

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Family Law Clinic

The semester-long Family Law Clinic is a community-based collaborative clinic in partnership with the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law (the "Center"). The Clinic will provide family law legal services in collaboration with the Center.

The Family Law Clinic is a five-unit graded course. Students have the opportunity to learn lawyering skills and provide high-quality legal assistance to a vulnerable and underserved population in a community-based learning environment. Under the close supervision of the adjunct faculty member (Managing Director of Legal Programs at the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law Center), students will offer legal advice and counsel to clients in the area of family law with domestic violence interwoven in the majority of these cases. Students will also draft pleadings and declarations, interview clients, observe court proceedings, and learn case management skills. Students will complete their office hours, casework and case supervision at the Buhai Center.

What types of cases do students work on?

The Clinic will provide pro bono counsel and advice to clients of the Center in a variety of family law matters, including but not limited to domestic violence, dissolution, division of property, visitation, custody, parentage, and child support matters. The students will counsel clients in various stages of a family law case under the supervision of staff attorneys at the Center.

Class Meets:

Tuesdays,
10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.



Weekly Hours Required:

17.5 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

- Good academic standing
- Complete first year of study
- Must have taken Family Law, Family Law Procedure and Practice, or Community Property
- Encouraged to also take Evidence and Legal Profession



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I learned how to effectively communicate with clients who have been through domestic violence situations and helped them navigate the complex legal system. The class helped reaffirm the law I was applying in my client's cases and I developed an in-depth understanding of family law issues.

- Natasha Riches '23



How will the Family Law Clinic benefit my education and career?

While the primary area of the Clinic is family law, students who participate in the Clinic learn significant skills in client and case management such as deciding whether or not to take on a client and how to deal with issues in the attorney-client relationship. Students are expected to engage with clients from a variety of backgrounds and to work on solutions that fit each client's individual legal case and needs.



Did you know?

Professor Rebecca Fischer is the Managing Director of Legal Programs at the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law. She also attended a Japanese immersion program from elementary through high school.



Interested in applying?

Fill out the application form on the Southwestern Legal Clinics portal page at swlaw.sharepoint.com/sites/clinic or by scanning the QR code.

For more information about the Family Law Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/familylawclinic.

