

# IMMIGRATION LAW & POLICY CLINIC

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026  
Professor Elizabeth Jordan

In the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic (ILPC), students will appear in immigration court representing indigent, detained clients in removal proceedings. Students will learn and apply lawyering skills such as interviewing, client counseling, fact investigation, legal research and writing, oral advocacy, negotiation, policy advocacy, and preparation for, and advocacy in, contested hearings. The fall semester will emphasize learning substantive immigration law, before representing detained immigrants who are seeking release on bond or other matters. The spring semester will allow further engagement in client work, possibly including full representation in removal proceedings, appellate advocacy at the Board of Immigration Appeals and federal circuit courts, or other litigation with respect to post-conviction relief or federal habeas litigation, depending on client needs. ILPC students may also have the opportunity engage in policy work throughout the year; for example, by providing counsel and legal assistance to non-profit advocacy organizations and immigrants' rights movement partners. Through ILPC seminar classes and fieldwork, students will have opportunities to explore systemic problems in the immigration enforcement system—particularly where immigration and criminal enforcement are conflated and entwined—such as racial and economic bias, law enforcement accountability, mass incarceration, disability discrimination, and access to justice.

## **Are there any prerequisites?**

There are no prerequisites. Immigration Law, Criminal Procedure, Trial Practice, Evidence and Evidence Practicum are among the classes that are helpful but not required. A working knowledge of Spanish is helpful but not required. A demonstrated commitment to immigration advocacy and/or public interest law is desirable.

## **Are classes required?**

Yes. Classes will likely meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m, though days and times are subject to change. **Class attendance is mandatory.** In addition, students will be required to attend mandatory orientation classes for the full week before fall classes begin. If needed, additional orientation classes will be scheduled during the first six weeks of the semester and will be arranged around clinic participants' schedules. The purpose of the orientation classes is to introduce students to the substantive, procedural, and ethical aspects of the ILPC's curriculum, and to familiarize students with SLO and ILPC procedures. Accordingly, **attendance of all orientation sessions is mandatory.**

## **How many credits will I receive?**

Students will enroll for 9 credits per semester totaling 18 for the full year. Four are in-class credits; five are out-of-class credits. This number of credits ensures students will develop a solid grounding in immigration practice.

## **What kind of time commitment is involved?**

The Immigration Law and Policy Clinic requires a substantial time commitment. The first semester of the clinic will be very intensive and you should expect to spend at least 25 hours per week working on client-related matters. This time commitment will vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of your client matters, and you may be required to devote considerable additional time as you prepare for significant events. In addition to the time spent serving your clients, you will spend at least four hours each week in class and at least five hours each week performing class-related work, preparation, supervision meetings with faculty, and other clinic assignments. Because of the duties to zealously represent clinic clients, and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, ILPC students may not take on an internship, externship, any other experiential advantage courses, or work while they are enrolled in the ILPC, unless given explicit authorization to do so.

### **What are the benefits of taking this clinic?**

The Immigration Law and Policy Clinic offers substantial immigration practice experience, including both litigation and policy work. You will have the opportunity to integrate professional ethics and values, legal theory, and practice by representing indigent, detained clients facing removal. You will learn the lawyering skills necessary to defend a removal case, including client interviewing, client counseling, negotiation, development of a case theory, researching and drafting various motions, fact investigation, and trial skills, including argument and examination of witnesses. The laboratory for learning will be the classroom, supervision sessions with faculty, the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Contract Detention Facility run by the GEO Group in Aurora, the immigration courts in the detention facility and in Denver, and possibly other state and federal courts. You will learn how to work with clients who face a variety of legal, social and economic problems and you will learn the resources that are (or are not) available. Students will learn how immigration and criminal enforcement have become entwined and may be called on to bring both criminal and immigration practices to bear on their clients' legal problems. Cross-collaboration with the Criminal Defense Clinic (CDC) may take place when CDC clients need to be advised about potential immigration consequences of criminal convictions. For students interested in other areas of law, the clinic will be an excellent opportunity to develop trial skills and skills necessary to work with clients, including client-centeredness, cultural humility, and trauma-informed lawyering.

### **Where can I get more information?**

- Online at [law.du.edu/student-law-office](http://law.du.edu/student-law-office) and on our Instagram **@denver\_law\_clinical\_programs**.
- At our spring recruitment events in person at Sturm College of Law the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.
- At the Student Law Office located on the third floor of the Ricketson Law Building, open Monday - Thursday from 9am to 5pm.

### **How and when do I apply or register?**

Applications can be found on the Clinical Programs website at [law.du.edu/student-law-office](http://law.du.edu/student-law-office).

- Online applications for the fall 2025 semester open **Mon March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 9:00am**
- Online applications for the fall 2025 semester close **Sun March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:59pm**

*Late Applications will not be considered*