

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 experience with real-world legal projects relating to genocide and other mass atrocities. Clinic projects often involve external partners, and students may work with domestic or international NGOs, advocacy groups, prosecutors, litigators, or other legal actors. Pedagogy class sessions complement and contextualize the project work.

Our substantive work primarily focuses on two areas: accountability for alleged perpetrators and accomplices, and reparations to victims and survivors, including restitution and compensation. This unique program of activity allows students the opportunity to work on cutting-edge legal issues while being exposed to standards of international practice.

In the LGJC, students will 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 international and/or domestic legal issues;
- (3) analyzing governing legal principles from a variety of sources and applying those principles to a real-world factual setting;
- (4) effectively synthesizing and communicating their research findings; and
- (5) working with external partners, supervisors, and their clinical peers in a professional, collaborative manner.

FAQs

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

Yes! Most of our students do not plan on careers in international law, though some have—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 (big, small, and everything in between), DA's or public defender's offices, or nonprofits. Some are interested in litigation, some in transactional work, others in government positions, and still others are not sure what kind of law they would like to practice or whether they will at all.

Regardless, 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. We are so proud of them all.

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 one-day pre-semester orientation.

All students participate in weekly project team supervision meetings with the instructor, and are strongly encouraged to meet separately with their project team on a regular basis. Additionally, weekly pedagogy classes are required for Standard Track students and may be required or optional for Advanced Track students depending on the subject matter under discussion. Advanced Track students may also act as “senior associates” on project teams and receive additional or alternative pedagogy in leadership and supervision skills.

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 research, analysis, and writing, generally in teams. You may carry out a single, discrete research project from start to finish, work on research subcomponents that form part of a larger project, conduct preliminary research to help identify areas to target and/or 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.

How To Apply

The LGJC Application Form can be completed via Symplicity. Following review of the written application materials, applicants may be selected to proceed to a 20-minute interview.

A completed application will include:

1. Completed application form
2. Current resume or CV
3. Current unofficial LLS transcript or grade printout
4. Short (5-10 page) writing sample

Please contact LGJC Clinical Director Rajika Shah at rajika.shah@lls.edu with any questions.