

UVA LAW | The Program in Law and Public Service at UVA Law

ANNIE KIM: The Program in Law and Public service at UVA Law is our answer to the question of, how will I make an impact as a public interest attorney? We know that the answer isn't simple. So we've designed a program that gives students the three crucial components that they need-- a tailored curriculum, professional development, and community.

In their first year of the program, LPS Fellows take a class altogether called Law and Public Service. And in that seminar they get to have access to the most exciting public interest careers and career paths for them and think about their own paths and what they would like to pursue.

ELIZA SCHULTZ: As an LPS Fellow, I've had the opportunity to design my own curriculum focused on my own public service goals. The classes that I pursued included employment discrimination, labor law, administrative law, civil rights litigation, and more. I was also involved in the Consumer Law Clinic. Working with the Consumer Law Clinic confirmed for me that I really want to be a legal aid lawyer.

ANNIE KIM: In LPS, we have a thriving close-knit community, where fellows look out for each other, share tips and advice, and have social events and gatherings throughout the year.

CHRIS YARRELL: The Law and Public Service Program has provided a wealth of benefits for me personally. And as a 2L and as a 3L, I hope to build upon those benefits that range from engaging with professors more so, connecting with my peers in a number of ways to ensure that I understand if I want to, one day, be a civil rights attorney, I'm seeing as many angles as possible. I know, given my time here so far, that the Law and Public Service Program will prepare me for that.

ELIZA SCHULTZ: LPS Fellows also have the opportunity to get involved with the student board. Being on the board is a great opportunity to help build the LPS program itself, as well as the larger public interest community at the law school.

NOOREEN REZA: Being in the Law and Public Service Program here at UVA has definitely enriched my experience in law school more broadly. And I think that, had I not been in LPS, I would not have had as many opportunities as I have had as a student here.

ANNIE KIM: As part of the program, all fellows get paired with a faculty mentor. And that's someone who can provide academic advice and professional interest advice throughout their time in law school.

CHRIS YARRELL: The faculty mentorship program has been incredible. I've had the opportunity to not only engage with a professor who aligned with my interests but also gain a relationship that I may not have had otherwise.

NOOREEN REZA: After law school I still hope to become a legal aid attorney. I think that one of the ways that my perspective on legal aid work has actually evolved during law school has happened by being in the LPS program because I learned about community lawyering practices in my 1L seminar. And I realized that that type of lawyering really spoke to me as a person and as a future attorney.

ANNIE KIM: Graduates of the program go on to pursue every kind of public interest job imaginable. They become public defenders and prosecutors, legal aid attorneys, and civil rights advocates. They work for every level of government.

CHRIS YARRELL: You're going to gain a wealth of experiences here within the Law and Public Service Program, ones that will prepare you invariably for any given program or any given path you want to take professionally. But the chief benefit that you'll have within the Law and Public Service Program would be the one-on-one engagement, be it with professors or faculty members or even your peers.

Those relationships matter. At this law school, you're not just a number. You're a person. And you see that times 10 within the Law and Public Service Program.

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