

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Immigration Law Clinic

Students practice client-centered advocacy and learn trauma-informed lawyering skills. They learn to lawyer with empathy and compassion.

Professor Andrea Ramos teaches the class and directs the Immigration Law Clinic. The Immigration Law Clinic is a five-unit graded class offered during the fall and spring semesters. The class meets once per week for two hours. The clinic is staffed by Southwestern law students who are enrolled in the course and have weekly clinic office hours. Students take primary responsibility for their case work. There is no final examination.

What types of cases do students work on?

The Immigration Law Clinic handles humanitarian forms of immigration relief. Under the close supervision and guidance of Professor Ramos, students represent survivors of domestic violence and other violent crimes in U Visa petitions and U-based adjustment of status applications, and represent children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases. Students do the work of lawyers and have full responsibility for their cases.



Working in a clinic is transformative. Students receive hands-on training and learn trauma-informed lawyering skills while working on real cases with real clients. They fully immerse themselves in the practice of law and handle all aspects of a case.

- Professor Andrea Ramos



Class Meets:

Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m.



Weekly Hours Required:

17.5 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

- Good academic standing
- Complete first year of study



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

Students receive training to prepare them to handle real cases. Students learn core legal skills, including client interviewing and counseling, fact investigation, legal research and writing, and case development. Students also develop skills such as collaboration, time management and file maintenance. Throughout the semester, students build their professional identity and judgment. They work under the mentorship of Professor Ramos, who helps students develop their full potential as advocates.



Did you know?

Professor Ramos is the founding Director of the Immigration Law Clinic and Director of Clinical Programs. She is a long-time public interest attorney with over 30 years of experience representing underserved individuals. Before Southwestern, she worked as the Directing Attorney of Public Counsel's Children's Rights Project. She is an expert on immigration law and children.



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 Immigration Law Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/immigrationlawclinic.

