

*Students benefit from viewing the regulatory context through the eyes of physicians, inventors, health care administrators and experts from a variety of fields.*

**This interdisciplinary approach** is further borne out through institutes and centers at UVA that allow students to study and work on pressing issues in health care, biotechnology, research, genetics and moral philosophy:

- ▶ Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy ▶ Virginia Center for Translational and Regulatory Sciences
- ▶ Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life ▶ Center for Biomedical Ethics ▶ Center for Health Policy ▶ Center for Global Health

# Health Law

**The distinguishing feature of the Law School's Program In Health Law is its collaboration with the University's School of Medicine and its Medical Center, which is consistently ranked among the nation's top hospitals.**

**At Virginia, law students can study health law in the clinical setting, interacting with medical students and physicians from all medical specialties, including pediatrics, neurology, internal medicine and psychiatry.**

Law faculty teach in the School of Medicine, and Medical School professors teach Law School classes. This collaboration extends to health policy experts in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, the Darden School of Business, and the Schools of Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Engineering and Nursing.

Newsweek ranked the University of Virginia Medical Center No. 1 in Virginia and in the top 50 hospitals nationally in 2024.



Students in the Human Rights Study Project—including Sydney Hallisey '24, Justin Roberts '25, Mahi Taban '25, Lillie Stephens '25 and Salwa Ahmad '24—traveled to Kenya for their annual research trip over winter break, spending seven days learning about health care rights and related issues in the East African nation.

**J.D.-M.P.H. Public Health Program**

In conjunction with the Department of Public Health Sciences at the School of Medicine, the Law School offers a dual degree in public health. Students have access to graduate courses in health policy and management, health economics, ethics, global health, social and behavioral health, environmental health and research methodology. Instituted in 2003, the M.P.H. program offers concentrations in generalist practice and research, health policy, and law and ethics, and includes field placement options in global health, health policy and public health sites. The program takes four years to complete and requires a minimum of 116 credits.

**J.D.-M.D. Program**

Designed to educate the next generation of health leaders, the J.D.-M.D. program allows students to complete law and medical degrees in six years, instead of the seven years normally required if the degrees were pursued separately. Students spend the first three years and the summer of year five in classes at the School of Medicine, and years four and five at the Law School. In the final year, one semester is spent in each school. Students are required to secure admission separately to the School of Medicine and UVA Law.

**Health and Disability Law Clinic**

Students in the yearlong clinic help represent mentally ill and elderly clients in negotiations, administrative hearings and court proceedings. The legal matters may involve civil rights, mental health care in jails and prisons, disability benefits claims, access to health or rehabilitative services, creating wills and other testamentary documents, and advance directives.

**Fellowships and Externships**

Students may apply for funding from the Law School's health law fellowship program to work in a variety of settings. Students have worked for employers such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Law Program, and the Food and Drug Administration.

**FACULTY**

**School of Law**

- Alice Abrokwa**  
disability law, health law and antidiscrimination law
- Naomi Cahn**  
reproductive technologies, aging and the law
- Deborah Hellman**  
bioethics
- Craig Konnoth**  
health and civil rights, LGBT health law and bioethics
- Kimberly D. Krawiec**  
taboo markets (such as organs, commercial surrogacy)
- Julia Mahoney**  
reproductive technologies
- Gregory Mitchell**  
law and psychology
- John Monahan**  
mental health law
- Margaret Foster Riley**  
bioethics, biotechnology, food and drug law, health law

**School of Medicine and UVA**

- Ruth Gaere Bernheim**  
public health, bioethics
- Donna Chen**  
psychiatry and bioethics
- Bruce Cohen**  
psychiatry
- Dewey Cornell**  
psychology
- Rebecca Dillingham**  
global health
- Carolyn Engelhard**  
health policy
- Richard L. Guerrant**  
infectious diseases
- Drew Harris**  
medical-legal partnerships
- Robert J. Meyer**  
food and drug law, regulatory science
- Daniel Murrie**  
psychiatry
- Lois Shepherd**  
disability law, health law and bioethics
- Janet Warren**  
psychiatry
- Cameron Webb**  
health law and equity



► Professor Alice Abrokwa, a former attorney with the U.S. Education and Justice departments, is an expert on disability, health and mental health, antidiscrimination law and impact litigation.

► Professor Craig Konnoth, a 2024 Greenwall Faculty Scholar, teaches and writes about issues related to health and civil rights, health data regulation, and health law and sexuality.



► Professor John Monahan is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He has directed two research networks on mental health law for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

► Professor Margaret Foster "Mimi" Riley has written and presented extensively about health care law, biomedical research, genetics, reproductive technologies, stem cell research, animal biotechnology, health disparities and chronic disease.

**COURSES AND SEMINARS**

- After Dobbs
- Bioethics And Law Internship Seminar: Health Policy and Administration
- Bioethics and the Law Seminar
- Biotechnology and the Law
- Cannabis Legalization
- Current Topics in Law, Medicine and Society
- Disability Law
- Drug Product Liability Litigation Seminar
- Drug Product Liability Litigation: Principles and Practice
- Food and Drug Law
- Food Systems Law and Policy
- Forensic Psychology in Criminal Proceedings
- Genetics and the Law
- Genetics and the Law: Exercises in Rule-Making
- Health Care Marketplace: Competition, Regulation and Reform
- Health Law Survey
- Law and Ethics of Biotechnology
- Law and the Social Determinants of Health
- Medicalization and the Law
- Mental Health Law
- Religious Freedom and Reproductive Rights
- Reproductive Ethics and Law
- Reproductive Rights and Justice
- Ten-Year Checkup of the Affordable Care Act

**CLINIC**

Health and Disability Law Clinic

These courses represent the 2022-25 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

CONTACT

**HEALTH LAW**

Professor Margaret Foster Riley  
(434) 924-4671  
mimirley@law.virginia.edu

law.virginia.edu/health