Students in the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic act as general counsel for startup companies run by MBA students at the Darden School of Business.

Virginia’s clinics engage students in learning new skills from a variety of situations, from litigation and transactional work to problem-solving and drafting policy. Students also benefit from experiential courses in public speaking, trial advocacy and professional responsibility, as well as extracurricular moot court and mock trial competitions.

Hands-On Law
Dodson worked on legislation to create a legal cannabis market, and Pruitt assisted with a bill to reduce the impact of fines and fees on juvenile defendants.

Hachten and Ferguson collaborated with lawmakers to pass a mental health reform bill to address overcrowding in the state’s mental health facilities, organizations.

For community acts as consultants to teams of students for effective reforms in sustainability and reentry with creating solutions for community engagement.

Students provide legal counseling and documentation for legal counseling and representation of clients who have problems that are covered by various consumer protection laws, mainly those governing debt collection and other debt-related issues.

Youth Defense Students represent juvenile clients in delinquency matters, as well as related school discipline and special education matters.

Housing Litigation Students handle eviction cases, rent escrow cases, grievance hearings and other enforcement of residents’ rights.

Immigration Law Students may work with clients to appeal denied applications for status, special categorizations, or other procedures.

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.

First Amendment In conjunction with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, students undertake projects protecting First Amendment rights.

Health and Disability Law Students help represent mentally ill and elderly clients in negotiations, administrative hearings and court proceedings.

Entrepreneurial Law Students provide legal counseling and draft basic corporate documentation for startup companies, and develop sustainable and effective reforms in their communities.

Community Solutions Teams of students act as consultants and legal advisers for community organizations.

Environmental Law and Community Engagement Students represent and counsel environmental nonprofits, citizens’ groups and community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment.

Federal Criminal Sentence Reduction Through a unique opportunity to practice in federal court, students work to reduce the sentences of indigent federal inmates.

Civil Rights Students provide relief and legal support to individuals and communities that have been harmed by the criminalization of poverty and other forms of discrimination or deprivation of rights.

Decarceration and Community Reentry Students assist formerly incarcerated people with resolving the collateral consequences of arrests and convictions, and with creating sustainable and effective reforms in their communities.

Economic and Consumer Justice Students work with clients who have problems that are covered by various consumer protection laws, mainly those governing debt collection and other debt-related issues.

Appellate Litigation Students brief and argue one or more appeals before a federal appeals court.

Criminal Defense Students represent defendants in criminal cases in local courts, and develop a working familiarity with grand jury proceedings, indictments, pretrial motions, discovery, plea bargaining, motions and objections, evidentiary issues, sentencing and protecting the record for appeal.
Virginia’s Principles and Practice Program, a curricular innovation that was the first of its kind in the country, offers courses designed to give students the opportunity to apply legal theory in real-life situations. The program teams law professors with practitioners, judges and other professionals, melding the insights of theory with those of contemporary practice. 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 lawyers and judges in the country. This selective program supplements the 12 sections of trial advocacy offered each spring and fall.

Short Courses

A variety of intensive short courses allow students to focus on specific subjects ranging from Islamic Law to the finance of small enterprises. Often taught by practicing lawyers, these courses allow students to spend anywhere from a few days to a few weeks studying real-world problems with top practitioners and scholars in the field.

EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

Advanced Contracts
Advanced Criminal Procedure Seminar
Advanced Legal Research
Advanced Legal Writing: Civic Engagement and Persuasion
Advanced Visual Persuasion
Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Workplace
Appellate Practice
Bioethics and Law Internship Seminar: Health Policy and Administration
Border Policy and Politics
Business Reorganization Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code
Complex Commercial Contract Negotiations
Computational Text Analysis for Legal Practice
Conservation Planning and Law
Corporate Strategy
Corporate Transactions
Death Defying Leadership Moments
Designing Democracy: Participation
Drug Product Liability Litigation: Principles and Practice
Electronic Discovery
Emerging Markets: Principles and Practice
Estates Planning: Principles and Practice
Federal Criminal Pre-Trial and Trial Practice
Federal Litigation Practice
Gender-Based Violence: US Law and Policy
Global Contracting: A Case Study
Government Ethics: Conflicts of Interest, Lobbying and Campaign Finance
Graduate Legal Research and Writing II
Harmfuls of Distinguished Advocacy
Human Rights Study Project
Innovating for Defense
International Business Negotiation
International Debt Transactions
International Tax Practicums
Law of Public-Private Partnerships
Law Reform and Impact Litigation Seminar
Lawyers, Clerks, and Judicial Decision-making
Legal Research and Writing I
Legislative Drafting and Public Policy
Legislation and Secure Writing
Leveraging Skills and Professional Liability Law
Music Law: Analytical and Client Management Skills
Negotiating a Joint Venture in China
Nonprofit Organizations: Principles and Practice
Oral Presentations In and Out of the Courtroom
Persuasion
Pretrial Litigation Skills: Civil Rights
Project for Informed Reform
Public Interest Law and Advocacy Skills
Public M&A Negotiation
Regulatory Law and Policy
Securities Litigation and Enforcement
Spanish for Public Service Lawyers
Start-Up of a MedTech Company
Taking Effective Depositions
Tax Treaties and Other International Tax Topics
The Business of Banking and Prudential Regulation
Topic in Private Company Acquisitions
Transnational Approach to Mergers and Acquisitions
Transnational Law Drafting, Communication and Negotiation
Trial Advocacy College
Trial Advocacy

These courses represent the 2021-24 school years.