

# IMMIGRATION LAW & POLICY CLINIC

Fall 2026 – Spring 2027

Professors Elizabeth Jordan & John Hathaway

In the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic (ILPC), students will appear in immigration court representing indigent, detained clients in removal proceedings. During this year-long clinic, 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 BIA and federal circuit courts, or other litigation with respect to post-conviction relief or federal habeas litigation.

The ILPC offers substantial immigration practice experience, including both litigation and policy work. Students will learn how to work with clients who face a variety of legal, social and economic problems and learn how immigration and criminal enforcement have become entwined. Students 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. ILPC students may also have the opportunity engage in policy work throughout the year.

## Prerequisites

Although not required, it is highly recommended that students take **Immigration Law, Criminal Procedure, Trial Practice, and Evidence** before or concurrently with the clinic. To participate in a Student Law Office Clinic, students must complete 30 credit hours by the start of the clinic and have a GPA of 2.3 or higher.

## Class Requirements

Class attendance is required. Classes are expected to meet **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 – 2:30**. In addition, students will be required to attend orientation for the full week before the fall semester begins. **Attendance of orientation is mandatory.** If needed, additional orientation classes will be scheduled during the first six weeks of the semester arranged around

clinic participants' schedules. The purpose of the orientation 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.

### Credits

Students enroll for the full academic year earning a **total of 18 credits** (9 credits per semester). 8 credits are earned through participation in the clinic seminar, and the remaining 10 credits come from clinic-related work outside of class. Students are expected to participate in both classroom instruction and client work throughout both fall and spring semesters.

### Time Commitment

The ILPC requires a substantial time commitment. Students 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 cases, and students may be required to devote considerable additional time as they prepare for significant events. Given the intensive time commitment of clinic courses as well as the potential for ethical conflicts of interest, **students are not allowed to simultaneously participate in a clinic in the Student Law Office and an externship through the Legal Externship Program or any other experiential course in the law school that involves client work.** Please consult our website [FAQs](#) to review the SLO policy on paid and volunteer work.

### Apply

Applications open **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and close Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** on the [Clinical Programs Webpage](#). Applications submissions for the **Immigration Law & Policy Clinic** must include the following:

- *An updated law school resume (pdf)*
- *A law school writing sample of 5 - 10 pages (pdf)*

Students may apply up to two clinics. Late applications will not be accepted.

### Learn More

- [Clinical Programs Webpage FAQs](#) (QR code)
- Instagram [@denver\\_law\\_clinical\\_programs](#)
- LinkedIn [@student-law-office-at-du](#)

