

Mills Legal Clinic | FAQs

What is a law school clinic?

A law school clinic provides a unique opportunity for students to represent real clients on real matters of real consequence, under the care of dedicated faculty mentors who not only develop in them first-rate legal skills but also norms of judgment and justice that will prove invaluable no matter their future careers.

What do you do in clinic?

Students engage in full-time law practice, representing clients facing real legal challenges in a variety of human circumstances. Their work ranges from litigation on behalf of individuals to advocacy for entire communities, from helping organizations solve discrete problems to crafting broad policy initiatives.

What skills do you learn in clinic?

Whether engaged in high-profile litigation, helping a non-profit strategize, or simply making the law real for an indigent family, students learn the fundamental skills of practice—how to interview and counsel clients, prepare witnesses, deliver board presentations, write briefs, deliver oral arguments, negotiate, and more. Through a reflective full-time experience, students also grow in confidence and develop as professionals.

What types of clinics are there, and what kind of work do they do?

There are eleven clinics at SLS. Each clinic is listed on the other side of this handout, with a brief description of its work. The fundamental benefits of legal education—i.e., development of

lawyering skills and judgment—are common to all clinics and are transferrable to your future career no matter the field.

What types of clients do the clinics represent?

The dynamic group of clients that students represent range from indigent families threatened with eviction, immigrants facing deportation, and disabled students denied accommodation, to inventors seeking to protect their ideas, homeless ministries and non-profits struggling to serve the poor, and those fighting to protect the very air we breathe, to name a few.

Most clinics focus on litigation, but I don't want to be a litigator. Why enroll?

The clinic experience is invaluable no matter one's future career. Learning what litigators do and why they do it, for example, is central to an effective corporate practice. And the focus on professional judgment instills the confidence needed to face the challenges of any work to which an elite legal education leads. Alumni include not only top public interest and firm litigators, but start-up founders and business leaders as well.

How can I find out more about the clinic experience and how to enroll?

For more information about clinic work, clients, and the clinical student experience, visit the [Mills Legal Clinic blog](#), our [Facebook page](#), and the [clinic webpage](#). You should also reach out to faculty directors of the clinics (listed on the reverse) and current or past clinic students. And stay tuned—we will host an event in spring focusing on enrollment details.

Clinic	Subject Matter
<u>Community Law</u> Brodie Office N126	eviction defense, wage enforcement ; criminal record expungement; Social Security; trial and administrative hearing work
<u>Criminal Defense</u> Tyler Office N122	misdemeanor defense; pretrial and trial work in both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties
<u>Criminal Prosecution</u> G. Fisher Office N259	felony prosecution, pretrial advocacy; local justice systems, including policy and ethics; impact of race, gender, or class on quality of justice
<u>Environmental Law</u> Sivas Office N120	federal and state court litigation, administrative practice, and policy work for organizational clients; water quality, public lands, marine conservation, renewable energy, biodiversity, local land use, and environmental justice
<u>Immigrants' Rights</u> Srikantiah Office N142	trial work in immigration court; administrative and federal court appeals; impact litigation; policy and advocacy work; representation of domestic violence survivors, asylum-seekers, and individuals with past convictions
<u>International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution</u> Cavallaro Office N140	advocacy in partnership with individual victims and potential victims of rights abuse, as well as communities and human rights organizations; focus on use of international mechanisms for promotion of human rights
<u>Juelsgaard Intellectual Property and Innovation</u> Malone Office N148	policy strategy and advocacy for startups, entrepreneurs and the public interest in patent, copyright, trademark, antitrust, privacy, and other areas; protecting innovation in information tech, biotech, pharma, and clean tech
<u>Organizations and Transactions</u> Mitchell Office N144	advice on corporate governance, structure, and operations; contract and other document drafting; mergers, collaborations, credit, and other transactions; focus on established nonprofit corporations
<u>Religious Liberty</u> Sonne Office N138	constitutional, land use, prison, and employment cases; diverse group of individual and institutional clients; administrative, trial, and appellate work on state and federal levels, with related mediation and negotiation
<u>Supreme Court Litigation</u> J. Fisher Office N124	representation of individuals and organizations in criminal cases and a wide range of civil disputes such as civil rights, consumer protection and employment matters
<u>Youth and Education Law Project & Center for Public Research and Leadership</u> Koski Office N146	complex school reform litigation; educational policy advocacy; special education and school discipline advocacy; research and management consulting for public education agencies and education non-profits

