

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Street Law Clinic

Law Students step into the roles of teacher, mentor, and advocate to empower at-risk youth in our Los Angeles community to make better choices, overcome adversity, and build stronger futures. The lessons inform teenagers about their rights and the laws that apply to them. They also provide the legal information and resources they need to transition to independent living and adulthood successfully.

The Street Law Clinic is a three-unit graded course. Our students are high school students, and many are in the foster care system or on probation. Some students live at home with families, and others live with foster families or in group homes. We teach at schools throughout Los Angeles County, including schools that are on-site at residential facilities, charter schools, and continuation schools. Our students range in their learning abilities. All students need this vital information and benefit from having law students answer their questions about life and the law.

What topics do students teach?

The Street Law Youth in Transition lessons include topics such as criminal law, constitutional rights, housing law, employment law, consumer law, healthcare rights and more. In addition, law students meet with each youth individually to assist in formulating and implementing a transition plan, focusing on three areas: education, employment, and housing. Based on this transition plan, the law students prepare a resource binder for each youth.



Law students will enhance their ability to explain legal concepts in terms understandable to their students using real-life examples. As a result, they become more confident and effective public speakers and later will become more confident and effective lawyers.

- Commissioner Laura Cohen



Class Meets:

Tuesdays, 9–11 a.m.



Weekly Hours Required:

10.5 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

- Good academic standing
- Complete first year of study



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

The Street Law Clinic offers an opportunity to explore various areas of the law and provides hands-on exposure to the needs, struggles, and daily lives of probation, foster, special needs, and low-income youth. Students also build communication and interviewing skills as well as learn how to explain complex legal issues to lay audiences. Law students can continue to utilize this experience as advocates for this population.



Did you know?

Professor Wesley has been leading the Street Law Clinic since 2018 and also works at Teach Democracy. She has served on the California State Bar Council on Access and Fairness and the National High School Mock Trial Board. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine, and her JD from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



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 Street Law Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/streetlawclinic.

