-world problems and develop a nuanced understanding of the issues facing the criminal justice system today.

Finally, the Law School supplements formal classes and participatory clinics with a wide range of extracurricular activities dedicated to criminal law. Virginia has a journal devoted to criminal law — one of only a handful of student-run publications on that topic — as well as an active innocence group and advocacy organizations focused on rape and domestic violence.

Collectively, these experiences lead Virginia graduates to coveted positions in the U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program, in U.S. attorneys’ offices, and in district attorney and defense offices across the country.



University of Virginia law professor **BRANDON GARRETT** has been called the nation’s leading expert on DNA exoneration, eyewitness misidentification and false confessions following the publication of his book, “Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong.”

Garrett realized the extent of problems plaguing criminal courts during his research into the cases of the first 250 people exonerated by DNA tests.

“The errors that repeated over and over again across the 250 cases were the result of bad barrels, and not a few bad apples,” he said. “They resulted from unsound but systemic practices that allowed well-intentioned people to contribute to convicting the innocent.”

COURSES AND SEMINARS

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Alternative Dispute Resolution:
Negotiation/Mediation
Analysis of the Military Criminal
Legal System (JAG School)
Causation in the Law
Contemporary Debates in

Criminal Law
Criminal Adjudication
Criminal Investigation
Criminal Law and Regulation
of Vice
Criminal Law in the Supreme
Court
Criminal Procedure
Criminal Procedure Survey
Criminology

Cybercrime
Death Penalty: An International
Perspective
Ethics, Integrity and Avoiding
“Club Fed”
Evidence
Evidence Theory
Expertise, Science and the Law
of Evidence
Federal Courts

CONTINUED



JUVENILE JUSTICE Of the more than 800 youths in juvenile correctional centers across Virginia, more than a quarter have been convicted of serious crimes, with a third receiving sentences that require some time in adult prison. University of Virginia law students work with attorneys from the law firm McGuireWoods and the legal aid program JustChildren to help many of the youths demonstrate to the courts that they deserve a second chance.

Law student Janice Wang said it was critical for the students to meet with their clients in person to build a rapport of trust and for the students to understand what clients feel is important.

“We talked a little about what the client’s goals were — coming up with a solid plan for what he will do after his release and making sure he has concrete steps he’s thought through,” Wang said of one recent meeting.

Federal Lawyer
Federal Criminal Law
Federal Sentencing
Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
Survey: History, Policy and Practice Behind U.S. Efforts
Habeas Corpus
International Criminal Law
International Financial Crimes
Judging
Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Justice

Plea Bargaining
Police Misconduct
Practical Trial Evidence:
Principles and Practice
Psychiatry and Criminal Law
Psychology and Law
Public Interest Law and Advocacy Skills
Punishment in Law and Culture
Social Science in Law
Trial Advocacy
Trial Advocacy College

Trials of the Century: Literary and Legal Representations of Great Criminal Trials
War Crimes (JAG School)
White Collar Crime
Wrongful Convictions
CLINICS
Capital Post-Conviction Clinic
Child Advocacy Clinic
Criminal Defense Clinic
Innocence Project Clinic
Prosecution Clinic



Professor **RACHEL HARMON** recently wrote an article on the need to re-examine how the United States handles regulating the police. Typically, the judiciary depends on constitutional protections to offer a structure for addressing police violations of rights. “But constitutional law and courts alone are necessarily inadequate for regulating the police,” Harmon writes. “Constitutional law does not protect important interests below the constitutional threshold or address effectively the distributional impacts of law enforcement activities.”

Harmon called for scholars to shift gears and examine how law and public policy can best regulate the police and ensure that police are effective while protecting individual freedoms.

CLINICS

CAPITAL POST-CONVICTION CLINIC

The Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center conducts a yearlong clinic in which students work on behalf of those sentenced to death in Virginia and on topics relevant to such cases. Students analyze trial records, conduct original research, engage in field investigations and write draft claims, motions, and legal and investigative memoranda and correspondence.

CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC

In the clinic, offered in conjunction with the JustChildren Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center, students represent low-income children statewide who have

problems with the education, foster care and juvenile justice systems.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

The semester-long Criminal Defense Clinic allows students to represent defendants in criminal cases in the local courts under the direct supervision of an experienced local criminal defense attorney. Students perform all of the lawyering functions associated with their cases, including interviewing, investigation, research, negotiation and courtroom advocacy.

INNOCENCE PROJECT CLINIC

Students in this yearlong clinic investigate three potential wrongful convictions of incarcerated individuals in

Virginia. One of the three cases has forensic evidence (usually DNA) that could potentially be tested, and two are non-DNA cases.

PROSECUTION CLINIC

In this yearlong clinic, students work with prosecutors to try cases in local jurisdictions. Students explore a range of practical, ethical and intellectual issues involved in the discharge of a prosecutor’s duties and responsibilities, including the exercise of discretion in the decision to initiate, prosecute, reduce or drop charges; interaction among prosecutors, investigative agencies and law enforcement personnel; dealing with victims and other witnesses; and relationships with defense counsel.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT *Several student organizations are focused on criminal law issues.*

VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW

This student-edited journal is one of only a handful at leading law schools focused on criminal law. The journal, which also sponsors legal symposia and conferences, publishes twice a year.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

This pro bono student organization educates the Law School community about domestic violence and monitors domestic violence-related criminal justice proceedings in local jurisdictions. The project assists the commonwealth’s attorney offices of Charlottesville and of Albemarle County in

their prosecution of domestic violence cases by interviewing victims of domestic violence through the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Project.

PRO BONO CRIMINAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

P-CAP is a Law School student volunteer organization that provides an array of legal assistance in the community, primarily in the area of criminal defense work.

VIRGINIA INNOCENCE PROJECT STUDENT GROUP

Law student volunteers investigate claims of innocence by people imprisoned in Virginia. VIPS operates under the guidance of the Innocence Project Clinic at UVA Law

School and the Washington, D.C.-based Innocence Project of the National Capital Region.

RAPE CRISIS ADVOCACY PROJECT

RCAP supports survivors of rape and sexual assault through advocacy, legal research and education.



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