Immigration Law

Virginia’s IMMIGRATION LAW PROGRAM allows students to explore the key legal and public policy issues, including whom the United States should admit, who should qualify for political asylum, what should be done about undocumented people, and the impact of immigration on the economy and national security. Learning from experienced faculty, students consider issues posed by immigration and build practical skills through an immigration clinic and pro bono efforts offering aid to clients. The program also brings in expert speakers on immigration law, including leading attorneys and policy advocates, immigration judges and government officials.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PRO BONO PROJECTS

Outside of the classroom, the Immigration Law Program provides students with numerous hands-on learning experiences.

Afghan Immigrant Project
Coordinated by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association Volunteer Pro Bono Program, the project deploys students to help Afghan refugees fill out paperwork aimed at reuniting them with family members stranded abroad.

Migrant Farmworker Project
Run by the Latin American Law Organization student group, the Migrant Farmworker Project works with the Legal Aid Justice Center’s Immigrant Advocacy Program to assist this isolated population. The program represents immigrants and farmworkers throughout the state. Although the center handles mostly employment law cases, it also takes housing and discrimination cases. Students visit migrant farm labor camps and educate workers about their rights. The project also seeks to increase awareness about the substandard treatment and living conditions of Virginia’s immigrant workers. Students do not need to speak Spanish to participate.

Immigrant Jail Outreach Project
In conjunction with the Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition, law student volunteers are trained to help CAIR-Atlanta attorneys working with immigrant detainees at local jails. Students may assist with know-your-rights presentations, interview detainees and conduct initial case development.

International Refugee Assistance Project
UVA Law is home to one of 29 student IRAP chapters that assist refugees and displaced people on urgent resettlement cases, visa applications and family reunifications.

IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

Clinic students are responsible for individual immigration cases that range in complexity and urgency. All students are tasked with investigating their cases, maintaining contact with their clients, briefing their cases and potentially representing their clients in immigration court. The clinic focuses on complicated cases for humanitarian relief, removal defense and impact cases arising out of emerging areas of the law.