EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

WE WERE THERE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR COLUMBIA LAW

When an NGO in the Central African Republic needed to document war crimes, it found an able partner in Columbia Law School's Human Rights Clinic.

When the United Nations wanted to increase its ranks of female diplomats trained in dispute resolution, it turned to the Law School's Mediation Clinic to provide the first-of-its-kind training.

After a battered woman who spent 34 years in prison for killing her ex-husband was unfairly denied parole several times, the Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration Clinic secured her release from prison.

IN THESE CASES—AND SO MANY MORE—

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL'S CLINICS WERE THERE.

Working with real clients, they solve real problems under the close supervision of professors who are at the top of their fields. Clinics allow students to begin the lifelong process of becoming thoughtful, responsible, and empathetic lawyers, while also providing essential legal services to a wide range of underserved clients. Our students represent individuals, communities, and civil society organizations that otherwise might be unable to secure assistance. They also advance policy and law reform to effect systemic change at the local, national, and international levels.

Our roots in clinical legal education span more than 45 years. Early Columbia Law School clinics focused on criminal and employment cases. Today, we have clinics in areas such as mediation, sexuality and gender law, and environmental advocacy, making it possible for our students to put theory into practice.

Our newest addition, the Immigrants' Rights Clinic, won asylum or other relief for more than a dozen clients in its second year. The clinic is so popular with our students that we had to add more seats.

Clinics are not the only experiential learning opportunities available at Columbia Law School. Externships, workshops, and simulation courses also complement the analytical and theoretical training acquired in the traditional classroom setting. While clinics are run in-house, externships consist of off-campus field placements in legal service organizations, government agencies, or federal judicial chambers. Students work on actual cases, help develop policy, or assist judges in matters before them, and participate in intensive weekly seminars to consolidate their lessons from practice. Simulation courses, such as Trial Advocacy, or workshops, such as Deals and Negotiations, allow students to work through real-life dispute-related and transactional scenarios under the close supervision of faculty.

Demand for such offerings, especially in our clinics, is high; **we can accommodate only about 150 students each year in the clinical program—less than half the number who apply.** We believe that everyone who wants to take part in an experiential offering should have that opportunity. Our goal is to expand clinical and experiential offerings, including hiring additional staff. Through The Campaign for Columbia Law, we are seeking to raise $20 million in endowed and yearly donations designated specifically for experiential learning.

With your help, we will ensure that every generation of Columbia Law School students is empowered to study law and lawyering in context—and that the world benefits from their hands-on training and expertise. When it counts, Columbia Law School students have always been there. With your support, they always will be.

Your gift can be directed to:

Naming a clinical professorship, the highest mark of distinction the university can bestow on a faculty member

Naming a curriculum development fund, allowing our faculty to continue to innovate

Hiring staff, including staff attorneys and fellows

Funding project-related travel in the United States and abroad

WE CAN'T BE THERE WITHOUT YOU

Columbia
Law School

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PROFESSOR
BRETT DIGNAM
VICE DEAN FOR EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Columbia offers students myriad opportunities to **synthesize theory and practice in a reflective environment**—from small in-house clinics, where full-time faculty encourage student ownership of cases and projects, to premier governmental and nonprofit organizations. These experiences require students to consider and question how law shapes and affects the most pressing issues of the day.

Environmental Law Clinic alumni

have gone on to positions at the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, Earthjustice, the Natural Resources Defense Council, other NGOs, and private law firms.

Columbia Law School's clinical program began

more than 45 years ago.

Clinic capacity is limited.

Only half of the students who apply can be accommodated.

Clinic students handle matters

involving business development, human rights, prisoners' rights, law and technology, sexuality and gender, immigrants' rights, foster care, environmental law, and mediation.

The Mediation Clinic provides regular dispute-resolution

workshops for United Nations diplomats.

In its second full year, the

Immigrants' Rights Clinic

won relief for more than a dozen clients who came to the United States from countries ranging from Burundi to Syria.

Our Human Rights Clinic has led teams of students on

interdisciplinary fact-finding missions

to investigate human rights abuses in Papua New Guinea and the Central African Republic.

MITCHELL SCHWARTZ '18

The opportunity to work closely with a clinical professor whose primary focus is her students trained me to be a lawyer more than anything else in law school. The Mass Incarceration Clinic taught me what a lawyer really has the power to do and **what kind of change a lawyer can make**.