

Here is how you learn from experience

From the courtroom to the boardroom...

UB School of Law students have several opportunities to gain real-world experience outside of the classroom, advocating for justice and honing their leadership skills.



Clinical Legal Education

Our clinical program offers J.D. and LL.M. students the opportunity to engage in legal practice and policy development under the supervision of skilled and supportive professors and supervising attorneys. Students are certified by the Appellate Division to actually practice law – offering a hands-on, unrivaled opportunity to tackle real issues, for real clients. Through this experience students learn critical lawyering skills while serving clients who otherwise would be without access to justice.

Access to Justice Clinic

Student attorneys in this clinic litigate in court, advocate in the legislature, and engage in the community to advance equal rights and gender justice, especially for vulnerable and underrepresented communities. From civil rights litigation to reproductive justice and maternal health advocacy, our students represent clients on issues of local, national, and global importance.

Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic

This is a litigation clinic focused on civil rights and civil liberties, spanning constitutional liberties like free speech, privacy, due process, and statutory civil rights against discrimination. Students represent individual clients, nonprofits, and journalists.

Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic

In this clinic, student attorneys represent incarcerated individuals in second-look proceedings. The clinic works with clients seeking resentencing, parole release, and executive clemency. Clinic students meet regularly with their clients, investigate cases, interview witnesses, and draft briefs and other filings advocating on their clients' behalf. Student attorneys also engage in advocacy to reform New York's criminal legal system.

Entrepreneurship Law Center Clinic

This clinic provides legal services to entrepreneurs and startups not yet able to engage legal counsel, focusing on diverse companies confronting

challenges specific to startups and early-stage ventures. The clinic also supports minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBs) seeking to break barriers to traditional venture investing.

Family Violence and Women's Rights Clinic

Our oldest clinic invites students to join the fight towards attaining justice and safety while serving the unmet needs of local survivors of family violence. The clinic seeks to ensure victims of violence receive legal representation with family offense petitions, child support, custody and visitation cases, and divorce matters. Students also may deliver community legal education presentations and work on grassroots community projects.

Mediation Clinic

In this clinic, student attorneys are trained, observe, and then mediate cases referred by local courts and agencies. Students mediate disputes such as small claims, evictions, and family and elder law. Through this experience, students hone their mediation and negotiation skills to an advanced level.

Sports Law Clinic

The Sports Law Clinic gives students hands-on experience in sports law, including player safety, stadium projects, and policies for female athletes. Projects range from developing NIL policies to advising on the new Buffalo Bills stadium. Students also publish industry papers.



Externships & Judicial Externships

Externships and Judicial Externships provide law students with unique legal and public service experience as they work in a variety of government and non-profit organizations. The School of Law offers [more than fifty externships and judicial externships](#) to students each semester for academic credit. These externships provide enriching opportunities for law students to directly observe the real world practice of law.

The externship program teaches [real legal skills](#) and provides law students the opportunity to [begin creating their professional network](#) and [develop their careers](#) prior to graduation.

Practicums

Practicum courses blend service learning with practicing lawyers and the study of a substantive area with a full-time professor.

Amicus Brief Practicum

The Amicus Brief Practicum introduces students to the role of New York's highest court. Guided by experienced instructors, students draft a bench brief and proposed opinion for a case before the New York State Court of Appeals. The practicum emphasizes the strategic use of amicus briefs, allowing collaboration with faculty and potential amici to research, draft, and submit a brief. Through this work, students gain insights into appellate advocacy and the broader impact of judicial decisions.

Asylum Appellate Advocacy Practicum

The Asylum Appellate Advocacy Practicum examines appellate procedure and practice through an in-depth look at immigration petitions for review pending at the federal courts of appeals. Students will conduct legal research and draft model briefing in support of a petition pending at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Human Rights Practicum

The Human Rights Practicum focuses on advocacy for refugee communities in Buffalo and with international partner organizations abroad. Students collaborate with refugees and asylees, both as clients and partners, to address human rights issues and seek accountability. Through report-writing, legal argument preparation, and trauma-informed research, students apply international legal standards to promote public consciousness and support refugee communities.

Veterans Law Practicum

The Veterans Law Practicum (VLP) immerses UB Law students in the legal needs of veterans, focusing on securing benefits, navigating disability claims, and pursuing discharge upgrades. Under the guidance of experienced attorneys, students will engage in legal research and drafting to support veterans' cases. Additionally, VLP collaborates with local partners to address broader legal challenges, equipping future lawyers to serve those who have served our country.

Did you know the School of Law hosts three student-run scholarly [law journals](#)?

These journals provide students with the opportunity to develop research and writing skills while making important contributions to legal scholarship. They include:

- Buffalo Environmental Law Journal
- Buffalo Human Rights Law Review
- Buffalo Law Review

New York City Program in Business and Law

Taking advantage of easy access to New York City, students from the School of Law can spend a semester living in New York while studying finance and law.

The New York City Program draws on the expertise of both our full-time faculty and a group of alumni who are practicing in the finance arena at a high level. Over the semester, students engage with a series of experts presenting on their particular niche in the corporate finance world. Then, with the hands-on guidance of team leaders, students work together to craft a substantive project that hones their abilities and deepens their engagement in corporate finance practice.

Pro Bono Scholars Program

Students are required to perform 50 hours of pro bono legal service as a prerequisite to admission to the New York State bar. Our highly competitive [Pro Bono Scholars Program](#) gives select third-year law students the opportunity to take the NYS Bar Exam in February prior to graduation. Students then work full-time in a pro bono placement during their final semester of law school, exploring access to justice issues while developing their lawyering skills and fulfilling their service requirement.

Study Abroad

Our study abroad options provide students with the opportunity to pursue areas of legal study which will complement their Buffalo coursework and improve their understanding of foreign legal systems. Exchange Programs are currently available in [Australia](#), [Scotland](#) and [Spain](#).