

LOYOLA GENOCIDE JUSTICE CLINIC INFORMATION SHEET

The Loyola Genocide Justice Clinic (LGJC), a program of the Center for the Study of Law and Genocide (CSLG), welcomes applications for each semester.

The LGJC provides students hands-on legal experience in real-world, active cases and claims involving genocide and mass atrocities. Our substantive work primarily focuses on accountability for alleged perpetrators, and reparations to victims and survivors. This unique program of activity allows students the opportunity to work on cutting-edge legal issues while being exposed to standards of international legal practice.

Clinic students may undertake legal research and preparation of legal memos at the request of external partners, typically in the context of ongoing legal proceedings. This research often helps shape, and is included directly in, briefing to a tribunal. Students may work with domestic or international prosecutors, litigators, NGOs, advocacy groups, or others pursuing accountability.

The Clinic also collaborates with Los Angeles-based legal services provider Bet Tzedek in their representation of aging Holocaust survivors on reparations claims—a unique, first-of-its-kind collaboration that allows students to learn firsthand about the characteristics and challenges of making a reparations claim while providing some measure of justice to victims.

In the LGJC, students develop skills in:

- (1) identifying, explaining, and applying basic concepts, procedures, and mechanisms governing international legal accountability for serious atrocities;
- (2) utilizing multiple research techniques and databases to conduct complex, creative legal research into requested international and domestic legal issues;
- (3) analyzing governing legal principles and applying them to a real-life factual situation;
- (4) effectively synthesizing and communicating case facts and research findings; and
- (5) working with external partners, supervisors, and their clinical peers in a professional, collaborative manner that closely mirrors a typical legal practice setting.

How To Apply

The LGJC Application Form can be submitted via 12Twenty. **You must include:**

1. Completed application form
2. Current resume or CV
3. Current unofficial LLS transcript or grade printout
4. Short (5-7 page) writing sample

Applicants may then be selected to proceed to a 20-minute interview. Please contact LGJC Clinical Director Rajika Shah at rajika.shah@lls.edu with any questions.

FAQs

1. Would the LGJC be a good fit even if I don't plan on a career in international law?

Yes! While some of our alums have gone on to work in human rights at the UN, the International Criminal Court, and international NGOs dedicated to bringing perpetrators to justice, others join

law firms, DA's or public defender's offices, the public sector, or nonprofits. Whether you are interested in litigation, transactional work, or some other kind of work (whether legal or not), what all of our students have in common is a passion for justice, the desire to do good on a global level, and a keen interest in becoming the best lawyers and advocates they can be.

2. Are there any prerequisites?

Students must take any **one (1)** of the following **prior to, or concurrent with**, the LGJC:

- Introduction to International Law (1L elective or upper division)
- Law and Genocide
- Law and the Use of Force
- Law of War
- International Protection of Human Rights

3. Who is eligible to apply?

Clinic applications are open to 2L, 3L day and evening JD students, and LLM students.

4. How is the clinic structured?

First-time students enroll in one semester (the "Standard Track") during either the fall or spring. Students who wish to continue in the LGJC may subsequently enroll in one or more additional semester(s) (the "Advanced Track"). There is a mandatory pre-semester orientation.

All students participate in weekly project team supervision meetings with the instructor, and meet separately with their project team on a regular basis. Additionally, weekly pedagogy classes are required for Standard Track students and may be required for Advanced Track students. Advanced Track students may also act as "senior associates" on project teams.

5. What kind of work can I expect to do in the LGJC?

While our work may take many forms, the core activities of the Clinic involve legal and/or fact research, analysis, and writing, generally in teams. You may carry out a single, discrete project from start to finish, work on subcomponents that form part of a larger project, conduct a preliminary analysis to help identify areas to target and/or develop research strategy, or be asked to carry forward a project already in progress begun by previous Clinic colleagues.

6. How many units is the clinic?

Both the Standard Track and the Advanced Track are offered for 3 units per semester.

7. What are the class meeting times?

The weekly pedagogy class meeting time is scheduled after registration for the new semester is complete, in order to ensure availability for the maximum number of students; in practice, this usually falls on Thursdays from either 4-6pm or 6-8pm. Weekly project team supervision meetings are scheduled around student availability and usually occur on Tuesday or Wednesday.

What Clinic Alums Say about Their Experience

"One of my original motivations for joining the LGJC was to take advantage of the unique opportunity to work on international prosecutions and to take part in a clinic that would fit in my very busy schedule. What I took out of my clinical experience was so much more than this. . . .

The nature of the assignments often involves creative thinking and legal analysis that I have not encountered anywhere else. . . . I feel like this has broadened my skill sets dramatically. The opportunity to work on a long-term group project and to partner with attorneys practicing international law was singular and was the closest thing to replicating the real-life practice of law that I experienced at Loyola.”

“[The LGJC] was a wonderful experience.”

“I have LOVED my experience in the clinic. I am so grateful for the great relationships I have built along the way. . . . You cared about our work, but more importantly, you wanted [our external partner] to see our potential and hard work. I appreciate every class, every lecture, every discussion. Thank you.”

“I wanted to thank you again for all of the attention that you gave to me during my time with the clinic. The work that we did in the clinic has provided me with skills which I have been able to use over and over again in my work placements and now will help me as I navigate a career in environmental law.”