

An understanding of criminal justice is fundamental to any lawyer's education.

Criminal Law

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 engage with research exploring how to make a more just society.

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 post-conviction innocence cases. 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. 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.

► **The Innocence Project** at UVA Law recently helped free client **Darnell Phillips**, who served 28 years in prison, after uncovering DNA evidence that supported his claims of innocence.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Criminal Justice Advanced Crimes and Defenses (JAG School)
- Advanced Topics in Law of the Police
- Balancing Public Safety and Civil Liberties: Law Enforcement Policymaking
- Computer Crime Law
- Criminal Adjudication
- Criminal Investigation
- Criminal Justice Reform Seminar
- Criminal Procedure Survey
- Criminology
- Critical Analysis of the Military Justice System (JAG)
- Cryptocurrency Regulation
- Death Penalty Law
- Decriminalizing Mental Illness
- Education Inside U.S. Prisons Seminar
- Evolution of Holistic Defense
- Federal Criminal Pretrial and Trial Practice
- Federal Government Oversight: The Role of the Watchdog
- Federal Litigation Practice
- Federal Sentencing
- Financial Crime: Risks, Risk Management and Compliance
- Gender-Based Violence: U.S. Law and Policy
- Global Business and International Corruption
- History and Evolution of Victims' Rights (JAG)
- Internal Investigations
- International Criminal Law
- Law and Psychology: Wrongful Convictions Seminar
- Law of Corruption
- Law of the Police
- Legislation and Regulation
- Plea Bargaining
- Race and Criminal Justice

- Rethinking Criminal Justice
- Rights of the Accused (JAG)
- Social Science in Law
- Understanding Police Use of Force: Investigation and Litigation Concepts
- War Crimes and Atrocity Law (JAG)

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

These courses represent the 2020-23 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.



► Prosecution Clinic student Natalia Heguaburo '23 talks with Charlottesville General District Court Judge Kenneth Andrew Sneathern.

CLINICS

Civil Rights

Students provide relief and legal support to individuals 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 helping formerly incarcerated people resolve the collateral consequences of arrests and convictions and creating sustainable and effective reforms in their communities.

Federal Criminal Sentencing Advocacy

Students work directly with clients to file motions in federal District Courts to reduce client sentences, including post-release supervision.

Holistic Youth Defense

Students represent clients on delinquency, school discipline and special education matters, in order to help keep youth in their homes, schools and communities with appropriate support.

Innocence Project

Students in this yearlong clinic investigate potential wrongful convictions in Virginia. Some of the cases have forensic evidence (usually DNA) that could potentially be tested, and some are non-DNA cases.

Project for Informed Reform

Students collaborate with outside organizations to produce research and reliable data supporting criminal justice reform proposals.

Prosecution

In this yearlong 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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Virginia Journal of Criminal Law

This student-edited journal—one of only a handful at leading law schools focused on criminal law—also sponsors legal symposia and conferences.

Domestic Violence Project

This pro bono student organization monitors local domestic violence cases and assists local prosecutors by interviewing victims of domestic violence.

Virginia Innocence Project Pro Bono Clinic

In the pro bono counterpart to the for-credit clinic, students volunteer their time to evaluate innocence claims by prisoners in Virginia and assess the appropriate avenues of legal relief.

Virginia Law in Prison Project

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



► Professor Darryl Brown, a former public defender, is the author of "Free Market Criminal Justice: How Democracy and Laissez Faire Undermine the Rule of Law," which focuses on how the U.S. criminal justice system is marked by faith in free markets and the political process.

► Deirdre M. Enright, who launched and directed the Innocence Project at UVA Law, recently kicked off a new clinic, the Project for Informed Reform.



► Professor Kim Forde-Mazur teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Adjudication, and Race and Law, among other courses. His scholarship focuses on equal protection, especially involving race and sexual orientation.

► Professor Thomas Frampton, whose work has been cited multiple times by the U.S. Supreme Court, is an expert in criminal law and criminal procedure and a former public defender. His work focuses on mass incarceration and other issues that touch on race and social position.



► A former U.S. Justice Department prosecutor, Professor Rachel Harmon's work examines policing and its regulation. She directs the Law School's Center for Criminal Justice alongside Professor Deirdre M. Enright.

► Professor Megan T. Stevenson is an economist and criminal justice scholar who conducts empirical research in areas such as bail, algorithmic risk assessment, misdemeanors, sentencing and juvenile justice.