

Public Service

We believe lawyers have an obligation to serve.

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

—Robert F. Kennedy '51



UVA LAW is committed to helping students make an impact in their communities and in the world.

Through financial support, counseling, mentorship, and a network of peers and alumni practitioners, UVA Law prepares students to become leaders in public service.

The Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program

helps repay the loans of graduates earning less than \$100,000 annually. law.virginia.edu/loanforgive

The Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center

provides individual counseling and sponsors events focused on educating students about working in the public sector. Counselors advise and prepare students seeking external summer funding and distinguished postgraduate fellowships such as Skadden and Equal Justice Works fellowships.

Through the Virginia Public Interest Interview Program,

students interviewing with public service employers across the country receive funding to defray the costs of travel.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY '51 FELLOWSHIP

The school's Kennedy Fellows receive funding to work for any public service employer they choose for the year after graduation.

Fellows receive a \$50,000 salary and are eligible for the Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program. Recipients work in legal aid offices, prosecutors' and public defenders' offices, government agencies and nonprofit organizations across the country.

Alumni have obtained permanent positions immediately after their fellowships with employers such as the Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, The Bronx Defenders, District of Columbia Attorney General's Office, National Labor Relations Board, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, Poverty and Race Research Action Council, Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office, Southern Environmental Law Center, and various U.S. Senate and House committees.



Trey Rattliff '24

HOMETOWN: Wake Forest, North Carolina
EDUCATION: United States Military Academy at West Point, engineering management

NEXT: Officer, U.S. Army JAG Corps

"UVA Law has given me every tool to succeed as an attorney. I am confident that the legal foundation I gained here will help me continue to serve in my military career and beyond. ... These three years challenged me and completely changed how I think about the world. I am so thankful to the amazing people of UVA Law for that."

UVA LAW funds public service fellowships

The school guarantees summer funding for all students working in public service.

In 2024, \$960,000 was distributed to 162 students, including \$48,000 in funds from the Public Interest Law Association. First-year students each receive \$5,000 and second-year students each receive \$8,000 from the Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center.

The grants funded the internships of **Bradley Noble '26** and **Adeline Lee '26**. Noble worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, where he worked on cases related to public integrity or civil rights. Lee worked with the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, attending court hearings and assisting with individual case work, community outreach and legal research across several areas of law.



Bradley Noble '26



Adeline Lee '26



Ruby Cherlan '23



Grace Zipperer '24

SEEKING equal justice

The Law School also supports students seeking national postgraduate fellowships.

Ruby Cherlan '23 earned a two-year appointment as an Equal Justice America fellow at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Richmond, where she joined the civil rights and racial justice unit. She is pursuing civil rights claims on behalf of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people.

Grace Zipperer '24 is the Law School's first recipient of the Immigrant Justice Corps' two-year Justice Fellowship. After graduation, she moved to Yonkers, New York, to work for the Empire Justice Center, defending the rights of unaccompanied children seeking asylum and other immigration benefits.

POWELL FELLOWSHIP IN LEGAL SERVICES

This two-year fellowship awards a \$55,000 yearly salary, benefits and loan forgiveness to a graduating student or judicial law clerk who enhances the delivery of legal services to the poor under the sponsorship of a host public interest organization.



As the Law School's 23rd Powell Fellow in Legal Services, Michael Pruitt '24 will work with Housing Opportunities Made Equal Inc. in Richmond, Virginia, to provide legal support to public benefits recipients who have been discriminated against in the housing application process.

"These relatively small cases can have really dramatic policy implications and ripples," he said. "Say a landlord who rents 400 rooms is made to change their policy—I'm helping 400 people through just one client."

THE LAW SCHOOL fosters a robust public service community.

Virginia has more than 20 student organizations that work in the public interest, helping members gain experience and fostering a community of servant-leaders.

The Law School has a committed team of career counselors with experience as public interest attorneys who help students achieve their goals. Students also receive support from faculty and alumni mentors.

The annual **Shaping Justice Conference** and dozens of public service panels and events bring distinguished public service attorneys to UVA Law each year.



► The Class of 2025 helps local nonprofits at the annual Public Interest Law Association day of service in August 2022.

CONTACT

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PUBLIC SERVICE 2023-24

► \$912,000 awarded to 162 students working in public interest jobs during the summer of 2023

► 12,623 pro bono hours logged in 2023-24

► 95 Class of 2024 graduates completed at least 75 hours of pro bono while in law school

► 5,373 hours logged by 160 students at 90 organizations during winter break



THE PROGRAM IN LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE
Founded in 2009, the program provides specialized courses and intensive training to prepare students for careers in public service. Students meet inspiring public interest lawyers from around the country in numerous events designed for fellows, and attend dinners, workshops and social events throughout the year.

THE PRO BONO PROGRAM

The Pro Bono Program is a voluntary program encouraging all students to complete at least 75 hours of pro bono service during their three years of law school. Opportunities are available locally and

nationwide. The program also organizes pro bono projects that focus on areas such as child advocacy, immigration law and veterans' disability claims.

In addition to the many national pro bono

opportunities faculty and students explore, the school has strong ties to local legal aid organizations, such as Charlottesville's nationally recognized Legal Aid Justice Center. The Law School

has also partnered with Richmond-based law firm Hunton Andrews Kurth to offer pro bono services to indigent clients in the areas of immigration/asylum and family law. Members of

the UVA Law community regularly volunteer, sometimes in joint efforts at legal reform or legal aid. Opportunities to volunteer in regional community service organizations are plentiful.