

LSJLC RISE CLINIC



Loyola Law School
Loyola Marymount University

The Rights in Systems Enforced (RISE) Clinic, a new addition to the Loyola Social Justice Law Clinic, engages students in the direct representation of survivors of violent crime who seek to assert their rights in state and/or federal criminal enforcement systems, and require legal assistance with collateral civil matters. The RISE Clinic approaches survivor representation through a critical race and gender justice lens, which calls for culturally competent and trauma-informed legal counseling to center the interests of its clients. Through this work, the RISE Clinic joins a progressive intersectional anti-violence movement focused on survivor empowerment against private and state perpetrated harms. By foregrounding survivor voices, whose victimization is often complicated by their own criminality, the RISE Clinic opposes punitive legal regimes that overcriminalize and overincarcerate people of color and other groups disproportionately harmed by carceral approaches to public safety.

THE WORK:

RISE Clinic students will advocate for survivors of violent crime in court through motion practice, briefings and oral arguments. For clients not already entangled with criminal and/or immigration enforcement, students will provide comprehensive assessments and consultations that address their clients' needs and interests. Under the supervision of RISE Clinic faculty, students will learn to develop collaborativerelationships with their clients to ensure client victim representation in criminal matters, safety, social services support and access to civil legal remedies.

If clients require RISE Clinic representation in criminal proceedings, students will utilize emerging legal tools to protect clients from prosecutorial overreach and assert survivors' rights if they face criminal charges. The RISE Clinic's individual representation of "victims" and "victim-defendants" protects survivors' rights while advancing systemic change in law enforcement regimes that frequently re-exploit and dehumanize victims of violent crime. Student attorneys will learn to grapple with the structural inequities that subject people of color, especially those who are also women, youth, LGBTQ+, disabled and immigrants to criminal violence, and also make them targets of criminalization.

THE COURSE:

The RISE Clinic enrolls 6-8 students per semester who are admitted to practice as CA Student Attorneys under the Supervision of the RISE Clinic Director and receive support from the RISE Case Manager. The RISE Clinic is a semester-long course. Students enrolled work on average sixteen hours per week for the clinical course and legal work. Cases that need continued representation may continue with the same Student Attorney in an advanced course or after 6 months may work with new Student Attorneys. Consistency for the clients is supported by the RISE Director and Case Manager

SERVICES FOR CRIME VICTIMS:

The RISE Clinic will focus on the most difficult victim-witness cases where the victim might be seen as the defendant or the victim has complex overlapping legal issues. To access RISE services, contact our intake line at: 213-252-7442.