

**UVA's Family Law Center creates opportunities** to cultivate and exchange **premier family law scholarship** on these topics through lectures and symposia.

► The student group Women of Color is among those connecting to family law issues.

# Family Law



## **FAMILY LAW raises questions of social justice with profound personal significance:**

**Who is a parent? Who can marry? What are the rights of nonmarital couples? Who can get an abortion?**

Legal regulation of family life can set the financial terms of divorce, determine a person's immigration status, or remove a child from the home for abuse or neglect.

In exploring family law's practical and policy issues at Virginia, students benefit from outstanding law school classroom teaching combined with clinical experience, skills training, scholarly inquiry and interdisciplinary collaboration. Family law faculty are involved in research and policy work that profoundly affects

the law at the local, regional and global levels, and students have the opportunity to become involved in those activities as well.

UVA Law faculty bring their distinctive insights to complex issues such as: how should the law intervene in adult intimate relationships; how should the law regulate markets for

assisted reproductive technology; how should states reform the juvenile justice systems to strengthen children and families; who should qualify as a family member in wealth transfer law; and how should the law respond to family-based vulnerabilities at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, class, religion and age?



► Professor Naomi Cahn is an expert in family law, trusts and estates, feminist jurisprudence, reproductive technology, and aging and the law. She is a co-author of casebooks in both family law and trusts and estates, and she has written numerous articles exploring the intersections among family law, trusts and estates, and feminist theory, as well as essays concerning the connections between gender issues and international law.

Meet the Family Law Center Directors



► Professor Gregg Strauss' research interests lie at the intersection of family law, jurisprudence and political philosophy, and he serves as director of the Family Law Center. He writes about the limits of legitimate law in situations of fundamental disagreement, with an emphasis on familial relationships. His latest articles argue that the law has a legitimate reason for regulating adult relationships through marriage.

## **STUDENTS CAN ENGAGE IN FAMILY LAW ISSUES** through a number of student organizations, including:

- Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law
- Advocates for Life at Virginia Law
- Child Advocacy Research and Education Domestic Violence Project
- If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice at UVA Law
- Lambda Law Alliance
- Virginia Law Families
- Virginia Law Women
- Women of Color

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## **FAMILY LAW CLINICS**

### **Civil Rights Clinic**

Students work on cases that have potential to provide real and concrete relief to people and communities that have been harmed by the criminalization of poverty and other forms of discrimination or deprivation of rights. Students provide direct representation to clients and participate in impact advocacy, including federal litigation, legal support for community education and organizing, administrative advocacy, and legislative and policy advocacy.

### **Holistic Youth Defense Clinic**

This clinic provides students an opportunity to practice holistic and zealous lawyering by representing juvenile clients on delinquency, school discipline and special education matters, to help keep youth in their homes, schools and communities with appropriate supports. Law students handle cases from the initial intake to the case disposition and subsequent appeal.

### **Housing Litigation Clinic**

Offered in partnership with the Legal Aid Justice Center, this year-long clinic teaches and develops trial skills using housing law as the substantive vehicle, and qualified students also appear and argue in local courts under the direction of a clinic supervisor. The caseload includes trials, administrative proceedings and interaction with low-income clients. Students handle eviction cases, rent escrow cases, abatement of substandard building conditions and other enforcement of residents' rights.

### **Youth Advocacy Clinic**

In the yearlong clinic, students represent low-income children in the context of education and the justice system. The clinic is focused on addressing the legal needs of Virginia's low-income children and youth, both through individual client representation and broader reform efforts such as local and state policy advocacy, impact litigation and community education.

## **COURSES AND SEMINARS**

After Dobbs Children and the Law	International and Comparative Family Law	Reproductive Rights and Justice Sexuality and the Law	<b>CLINICS</b> Civil Rights Clinic Holistic Youth Defense Clinic Housing Litigation Clinic Youth Advocacy Clinic
Comparative Gender Equality Education Law Survey	Medicalization and the Law	Single People and the Law	
Estate Planning: Principles and Practice	Parental Choice in K-12 Education	Therapeutic Justice and the Evolving Role of Specialty Courts	These courses represent the 2022-25 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.
Family Law	Practical Trust and Estate Administration	Trusts and Estates	
Feminism and the Free Market	Religious Freedom and Reproductive Rights		
Feminist Jurisprudence	Reproductive Ethics and Law		