

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Asylum Law Clinic

Students step into the roles of advocate and ally in partnership with The Los Angeles LGBT Center to represent and defend LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers. Students will empower and prepare high-risk survivors as they develop their asylum claims, apply for relief and present their cases before adjudicators.

The Asylum Law Clinic is a five-unit graded course. Under the supervision of Professor Feldman, students represent LGBTQ asylum seekers on their cases and related case matters. The clients are current clients of the Los Angeles LGBT Center Immigration Law Project. Students work on applications for asylum in affirmative and defensive postures, including legal briefing, oral arguments, country conditions research and preparing related applications. Students will learn community lawyering strategy and tools for trauma-informed zealous advocacy.

What types of cases do students work on?

Students will prepare and file cases with the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) and US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Each student will prepare and complete at least one filing during the semester. Complete filings include legal briefing with complex arguments about client eligibility and identity, expression, and the persecution they have survived, in addition to research on the status of LGBTQ rights in countries around the world



Law students will learn to work with and advocate for some of the most marginalized survivors within the LGBTQIA+ community. As a result, they become confident and zealous advocates with a concrete skill set they can take with them into any arena of law practice.



- Professor Tess Feldman

Class Meets:

Tuesdays, 9–11 a.m.



Weekly Hours Required:

17.5 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

- Good academic standing
- Complete first year of study
- Registration with Los Angeles LGBT Center Volunteer Resources Department



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

The Asylum Law Clinic offers an opportunity to explore the basic elements of asylum law and international human rights law while simultaneously supporting a high-risk population of LGBTQ survivors. Students also build written communication and interviewing skills while learning a trauma-informed client approach. Mastering research projects and complex briefing assignments will be tools in their toolkit for the next stages of their career.



Did you know?

Professor Feldman is the Manager of the Immigration Law Project at the Los Angeles LGBT Center and Co-Chair of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association Southern California Pro-Bono Committee. She was a nationally qualified representative (NQRP) attorney for detainees in ICE custody in Northern California before joining the Los Angeles LGBT Center.



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 Asylum Law Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/asylumlawclinic.

