



HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE FOUNDATION OF LAW.

The HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM at the University of Virginia allows students to explore the range of opportunities available in the human rights field, at home and abroad, through hands-on experiences.

The program is the hub for human rights activities at the Law School, and cooperates with student groups, faculty members, the Public Service Center and Career Services, and human rights organizations to coordinate speakers, events, summer and postgraduate employment, and pro bono opportunities.



THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC IS THE CORE OF THE PROGRAM.

THE CLINIC OFFERS STUDENTS practical experience in **human rights advocacy** in collaboration with **human rights lawyers** and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and abroad.

CLINIC STUDENTS HAVE WORKED ON PROJECTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Reparations for slavery and other historical injustices
- Deprivation of migrants' liberty
- Gender equality and sports
- Human rights defenders at risk
- Human rights impacts of air pollution
- Access to health care in Venezuela
- National security in the war on terror
- Freedom of information and expression
- Gender-based violence, women's and LGBT rights
- Rights of indigenous people
- Legal literacy and empowerment
- Right to life and prohibition against torture
- Human rights in the Middle East
- Corporate liability for human rights violations
- Land law and housing rights
- Transitional justice/responsibility to protect and fulfill human rights

AND PARTNERED WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- U.N. Committee on Migrant Workers and Their Families
- American Bar Association Human Rights Center, Washington, D.C.
- Due Process of Law Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society, Colombia
- Center for Economic and Social Rights, New York
- Center for Reproductive Rights, New York

ABOVE

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY PROJECT members traveled abroad to study human rights in India during winter break in January 2020.

Past teams have conducted **FIELD MISSIONS** to Egypt, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Syria and Lebanon, China, India, Uganda, Cambodia, Malawi, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Myanmar, Colombia and Nepal.



PROFESSOR MILA VERSTEEG'S co-authored book, **"HOW CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS MATTER,"** was awarded the **International Society of Public Law prize** for best book published in 2019 or 2020, and the **Best Book Award** from the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association.



Through the **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC**, **SCOTT HARMAN-HEATH '19**, **GENEVIEVE KHUONG '19**, **CLARE MYERS '19**, **GABRIELA WOLK '19** and **CJ SPADARO '19** traveled to Geneva to attend and present their findings at sessions of a U.N. committee on migrants.

PROFESSOR CAMILO SÁNCHEZ, director of the school's **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC**, formerly was a research coordinator of Dejusticia and associate professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá. He has also served as an adviser to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and as a researcher at the Colombian Commission of Jurists.



COURSES AND SEMINARS

The Law School curriculum has included a number of courses focused on human rights in recent years, including International Human Rights Law, U.S. Refugee and Asylum Law, and National Security, Human Rights and

the Courts. Other courses touch on human rights topics, such as Racial Justice and the Law, Constitutional Law and Economics, and Law of Armed Conflict.

ALUMNI NETWORKS

The program maintains a network of recent graduates

involved in the human rights law field. Current and recent alumni employers include the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Canadian Centre for International Justice, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Center for National

Security Studies, EarthRights International, Freedom House, the Council for Global Equality, the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, the Harvard Law School Human Rights Clinic, Section 27, the U.S. Senate Judiciary and Armed Services committees,

and the U.N. Office of Legal Affairs.

JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UVA Law faculty mentor students on fellowship and career opportunities. The faculty, many of whom have worked abroad, also offer a significant networking resource for those

interested in human rights work. Students who intend to work in the United States and abroad have access to summer grants of \$4,000 (first year) and \$7,000 (second year) from the student-run Public Interest Law Association.



RACHEL KLEINFELD, a senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the founding CEO of the Truman National Security Project, recently spoke at UVA Law about advancing the rule of law abroad.

EVENTS:

Since its inception in 2003, the **HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM** has brought leading figures in the field to the Law School.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND TIBET: LEADING A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, with Lobsang Sangay, sikyong (or regent) of the Central Tibetan Administration

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM FALL KICKOFF, with Victor Madrigal-Borloz, U.N. independent expert on protection against violence and discrimination

based on sexual orientation and gender identity

ORGAN HARVESTING IN CHINA, with Muskan Mumtaz '19, lawyer and human rights activist

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR, with Muskan Mumtaz '19, lawyer and human rights activist

INTERNATIONAL LAW, ODIIOUS DEBT AND HUMAN RIGHTS, with professors Mitu Gulati and Paul B. Stephan '77, and Sabine Michalowski

ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH STORYTELLING, with best-selling author Corban Addison '04

PROSECUTING TERRORISTS AT MILITARY COMMISSIONS: EXPERIENCES OF THE FIRST CHIEF PROSECUTOR, with retired U.S. Army Col. Fred. L. Borch III, former U.S. military commissions chief prosecutor



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SCHOOL of LAW