

**The protection of human rights is intrinsically linked to global human mobility.**

**As people move across borders due to conflict, economic disparities or environmental challenges, the intersection of human rights and immigration law becomes more complex.**

The responses to migration—shaped by political polarization, the rise of authoritarianism and lack of political will—often present challenges to safeguarding fundamental rights.

► **Human Rights Study Project** members traveled abroad to study human rights in India during winter break in January 2020. Other teams have conducted field missions to Egypt, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Syria and Lebanon, China, India, Uganda, Cambodia, Malawi, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Myanmar, Colombia, Nepal and Argentina.



# Immigration, Migration and Human Rights

**The Immigration, Migration and Human Rights Program** allows students to engage with these intersections and also explore the full range of opportunities available in the human rights and immigration fields, at home and abroad, through hands-on experiences and events.

Courses and extracurricular opportunities allow students to learn about the key legal and public policy issues involved in immigration and human rights, including international legal enforcement for human rights, political asylum, the impact of immigration on the economy and on national security, the role of nations and the challenges of building an effective immigration management system.

While the program directly serves students pursuing careers in immigration and human rights, it also enriches students in various legal fields by exploring connections to criminal, business, family and administrative law, as well as public policy, offering all students a more comprehensive legal perspective.

## ALUMNI NETWORKS

The program maintains a network of recent graduates involved in human rights law. Current and recent employers include:

- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
- Canadian Centre for International Justice
- Center for Constitutional Rights
- Center for National Security Studies
- EarthRights International
- Freedom House
- Council for Global Equality
- Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal
- Harvard Law School Human Rights Clinic
- SECTION27
- U.S. Senate Judiciary and Armed Services committees
- U.N. Office of Legal Affairs

## JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UVA Law faculty mentor students on fellowship and career opportunities. The faculty, many of whom have worked abroad, also offer a significant networking resource for those interested in human rights work. Students working in the field have access to summer grants of \$5,000 (first year) and \$8,000 (second year) from the student-run Public Interest Law Association.



► Professor Mila Versteeg's co-authored book, "How Constitutional Rights Matter," was awarded the International Society of Public Law prize for best book published in 2019 or 2020, and the Best Book Award from the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association.

► Professor Camilo Sánchez, director of the school's International Human Rights Law Clinic, formerly was a research coordinator of Justicia and associate professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogota. He has also served as an adviser to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and as a researcher at the Colombian Commission of Jurists.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Border Policy and Politics
- Constitutional Law II: Survey of Civil Liberties
- Crimmigration: Intersection of Criminal and Immigration Law
- Human Rights Study Project
- Immigration Law and Policy
- International Human Rights Law
- Law and Inequality Colloquium
- Law and Public Service
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Political Prisoners
- Race, Education and Opportunity
- U.S. Refugee and Asylum Law Seminar

## CLINICS

- Immigration Law Clinic
- International Human Rights Law Clinic

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



► Salwa Ahmad '24 and Layla Khalid '23 listen to the translation at the Organization of American States' 52nd General Assembly in Lima, Peru. The OAS asked the International Human Rights Clinic students to research the barriers to participation civil society organizations face at the OAS Dialogue and suggest ways to ensure all voices are heard equally.

► **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.



**PRO BONO PROJECTS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**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.

**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.

**Legal Aid Justice Center Immigration Project**

Students gain experience in immigration issues through a pro bono project sponsored by the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville.

**Human Rights Study Project**

The project's mission is to further the study of law affecting the protection of basic rights in foreign countries. Each year, a project team of students and a professor travel abroad to research human rights issues in a specific country and report their findings. Participating students receive course credit.

**International Law Fellowship for the International Court of Justice Judicial Fellows Program**

The Law School has successfully placed several candidates in the ICJ's Judicial Fellows Program. When a candidate is selected, the UVA Law International Law Fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000 to assist with travel, living expenses and health insurance.

CONTACT

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► **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.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC**

The International Human Rights Law Clinic is the core of the program. The clinic offers students practical experience in human rights advocacy in collaboration with human rights lawyers and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and abroad.

**CLINIC STUDENTS have worked on projects in the following areas:**

- Reparations for slavery and other historical injustices
- Deprivation of migrants' liberty
- Gender equality and sports
- Protecting human-rights advocates
- Impact of air pollution on human rights
- Access to health care in Venezuela
- National security in the war on terror

- Freedom of information and expression
- Gender-based violence, women's and LGBT rights
- Rights of indigenous people
- Legal literacy and empowerment
- Right to life and prohibition against torture
- Human rights in the Middle East
- Corporate liability for human rights violations
- Land law and housing rights
- Protecting human rights during transitional justice

**THE CLINIC has partnered with the following organizations:**

- U.N. Committee on Migrant Workers and Their Families
- American Bar Association Human Rights Center, Washington, D.C.
- Due Process of Law Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society, Colombia
- Center for Economic and Social Rights, New York
- Center for Reproductive Rights, New York

**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.