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 all aspects of criminal justice, including the substantive criteria of guilt or innocence and the procedures used in the arrest, prosecution and punishment of offenders.

THROUGH THE SCHOOL’S CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, the faculty are engaged with research designed to help make a more just society.

THE LAW SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS ITS CURRICULUM with a wide range of extracurricular activities dedicated to criminal law, including a journal devoted to criminal law and an active Innocence Project.

VIRGINIA STUDENTS DO NOT STUDY CRIMINAL LAW ONLY FROM A DISTANCE. They also enroll in clinics that offer hands-on involvement in juvenile justice, criminal prosecution or defense, and innocence cases.

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.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

|------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

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<tr>
<th>Justice</th>
<th>Rights of the Accused (JAG)</th>
<th>Social Science in Law Understanding</th>
<th>Police Use of Force: Investigation and Litigation Concepts</th>
<th>War Crimes and Atrocity Law (JAG)</th>
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These courses represent the 2020–23 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

CLINICS

Civil Rights Clinic | Criminal Defense Clinic | Decarceration and Community Reentry Clinic | Federal Criminal Sentence Reduction Clinic | Holistic Juvenile Defense Clinic
Innocence Project Clinic | Project for Informed Reform Clinic | Prosecution Clinic
THE INNOCENCE PROJECT AT UVA LAW recently helped free their client Darnell Phillips, who served 28 years in prison, after uncovering DNA evidence that supported his claims of innocence.

CIVIL RIGHTS

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

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

The semester-long Criminal Defense Clinic allows students to represent defendants in criminal cases in local courts under the direct supervision of an experienced local criminal defense attorney.

DECARCERATION AND COMMUNITY REENTRY CLINIC

This clinic works to stop the cycle of incarceration by assisting formerly incarcerated people with resolving the collateral consequences of arrests and convictions, and creating sustainable and effective reforms in their communities.

FEDERAL CRIMINAL SENTENCE REDUCTION

Students work directly with clients to file motions in federal district courts to reduce both the custodial and noncustodial (community supervision) portions of a client’s sentence.

INNOCENCE PROJECT

Students in this year-long 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.

PROJECT FOR INFORMED REFORM

This clinic aims to provide facts and data to inform criminal justice reform, and takes on collaborative projects with organizations seeking change.

PROSECUTION

In this year-long clinic, students work with prosecutors to try cases in local jurisdictions. Students explore a range of issues involved in the discharge of a prosecutor's duties.

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 Albemarle County in their prosecution of these cases by interviewing victims of domestic violence.

VIRGINIA INNOCENCE PROJECT PRO BONO CLINIC

Students assist clinic attorneys in evaluating claims of innocence by prisoners in Virginia and assessing the appropriate avenues of legal relief available.

VIRGINIA LAW IN PRISON PROJECT

This student organization sponsors speaking events, pro bono experiences and educational opportunities on correctional practices and policy.