

**From the Mexican border to the halls of Congress, the controversy over immigration law has intensified** and become more critical to U.S. policymakers.



# Immigration Law

Virginia's **IMMIGRATION LAW PROGRAM** allows students to explore the key legal and public policy issues, including whom the United States should admit, who should qualify for political asylum, what should be done about undocumented people, and the impact of immigration on the economy and national security.

Learning from experienced faculty, students consider issues posed by immigration and build practical skills through an immigration clinic and pro bono efforts offering aid to clients. The program also brings in expert speakers on immigration law, including leading attorneys and policy advocates, immigration judges and government officials.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PRO BONO PROJECTS

Outside of the classroom, the **Immigration Law Program** provides students with numerous hands-on learning experiences.

### Afghan Immigrant Project

Coordinated by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association Volunteer Pro Bono Program, the project deploys students to help Afghan refugees fill out paperwork aimed at reuniting them with family members stranded abroad.

### Migrant Farmworker Project

Run by the Latin American Law Organization student group, the Migrant Farmworker

Project works with the Legal Aid Justice Center's Immigrant Advocacy Program to assist this isolated population. The program represents immigrants and farmworkers throughout the state. Although the center handles mostly employment law cases, it also takes housing and discrimination cases. Students visit migrant farm labor camps and educate workers about their rights. The project also seeks to increase

awareness about the substandard treatment and living conditions of Virginia's immigrant workers. Students do not need to speak Spanish to participate.

### Immigrant Jail Outreach Project

In conjunction with the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition, law student volunteers are trained to help CAIR Coalition attorneys working with immigrant detainees at local jails. Students

may assist with know-your-rights presentations, interview detainees and conduct initial case development.

### International Refugee Assistance Project

UVA Law is home to one of 29 student IRAP chapters that assist refugees and displaced people on urgent resettlement cases, visa applications and family reunifications.

► Siarra Rogers '19 and R. Cooper Vaughan '17 meet with a worker during a visit through the Migrant Farmworker Project. The project, which began in the early 1980s, provides students experience in field investigation and immigration law, helps them practice their Spanish and counts toward their Pro Bono Challenge hours.



► Professor Kevin Cope's research in immigration and other topics investigates legal and political decision-making using empirical, comparative and formal theoretical methods.

► Professor Amanda Frost, an expert in immigration and citizenship law, is the author of the book "You Are Not American: Citizenship Stripping From Dred Scott to the Dreamers." Her scholarship has been cited by over a dozen federal and state courts, and she has testified before both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

► Immigration Law Clinic instructor Ivan Yacub, Sabrina Mato '24, instructor Marissa Baer, Ariana Smith '23 and Mariam Kassa '24 stand with a client, center, they helped win asylum.



## IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

Clinic students are responsible for **individual immigration cases that range in complexity and urgency**. All students are tasked with investigating their cases, maintaining contact with their clients, briefing their cases and potentially representing their clients in immigration court. The clinic focuses on complicated cases for humanitarian relief, removal defense and impact cases arising out of emerging areas of the law.

CONTACT

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## COURSES AND SEMINARS

### CORE COURSES

Immigration Law and Policy  
Immigration Law Clinic

### OTHER COURSES

Administrative Law  
Asian Americans and the Law  
Border Policy and Politics  
Foreign Relations Law  
International Human Rights Law  
International Human Rights Law Clinic  
International Law  
International Law of Migration and Refugees

Labor Law Legislation  
National Security Law  
Presidential Powers  
Racial Justice and Law

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