LAW STUDENTS AT VIRGINIA enjoy an array of clinics and courses that offer a wide range of practical training options. Virginia’s 19 clinics, many of which offer contact with clients, build experience with real-world problems. Students also advance their skills through courses in public speaking, trial advocacy and professional responsibility, as well as extracurricular moot court and mock trial competitions.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE PROGRAM
A curricular innovation that is the first of its kind in the country, the Principles and Practice Program teaches students to apply legal theory in real-life situations. The program teams law professors with practitioners, judges and other distinguished professionals to teach courses. The program melds the insights of theory with those of contemporary practice, giving students a more sophisticated and useful understanding of a field than either perspective can yield on its own.

TRIAL ADVOCACY COLLEGE
The Trial Advocacy College is an intensive eight-day experience offered annually between the fall and spring terms. Third-year students are enrolled with participants from some of the nation’s best litigation units in an intensive practice program with a faculty comprised of some of the best trial lawyers and most outstanding judges in the country. This selective program supplements the 12 sections of trial advocacy offered each academic year.

THE SUPREME COURT LITIGATION CLINIC briefed and argued two cases before the court in the past year: Elonis v. United States, which involved whether speech on Facebook constituted a “true threat” against another person, and Henderson v. United States, which involved the right of nonviolent felons to profit from the sale of their legally acquired guns. The clinic won both cases.

PROFESSOR DAN ORTIZ, the clinic’s director, called the group’s win in Henderson “a clear victory for the little guy.”
CLINICS Under the supervision of an attorney, students perform the lawyer functions associated with their cases, including client and witness interviews, factual development, legal research, preparation of pleadings and negotiation. Students with third-year practice certification may also be responsible for courtroom advocacy.

APPELLATE LITIGATION
Students brief and argue one or more appeals before a federal appeals court.

CONSUMER LAW
Students help represent clients with consumer law issues, such as debt collection and other debt-related issues.

EMPLOYMENT LAW
Cases may include wrongful-discharge actions, noncompete claims, employment discrimination charges and other claims arising out of the employment relationship.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND CONSERVATION
Students represent and counsel environmental nonprofits, citizens’ groups and community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment.

FAMILY MEDIATION CLINIC
Students use mediation as an alternative dispute resolution method to resolve conflicts involving families and children.

FIRST AMENDMENT LAW
In conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, students in this clinic undertake projects in First Amendment subject areas.

HEALTH LAW
Students help represent mentally ill and elderly clients in administrative hearings and court proceedings.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
Students gain experience in human rights advocacy under the supervision of international human rights lawyers.

INNOCENCE PROJECT
Students investigate potential wrongful convictions of Virginia inmates through interviewing potential clients and witnesses, and searching and reviewing pertinent case files and records.

LITIGATION AND HOUSING LAW
Students handle eviction cases, rent escrow cases, grievance hearings and other enforcement of residents’ rights.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
Students advise and work directly with local nonprofit organizations on matters such as initial formation, tax-exempt status, ongoing legal compliance and good corporate governance.

PATENT AND LICENSING CLINICS I AND II
These clinics train students in patent drafting as well as the negotiation and drafting of patent and software license agreements.

PROSECUTION
Students undertake a prosecutor’s duties, including exercising discretion in the decision to prosecute, interacting with law enforcement personnel, dealing with victims and witnesses, and establishing relationships with defense counsel.

SUPREME COURT LITIGATION
Working in teams, students handle actual U.S. Supreme Court cases, from seeking review to briefing on the merits.

ENTREPRENEURIAL LAW
Students provide legal counseling and draft basic corporate documentation for startup companies.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
Students advise and work directly with local nonprofit organizations on matters such as initial formation, tax-exempt status, ongoing legal compliance and good corporate governance.

PROSECUTION
Students undertake a prosecutor’s duties, including exercising discretion in the decision to prosecute, interacting with law enforcement personnel, dealing with victims and witnesses, and establishing relationships with defense counsel.

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