Centers and Institutes at Fordham Law School

Opportunities for Student Involvement

Students at Fordham Law School have a unique opportunity to become involved in projects that are helping people and changing the world. The Centers & Institutes at the law school—17 in total—are working to accomplish goals that are critically important in our society, involving a range of legal issues. By participating in projects with the Centers & Institutes, students can gain knowledge, acquire skills, connect with other students and mentors, and importantly, make a difference. For general questions about student involvement in Centers & Institutes, contact Leah Horowitz at lhorowitz2@law.fordham.edu

law.fordham.edu/centers
The Brendan Moore Advocacy Center
The Brendan Moore Advocacy Center ("BMAC") provides all of Fordham's "hands on" training in trial advocacy. In courses and trial competitions, law students learn the diverse practical skills involved in trying a lawsuit before a jury through the intense "performance-critique-repeat" process of preparing for — and then conducting — simulated trials. You will find alumni of the Moore Advocacy Center winning trials in courtrooms across the country.

Opportunities for student involvement: Compete in the Summer Closing Argument Competition (June 7-9, 2018); Compete in the Fall Intra-school Trial Competition Tournament (September 8-10, 2018); Take Trial & Arbitration Advocacy and then compete in the Tendy Competition.

Contact: fordham.edu/mooresadvocacyscenter; Adam Shihateh, Center Director; Room 9-03; shihateh@law.fordham.edu; 646-346-5186; Stop by the Moore Advocacy student office on the 1st floor and speak to any of our outstanding Moore Advocates.

Center on European Union Law
The Fordham Center on European Union Law was established in 1984. The center provides a teaching and resource facility devoted to European Union law, as well as European Union and international antitrust. It was created by the late Professor Roger Goebel.

Opportunities for student involvement: The center is interested in cooperating with students on organizing events in the area of EU Law and the laws of the EU member states. It often cooperates with the Fordham International Law Journals and other student groups on events. Students are encouraged to contact the center directors if they are interested in setting up an event that the center could co-sponsor or co-organize.

Contact: law.fordham.edu/eulaw; Co-Directors: Professor Martin Gelter, mgelter@law.fordham.edu & Professor Mark R. Patterson, mpatterson@law.fordham.edu

Center on Law and Information Policy
As the field of information technology continues to grow at breakneck speed, our society increasingly relies on its developments and innovations. Law and policy, however, often trail the technological advances. Fordham CLIP, the Center on Law and Information Policy, was founded in 2005 to make significant contributions to the development of law and policy for the information economy and to teach the next generation of leaders.

Opportunities for student involvement:
Research: Engage in scholarly and policy-focused publishable research in close collaboration with faculty and CLIP staff. Topics include: Intellectual Property, Intermediary Liability, Internet Jurisdiction, Online Harassment, Defamation, Hateful Speech, Privacy.
Law & Information Society Symposium: Explore the challenges posed by information technologies and the changing role of law in our information society. Past symposia have examined key information law and policy issues in the context of societal values across a range of related domestic and international areas including intellectual property, trade, and privacy.
CLIP-ings: Write and publish CLIP-ings, CLIP's weekly law and information policy e-newsletter highlighting news in five major areas: Internet Governance, Privacy, Information Security and Cyberthreats, Intellectual Property, and Free Expression and Censorship.
Spring Tech Law Career Series: Meet practitioners in a casual setting to discuss a range of careers in technology and information law.
Privacy Educators Program: Teach local middle schools about privacy, how it is relevant to their lives, and how the technologies they regularly use impact it. Specific topics include managing an online reputation, understanding emerging technologies, gaming, dealing with social media, and maintaining secure passwords.

Contact: law.fordham.edu/CLIP; Come visit us in Room 7-137 or 7-140.

The Center on National Security at Fordham Law (CNS)
A non-partisan law and policy think tank dedicated to providing thought-leaders, policy makers and the public with the tools to better understand today’s national security issues. The Center fosters debate and dialogue on some of the most complex issues around national security and strives to inform and engage the public on national security policy, the ongoing war on terror and other emerging threats. The Center’s work includes research, public education, public/private workshops, policy recommendations, media outreach and publications. In practice, CNS produces daily, weekly and yearly publications, convenes dozens of public and private events on topics of note each year, hosts major figures from government, media, the private sector and academia, and is cited or reported on in the press frequently, often on a weekly basis. The Center produces two Morning News Services: The TSG Morning Brief and the Stroz Friedberg Cyber Brief both which are accessed by thousands of readers around the world daily.

Opportunities for student involvement: The Center brings on numerous Fordham Law students each year who are an integral part of our research team. Students regularly assist in tracking terrorism cases, examining legal documents associated with terrorism prosecutions and extracting pertinent details to help keep our terrorism database current.

Contact: centeronnationalsecurity.org; nationalsecurity@law.fordham.edu

Center on Race, Law and Justice
The Center works to generate innovative responses to racial inequality and discrimination. It prioritizes law, data, and social science-informed interventions capable of creating concrete change in communities, institutions, and public policy in a number of areas in the domestic and global contexts. The Center maximizes real-world impact through cross-disciplinary collaborations, comparative analyses, and systemic interventions that push the boundaries of traditional approaches to race and inequality. Founded in 2016, the Center marks an effort to marshal the tremendous research capacity and expertise at Fordham University on race and urban issues directly relevant to the University’s social justice mission, location in New York City, and status as one of the premiere research institutions in the country.

Opportunities for Student Involvement: The Center recently created a student advisory board designed to facilitate its collaborations and engagement with students, and to promote discourse on issues of race, law, and justice at Fordham. The Center seeks students interested in doing research on issues of race and equality. It also welcomes opportunities to support student programming and to collaborate with student organizations. Further, the Center looks to partner with students in community-based projects and outreach. Finally, the Center invites students to enroll in courses offered by Center leadership and to attend its numerous programs as a way of expanding understanding and knowledge of issues pertaining to race and structural inequality in the U.S., as well as around the globe.

Contact: law.fordham.edu/racelawandjustice; racelawjustice@fordham.edu

Competition Law Institute
Now in its 45th year, the Fordham Competition Law Institute, part of Fordham Law School, has presented the annual International Antitrust Law and Policy Conference, which is widely recognized as one of the premier events in the field and examines and analyzes the most important issues in international antitrust and trade policy. The conference brings together rising and influential leaders from around the world, as well as attorneys from private practice, top academics, and members of the judiciary.

Opportunities for student involvement: Students are invited to attend the conference free of charge.

Contact: Law.fordham.edu/fcl; fcl@law.fordham.edu; James A. Keyte, Director; Karen Hoffman Lent, Associate Director

Corporate Law Center
The Fordham Corporate Law Center brings together scholars, professionals, policy makers and students for the discussion and study of business and financial law. Created in 2001 as a think tank for research in business and financial law, the Center convenes public lectures, roundtable discussions, expert panels, and academic symposia on topics of current interest in business and financial law. The Center also serves as a platform to showcase the business law scholarship of Fordham law faculty and research affiliates in a wide variety of financial subspecialties. The Center is a resource for Fordham Law students, connecting them to our distinguished alumni through our Business Law Practitioners Series (BLPS) and mentoring programs.
Opportunities for student involvement: Fordham Law students can participate in public lectures, roundtable discussions, and career-focused events organized and sponsored by the Corporate Law Center. The career-focused Business Law Practitioners Series (BLPS) invites distinguished alumni of the law school to share with students career insights and experiences in an informal lunchtime setting. The Committee on Diversity in Business Law (CDBL) provides mentorship opportunities and resources to encourage interest among students of diverse backgrounds in corporate and business law careers. Additional student initiatives include the Entrepreneur Law Society (ELS) and the Fordham Compliance & Ethics Society (FCES).

Contact: law.fordham.edu/corporatecenter; corporatecenter@fordham.edu; 212-636-7985

The Fashion Law Institute

The world’s first center dedicated to law and the business of fashion – and it’s headquartered at Fordham Law School. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created with the generous support and advice of the Council of Fashion Designers of America and its president, Diane von Furstenberg, the Institute offers training for the fashion lawyers and designers of the future, provides legal services for design students and professionals, and shares information and assistance on issues facing the fashion industry. Course offerings include: Fashion Law (Recommended as a pre-requisite for all other fashion-law-related courses); Fashion Law Practicum (by application only); Fashion Law & Finance; Fashion Licensing; Fashion Ethics, Sustainability & Development; Fashion Modeling Law; Fashion Retail Law; Intellectual Property Law & Design.

Opportunities for student involvement:

Volunteer for a Fashion Law Pop-Up Clinic: Partner with experienced attorneys to assist emerging designers and other fashion professionals with their legal questions; Network at law firms and meet colleagues with a wealth of knowledge about the fashion law field. Join the Student Fashion Law Society: Learn about opportunities to volunteer for Fashion Law Institute events and work closely with Fashion Law Institute faculty; Plan and attend Fashion Law Society events.

Contact: fashionlawinstitute.com; info@fashionlawinstitute.com; 646-293-3926; Room 8-127.

The Feerick Center for Social Justice

Promotes the rights and addresses the problems facing marginalized and low-income New Yorkers through the creation of strategies to reform policies, educate, and provide assistance to vulnerable groups. Highly regarded for its efficacy and dedication to combating inequities, the Center works with wide-ranging networks to rally partners in the legal community and beyond to respond to the challenges of those in need. Fordham Law faculty and students involved at the Center collaborate with the City’s nonprofit, legal services, and public sectors to create long-term innovative solutions critical to real change.

Opportunities for student involvement:

Lunchtime Social Justice Lecture Series: Attend lecture series featuring some of the most innovative social change-makers in NYC and State. 2018-2019 dates: are 9/27, 10/25, 1/31, 2/28; Rm 3-02, 12:30pm.
Research: Engage in research related to the Center’s substantive areas, including immigration, consumer protection and economic justice, educational equity, and gender-based rights. Service: Get involved with PIRC groups Consumer Law Advocates and Immigration Advocacy Project and their collaborations with the Center. Service opportunities include: (1) the CLARO Program,acclaimed limited-scope consumer law clinics for unrepresented New Yorkers in need; and (2) the Dilley Pro Bono Project, providing limited-scope assistance to asylum-seeking women with children detained in the South Texas Family Residential Center. Non-legal service opportunities focus on educational equity and involve assisting families and students navigate New York City’s complex public high school admissions process.
Academic: The Center will sponsor a 2019 Winter Term course, which will focus on border enforcement and humanitarian asylum law and include an experiential learning component, i.e., volunteering through the Dilley Pro Bono Project to provide limited-scope legal assistance to detained asylum-seeking women with children in Dilley, Texas. In Spring 2019, Adjunct Professor Olga Byrne will offer a course on children and immigration law.
Fellowships: The Center makes available school-year and summer fellowships to work with the Feerick Center and public interest organizations.

Career Mentorship / Support. The Center’s staff provide mentorship and support to students interested in public interest careers. The Center works with other centers and institutes in helping to organize the Pathways to Practice Series, bringing in alumni who are public interest practitioners to share career advice.

Contact: law.fordham.edu/feerickcenter; Professor Elizabeth B. Cooper, Faculty Director, ecooper@fordham.edu; Dora Galactos, Executive Director, galactos@fordham.edu; Wilma Tamayo-Abreu, Program and Administrative Coordinator, wtamayoabreu@fordham.edu

Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyers Work

The Institute encourages open, positive and constructive dialogue on issues relating to religion and law and provides students, faculty, lawyers, and judges with the opportunity to explore the implications of religion for their lives in the law

Opportunities for student involvement: Join our Student Advisory Board to engage in intensive dialogue with JD and international students of different religious, legal and cultural backgrounds. The Advisory Board has also developed programs for the law school community, including the presentation of an Oscar nominated Iranian film and a multifaith panel on Sanctuary for Immigrants. Advisory Board Students have also spoken at national and international programs outside Fordham. Participate in our Faith-Based Mentorship Project that offers students the opportunity to work with lawyer mentors. Study religious topics in law school courses, such as The Islamic, Catholic and Jewish Laws of War, Economic Regulation and the Environment: A Comparative Approach (Fall 2018).

Contact: law.fordham.edu/lawreligion; lawreligion@law.fordham.edu

The Intellectual Property Law Institute

The Intellectual Property Institute was originally established to build an infrastructure for developing various IP initiatives and projects. Principal among these was the annual Intellectual Property Law and Policy Conference, known as the “Davos of IP.”

The Institute promotes a legal realist approach to IP law in order to better understand what the law actually is and does, and to predict where it is going. In doing so, it hopes to foster progress toward identifying and resolving issues of concern to the IP community. A critical mission of the Institute is to develop the next generation of IP law practitioners and to encourage them to think critically about the importance of IP rights.

Opportunities for Student Involvement: The Institute employs a number of current Fordham students as Research Assistants and recent graduates as Fellows. This provides them with the opportunity to work on emerging issues, gain hands-on experience with legal research, legal writing and strategic legal thinking and to connect with IP leaders. Students research and help execute the annual conference, various IP events and the Institute’s monthly podcast. In addition, they meet with the graduate Fellows and Prof. Hansen once a week to discuss key IP issues.

Contact: (212) 636-7177; team@hansenipinstitute.com; fordhamipinstitute.com

Leitner Center for International Law and Justice

The Leitner Center for International Law and Justice provides hands-on education and real-world training to law students, facilitates capacity building and advocacy with activists and grassroots groups around the world, and contributes to critical research among legal scholars in international human rights. An advocacy team housed in a world-class university, the Leitner Center aims to make international human rights protections an everyday reality for marginalized communities around the world. From its base at Fordham Law School in New York City, the Center develops long-term partnerships with local social justice organizations and other stakeholders across the globe. Through its pioneering programs, clinics, and education initiatives, the Leitner Center trains students to become international legal experts and impassioned human rights advocates by placing students at the core of each of its innovative projects.

Opportunities for Student Involvement:

Events: Weekly lunchtime Leitner Human Rights Speaker Series and evening film screenings and panel discussions.
Student funding: Leitner Summer Fellows Internship Program and James E. Tolan Human Rights Fellowship.
Clinics and experiential programs: Crowley Program in International Human Rights; Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic; Asia Law and Justice Program; Corporate Social Responsibility Clinic; International Law and Development in Africa Clinic; and Sustainable Development Legal Initiative

Contact: LeitnerCenter@law.fordham.edu; leitnercenter.org; facebook.com/LeitnerCenter; twitter.com/leitnercenter; instagram.com/leitnercenter; Sign up for the Leitner Center’s weekly job, internship, and events newsletter by signing up on our website or emailing the Leitner Center.

National Center for Access to Justice at Fordham Law School

We count on the American justice system to halt domestic violence, stop unlawful evictions and foreclosures, preserve the unity of families, enable people to secure the wages they are owed, and in some circumstances to halt and reverse unfair criminal proceedings. The system should deliver equal justice, but too often it can be a source of oppression. For those who have modest incomes or who are members of excluded communities, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to learn about rights, assert rights, obtain a just result, or enforce that result. In civil cases, 80% of the legal needs of the poor are unmet. In criminal cases, people are entitled to free counsel if they cannot afford representation. However, only the poorest obtain it, often it is late, and in many communities its quality is impaired. The National Center for Access to Justice at Fordham Law School, is relying on data to support reforms that create a meaningful opportunity for all people to be heard and to secure their rights.

Opportunities for student involvement: Students are welcome to join forces with NCAJ on its current initiatives, including to expand the Justice Index, justiceindex.org, support the implementation of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the United States, investigate different models for consumer rights enforcement by attorneys general and other public law authorities, and grow the national and global civil justice system reform movement. Opportunities for students to participate in NCAJ’s policy reform, data, and tech initiatives, include: independent study; school-year internships; summer fellowships; post-graduate fellowships; research assistant positions; supporting conferences and special events; collaborating on projects through journal symposia.

Contact: ncforaj.org; justiceindex.org; law.fordham.edu/accesstojustice; info@ncforaj.org; David Udell, NCAJ’s Executive Director, Room 7-165, dudell@fordham.edu; Amy Widman, NCAJ’s Deputy Director, at Room 7-120, awidman@fordham.edu. Students are welcome to drop in and visit or send an email to arrange a time to meet.

Neuroscience and Law Center

The Fordham Neuroscience and Law Center takes an evidence-based and multidisciplinary approach to examining the current and potential uses of neuroscience evidence in the legal system as well as to anticipate how this information will be applied in the next three to five years. Such a goal advances legal scholarship and the responsible incorporation of neuroscience in legal circles by way of educating judges, lawyers, academics (both legal and scientific), and the public. Through its innovative programs and in collaboration with academic partners, the Center aims to be a premier research hub and resource about neuroscience’s increasing prevalence in 21st Century courtrooms.

Opportunities for student involvement: Summer and year-long research assistance, helping at conferences, participating in the student-run Law and Neuroscience Club.

Contact: Deborah W. Denno: ddenno@law.fordham.edu

Stein Center for Law and Ethics

Works in collaboration with law students, practitioners, judges and legal scholars to study and improve the legal profession by: honoring exemplary lawyers; inculcating ethics into teaching law; training future lawyers “in the service of others”; incorporating ethical and professional values into academic and mentoring programs; and encouraging scholarly inquiry, scholarship and professional writings on the professional conduct and regulation of lawyers. Above all, the Center fosters an understanding of ‘ethical legal practice’ that goes beyond adherence to the rules set forth in professional codes of conduct. The Stein Center funds and, jointly with the Public Interest Resource Center, oversees the student-driven Stein Scholars Program, an academic and service program.

Opportunities for student involvement: The Center welcomes inquiries from, and collaboration with, other law school centers and student organizations that are interested in presenting programs on topics relating to the legal profession, ethical norms and professional values. Additionally, the Center would be happy to work with and assist individual students who are interested in working in these areas. In the past, the Stein Scholars faculty has supervised students on independent study projects, has facilitated students’ membership on bar association ethics committees, and has assisted students in, or drawn on student support for, other projects relating to the legal profession.

Contact: law.fordham.edu/stein; Director Bruce Green, bgreen@law.fordham.edu

Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC)

PIRC is the place where Fordham Law students can devote their passions, interests, and skills to pro bono, public service and community service work from their first week in law school. PIRC is the home of dynamic 28 student-run organizations involved in public interest work. These groups perform meaningful work in the form of direct legal services and representation, educational programming within the law school and in the community, advocacy on behalf of those in need, community legal information, and community service. These groups also organize the Alternative Winter/Spring Break Service Projects. PIRC-UP! is the weekly email bulletin from PIRC sent to the Fordham Law community. PIRC offers two guides: A Guide to Public Service at Fordham Law School and Public Service Job Search Guide. Additionally, PIRC, complementing the services of CPC, assists students in exploring public service career opportunities including summer/semester internships and post-graduation work. We advise students how to meet the 50 hour pro bono requirement for admission to the NYS Bar.

PIRC informs students about the range of public interest opportunities available at Fordham. Throughout the school year, PIRC offers a range of programming designed to educate, prepare and inspire students to do public interest work.

Opportunities for student involvement: Get involved in one of the PIRC student groups, as a member or a student leader. Attend PIRC programming. Reach out to schedule an individual career counseling session.

Contact: law.fordham.edu/tpirc, facebook.com/pircfordhamlaw; pirc@law.fordham.edu; LL-101 (PIRC student groups), LL-100 (PIRC administrative staff), (212) 636-6952

Urban Law Center

The Urban Law Center works on the intersection of cities and law. The Center promotes an interdisciplinary understanding of the legal, governance, and regulatory aspects of urban environments through collaborative research, local and global convenings, and knowledge sharing, career pathways and pedagogy in the world of urban law. In particular, the Center’s efforts focus on forces that shape urban inequality and urban innovation, targeting the most pressing issues facing cities and their metropolitan regions.

Opportunities for student involvement: The Urban Law Center works with Fordham law student research assistants in urban law, in areas such as state preemption, social and economic justice, and international law vis-a-vis cities. Presently, we are seeking paid research assistants, Urban Law Student Fellows, for collaboration with several of our partners including UN-Habitat and the Local Solutions Support Center, and also for general Urban Law Center research support. We also launched a Housing Justice Initiative with PIRC and the A2J Initiative, as well as the Urban Law Bulletin and the Women in Urban Law Leadership Initiative, and are seeking collaboration in these important causes. Currently, we partner with Fordham Law Women, the Fordham Real Estate Society, and the Housing Advocacy Project. Urban law intersects with a range of important societal issues, and we are delighted to collaborate with additional student groups as well.

Contact: urbanlawcenter.org; Geeta Tewari, Associate Director, Office 7-143, 212.636.7241; urbanlaw@fordham.edu; Twitter: @UrbanLawCenter

law.fordham.edu/centersandinstitutes