

Human Rights at Columbia Law School

Columbia Law School teaches the next generation of human rights advocates to be strategic, critical, and reflective. For more than half a century, Columbia Law School has pioneered education and scholarship in human rights. Columbia students have remarkable opportunities to immerse themselves in cutting-edge human rights research and practice through the Law School's human rights curriculum, the Human Rights Institute, Human Rights Clinic, Social Justice Initiatives, journals, and student-led organizations. Through human rights career advising, specialized human rights mentorship programs, summer fellowship funding, and post-graduate fellowships and other awards, Columbia Law School provides extensive support to students and alumni pursuing careers in human rights.

This brochure sets out the many opportunities available to students interested in exploring human rights during their time at Columbia and engaging in human rights work upon graduation. To make the most of the resources available at Columbia, students are urged to familiarize themselves with the school's rich human rights course offerings; attend the multitude of human rights events and programs sponsored by the Human Rights Institute and Social Justice Initiatives; join student-led organizations and the Institute's Student Advisory Committee; participate in the Human Rights Clinic; pursue a human rights summer internship and pro bono opportunities during the academic term; participate on a law journal; and work as a research assistant with human rights faculty.

The Human Rights Institute

The Human Rights Institute advances international human rights through education, advocacy, fact-finding, research, scholarship, and critical reflection. We work in partnership with advocates, communities, and organizations pushing for social change to develop and strengthen the human rights legal framework and mechanisms, promote justice and accountability for human rights violations, and build and amplify collective power.

The Human Rights Institute offers opportunities for students to engage with human rights scholars and advocates through the Institute's many human rights workshops, panel discussions, and speakers series. In addition, students are encouraged to work with the Institute's faculty and staff on research and advocacy projects, and to meet with faculty and staff for human rights curricular and career advising. The activities of the Human Rights Clinic are included in the Institute's work, enabling us to multiply our impact on the field and fully engage students in our efforts.

Founded in 1998 by the late Professor Louis Henkin as the anchor for human rights within Columbia Law School, the Human Rights Institute promotes engagement and knowledge of human rights within the law school, throughout the University, and around the world. Across the many substantive areas of its work, the Institute builds bridges between scholarship and activism, develops capacity within the legal community, engages governments, and models new strategies for progress.

The Institute has numerous projects related to security forces and the use of force. The **Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights** project seeks to advance respect for human rights in conflict and law enforcement operations. It engages in independent research, legal analysis, and advocacy to promote legal compliance and accountability and to foster dialogue among governments, academics, and civil society advocates. We host expert meetings and conduct research and advocacy on emerging and urgent issues,

including: harmonizing standards in armed conflict; aid, assistance, and support activities in the context of counterterrorism and armed conflict; the use of force, including through drones strikes and so-called ‘targeted killings’; domestic counterterrorism practices; accountability for war crimes; and compensation for victims. The **Security Force Monitor** project aims to improve investigations of police and military abuses by making security forces more transparent. The Security Force Monitor addresses a significant obstacle facing human rights research, investigative journalism, and other public interest work: the lack of easily accessible and detailed information on the police, military, and other security forces of countries around the world. The Security Force Monitor is a web-based platform that compiles and visualizes publicly available data so that journalists, human rights groups, and others can easily explore the data and use it to assist in identifying specific perpetrators when abuses occur. The project on **War Crimes and Mass Graves** works with forensic anthropologists to conduct investigations and trainings on the use of forensics for humanitarian, truth, and accountability purposes.

The **Human Rights in the United States** project develops the capacity of U.S. lawyers, policymakers, and advocates to advance social justice in the United States through a human rights framework. We build networks, facilitate trainings, conduct educational outreach, and promote coordination among progressive public policy and advocacy groups, including through our Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers’ Network. The project also directly contributes to the development of legal theories and positive precedents based on international law through work on select litigation before U.S. courts, in international and regional fora, and through other research and advocacy projects. The project works on cross-cutting issues, with particular focus on building human rights accountability at the state and local level; promoting and improving U.S. engagement with the Inter-American human rights system; and advancing access to justice in the United States.

The project on **Business and Human Rights in the Global Economy** develops innovative human rights and interdisciplinary methodologies to investigate the human rights implications of—and to promote respect for human rights in—business operations and developments in the global economy. The Institute uses, promotes, and strengthens legal frameworks and strategies to advance human rights, promotes accountability for rights violations, and seeks to limit the subjugation of rights to the profit-motive of business enterprises around the globe. Our research seeks to recalibrate global and corporate-community power imbalances that reinforce the disparate allocation of wealth, community exploitation, threats to physical security, and the perpetuation of systems of poverty and violations of economic, social, and cultural rights. In addition to publishing international policy analysis, site-specific projects are undertaken to strengthen the power of groups negatively impacted by resource extraction, development projects, and industry, and to assist impacted groups in their pursuit of economic, social, and environmental justice.

The Institute has numerous projects on **Human Rights Fact-Finding, Methodologies, and Critiques**. The **Human Rights Methodology Lab**, created with Human Rights Watch and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, brings together experts to provide advice on human rights fact-finding projects in order to promote innovation, deepen interdisciplinary methods, and advance research methodology in the human rights field. To advance research, scholarship, and practice related to **mental health in the human rights field**, the Institute and Clinic partner with experts in vicarious trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and resilience. The Institute and Clinic further develop applied research projects to examine **the ‘critical turn’ in human rights practice**—mapping, analyzing, and assessing how advocates negotiate critiques of human rights in their practice, and providing a forum for the dissemination of innovative practices and pragmatic engagement around the field’s most pressing challenges.

The Institute’s **Global Human Rights Connectivity and Integration Project** builds connections and coherence within and among human rights institutions, norms, and civil society, with the goal of strengthening the global human rights architecture and fostering human rights compliance around the world. Through research and expert convenings, the Human Rights Institute promotes greater exchange of ideas on both substance and process among the UN human rights treaty bodies, and between the treaty bodies and other human rights institutions, including regional commissions and courts, the Venice Commission, and the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review and UN Special Procedures. In addition, the Institute works to advance civil society’s understanding and strategic engagement with the human rights mechanisms as a coherent system.

Human Rights Institute Student Advisory Committee

The Human Rights Institute's Student Advisory Committee brings together J.D. and LL.M. students to build and nurture the human rights community at Columbia Law School and develop opportunities for students to engage in human rights programming and leadership at Columbia. The Committee is comprised of representatives from Rightslink, Columbia Society for International Law, Student Public Interest Network, Society for Immigration and Refugee Rights, the Coalition of Identity Group Leaders, and the Human Rights Law Review. Each year, the Human Rights Institute also invites applications from J.D. and LL.M. students to serve as "at large" members.

The Human Rights Clinic

The Human Rights Clinic prepares students for lifelong careers in social justice advocacy around the globe. Through the Clinic, students join a community of advocates working to promote human rights and to recalibrate the global power imbalances that drive economic and political inequality, exploitation, threats to physical security, poverty, and environmental injustice. Through fact-finding, reporting, litigation, media engagement, advocacy, training, and innovative methods, the Clinic seeks to prevent abuse, promote accountability, and advance respect for human rights. Embedded in the Clinic's work is a commitment to the values of equality and mutual exchange in transnational partnerships; respect for rights-holder autonomy, voice, and power; and diversity, inclusion, full participation, and justice within the human rights field.

Through a combination of Seminars and Project Work, and with the mentorship of Clinic professors and supervisors, students develop the wide range of skills necessary to be strategic and creative human rights advocates, critically analyze human rights, and advance the human rights methodologies of the Clinic and the human rights field.

Clinic Seminars provide a map of the terrain of international human rights advocacy, including the field's dominant strategies, methods, and critiques, equipping students with the knowledge and the tools to navigate the field with confidence and critical reflection. Students learn to assess where they and human rights projects are positioned, the available routes for action, and how to ethically, pragmatically, and responsibly choose which steps to take toward which ends. They learn project selection and design; choice and sequence of advocacy tactics; fact-finding and interdisciplinary research methods; interviewing witnesses, experts, and perpetrators; evidence assessment; digital and physical security; report and brief-writing; using judicial and quasi-judicial processes; advocacy options at the local, national, regional, and international levels; engaging the press and using social media; mitigating vicarious trauma and promoting resilience; ethical frameworks and the navigation of ethical dilemmas; and accountability and project evaluation. The Clinic engages students in an active and co-creator mode of education, and students are taught to self-assess and monitor their own progress, and are involved in building the methods, pedagogy, and institution of the Clinic itself.

Students work in teams on projects pursuing social justice in partnership with civil society and communities. Clinic Projects vary from year to year, each addressing marginalized, urgent, and complex human rights issues around the world, including in Peru, Chad, Centrafrique, Papua New Guinea, Yemen, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, and the United States. Past projects have addressed corporate accountability for human rights violations and environmental harms in the extractives industry, human rights and humanitarian law violations in counterterrorism operations and armed conflict, the right to health, abuses by UN peacekeepers, discrimination in education, war crimes, and sexual violence.

The Clinic is also a laboratory for testing new, innovative, and interdisciplinary modes of human rights work, and seeks to be a model of rigorous and critical human rights advocacy. To provide a support structure for these goals, the Clinic builds a community of current students, alumni, scholars, and advocates who support one another and collaborate toward the advancement of human rights.

The Human Rights Clinic is open to second and third year J.D. students, as well as students pursuing an LL.M. degree. Applications for J.D. students are due in the spring of each year, and LL.M. students apply in the summer when they arrive on campus. 1L students and others not in the Clinic can participate in Clinic projects through the student group Rightslink and its 'Human Rights Advocates Program.'

Human Rights Events

The Human Rights Institute hosts a year-long program of speakers and events at Columbia Law School. The Institute invites eminent human rights scholars and practitioners to address current issues of interest in the human rights field. Events range from panel discussions on emerging human rights issues, to more informal, intimate discussions with advocates and academics about the intricacies of practicing human rights law. The events provide a unique opportunity for students to engage directly with leaders in the human rights field. Events are open to law students, faculty, and frequently the greater Columbia University community. Students are invited to share their ideas for events, and the Institute often co-hosts events with student groups.

In the fall, Rightslink and Social Justice Initiatives co-host a human rights career fair. This provides an opportunity for Columbia Law School students to connect with leading human rights organizations. Representatives of human rights organizations discuss term-time and summer internships, and post-graduate fellowships.

Columbia Law School Human Rights-Related Courses

Each year, Columbia Law School offers a wide range of international law and human rights courses, together with advanced, specialized, and new courses that touch on human rights and social justice issues. Courses include:

Adolescent Representation Clinic (Jane Spinak)
Advanced Immigrants' Rights Clinic (Elora Mukherjee)
African Legal Theory, Law and Development (Francis Ssekandi)
Transnational Corporations and Human Rights (Aaron Dhir)
Civil Liberties and the Response to Terrorism (Steven Shapiro, Matthew Waxman)
Civil Rights Lawyering in the Modern Era: Theory and Practice (Myrna Perez, Kendall Thomas)
Critical Human Rights Theory (Thomas Keenan, Kendall Thomas)
Democracy and Distribution (Michael Graetz)
Domestic Violence and the Law (Dorchen Leidholdt)
Employment Discrimination Litigation (Debra Raskin, Anne Vladeck)
Enforcing International Law (Lori Damrosch)
Externship: Domestic Violence Prosecution (Scott Kessler)
Externship: Immigration Law (Maria Navarro, David Stern)
Externship: Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth (Kathleen Maloney, Cristina Romero)
Externship: United Nations (Bruce Rashkow, Larry Johnson)
Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development (Lisa Sachs)
Gender Justice (Katherine Franke)
Global Constitutionalism (Michael Doyle)
Human Rights (Sarah Cleveland)
Human Rights at Home: Advancing U.S. Social Justice (Risa Kaufman)
Human Rights Clinic (Sarah Knuckey, Benjamin Hoffman)
Human Rights, Law and Development Workshop (Edwin Rekosh)
Immigrants' Rights Clinic (Elora Mukherjee, Jason Parkin)
Immigration Law (Rose Villazor)
International Criminal Law (Lori Damrosch)
International Environmental Law (Susan Biniaz)
International Human Rights Advocacy (Hina Shamsi)
International Humanitarian Law (Gabor Rona)
International Law (Lori Damrosch, Alexander Greenawalt)
International Lawyering for Governments (Sarah Cleveland)
Jurisprudence of War (George Fletcher, Michel Paradis)
Labor Law (Mark Barenberg)
Law and Development (Katharina Pistor)

Law and Policy of Homelessness (Kim Hopper)
Lawyering for Change (Susan Sturm)
Mass Incarceration Clinic (Brett Dignam, Farhang Heydari)
Mental Health Law (Robert Levy)
Native American Law (Steven McSloy)
Native Peacemaking (Shawn Watts)
Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law (Jonathan Bush)
Professional Responsibility: Issues in Public Interest Practice (Philip Genty)
September 11 and the Rights of Non-Citizens (Lee Gelernt)
The Law of Genocide (Menachem Rosensaft)
The United States and the International Legal System (Matthew Waxman)
Transitional Justice (Graeme Simpson)
Transnational Litigation (George Bermann)
Undocumented and Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth
(Kathleen Maloney, Cristina Romero)
Victims' Rights (George Fletcher)
Vision, Action and Social Change (Susan Sturm, Richard Gray)

Research Assistant Opportunities

Students can become involved with ongoing human rights research by working as Research Assistants for the Human Rights Institute, the Institute or Clinic's faculty, and other Columbia Law School faculty. These positions can be paid, or they can be completed for academic or pro bono credit. RA positions are an excellent way to become deeply engaged on cutting edge work, and to engage directly with academics and advocates. Projects vary depending on the semester. Students interested in working as RAs should reach out to faculty and staff and also check with Social Justice Initiatives for any available positions. Positions are generally posted at the start of each semester.

Student Human Rights Organizations

Columbia Law School has a number of student organizations that focus on human rights issues, provide opportunities for all students to engage in human rights research and advocacy, organize human rights events, and foster the human rights community at Columbia Law School. Active involvement in student groups is a critical component of students' human rights education. Student groups include:

Rightslink

Rightslink is a student-run human rights law outreach and research organization based at Columbia Law School. Working closely with the Human Rights Institute and other Columbia University entities, Rightslink organizes a variety of academic, social, and professional events throughout the year to foster a human rights community at the Law School and to connect students with scholars and practitioners around New York. Leveraging the vast research resources available to Columbia students, Rightslink also provides free legal research services to human rights groups that lack the capacity or political freedom to conduct their own research. Rightslink members often work with the Human Rights Institute and the Human Rights Clinic, particularly through the 'Human Rights Advocates Program'. Students interested in human rights have an opportunity to contribute to innovative projects covering a broad range of domestic and international issues such as human trafficking, transitional justice, ethnic discrimination, and political freedom. **Contact:** rightslink@law.columbia.edu

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

The Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) is dedicated to promoting a dialogue about legal rights of refugees and immigrants in the United States and globally. SIRR is also committed to building relationships between student organizations with similar interests, so as to encourage broad participation from the student body. SIRR sponsors a competitive moot court team which allows interested students to delve into immigration law through a fun, yet intense, two-semester program. The program culminates in a weekend competition against other teams from across the country. For those looking for the law-school equivalent of alternative spring break, SIRR co-sponsors several week-long caravans enabling groups of students to volunteer at organizations involved with immigration and refugee law, both in the U.S. and abroad.

SIRR provides meaningful opportunities to do pro-bono legal work during the year. The group coordinates the Immigration Advocacy Project. Additionally, SIRR directs the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project and the African Services Committee Project. The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) organizes attorneys and law students to help refugees from Iraq and other areas escape persecution and navigate the rules and processes of resettlement in the U.S.

Contact: sirr@columbia.edu **Website:** web.law.columbia.edu/sir

Columbia Society of International Law

The Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL) is Columbia Law School's principal student group dedicated to issues involving international law. The Society informs its members about opportunities to practice international law and current issues in international law; provides members in-person access to many of the top international firms; allows members the opportunity to meet leading scholars in the field; offers guidance and advice on career paths in the fields of public and private international law; and provides opportunities for American and international law students and alumni to form connections with each other that span the globe after graduation from Columbia Law School. **Contact:** csil@law.columbia.edu **Website:** blogs.law.columbia.edu/csil

Student Public Interest Network

The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) strives to build a community for students interested in pursuing public interest law and provide a network for public interest collaboration at CLS. SPIN defines "public interest law" broadly, including plans to work in a non-profit, the government, an international organization, or a for-profit institution that does public interest work, either directly after law school or at a later time. SPIN is deliberately a cross-issue student group, one that welcomes students who are interested in all issues within public interest law. SPIN has monthly social events and mentoring programs, and provides public interest career support through events, panels, and trips to public interest law conferences. **Contact:** SPIN@law.columbia.edu **Website:** <http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/spin/>

Law in Africa Student Society

The Law in Africa Student Society represents the interests of, and brings together, students who identify with the continent, to create a community on campus. We provide a forum for students, professors, and professionals to meet and pursue their interest in African cultures, societies, legal jurisprudence, and job opportunities. Our goal is to sponsor and support formal and informal events that provide insight into African law and culture, and into current issues concerning the relationship between Africa, the United States, and the rest of the world. We organize events together with African student societies at Columbia's other schools, build a network between current members and alumni, engage in pro bono projects focused on the continent, and support curricular development through reading groups and seminars. **Contact:** lass@law.columbia.edu

Empowering Women of Color

Empowering Women of Color (EWOC) exists to champion diverse women at Columbia Law School in light of the unique challenges they face in the legal profession. The group provides a safe space for collaboration and dialogue about issues relevant to women of color, supports members in their development as full participants in academic, professional, and personal communities, and strives to ensure that the greater Columbia Law School community is an environment where all members feel valued, respected, and empowered. **Contact:** ewoc@law.columbia.edu

Social Justice Initiatives and Human Rights Career Advising

Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) manifests the Law School's belief that human rights and public interest should be a part of the professional life of every Columbia student and graduate. It implements the School's externship and pro bono programs, provides professional development guidance and assistance to students and graduates regarding summer opportunities and careers, assists student groups, and brings leading social justice advocates to campus for panels and other programs. SJI's staff of full-time advisers includes an expert in human rights and international public law careers, as well as numerous adjunct advisors, who are human rights practitioners.

Human Rights Internship Program

SJI is responsible for the summer Human Rights Internship Program (HRIP). Unique to Columbia, it is one of the Law School's most important human rights offerings. The program enables students to intern over the summer at human rights organizations with a stipend, a plane ticket, and training that will ground them in fundamental human rights principles and practices. SJI works individually with each student to identify and obtain a position with an organization at which the student can best receive training in human rights law, work in the service of his or her belief, create relationships that may advance professional development, and become part of a worldwide network of Columbia graduates and others devoted to human rights.

Human Rights Practitioners-in-Residence and Columbia Law School Visiting Scholars Programs

The Human Rights Practitioners-in-Residence program is designed for human rights practitioners from non-governmental organizations, government, the United Nations, and other inter-governmental and international bodies who seek an environment in which they can engage in research, writing, and scholarly discussion connected to their human rights practice. The program is intended to promote human rights scholarship grounded in practice, as well as practice informed by scholarship and critique.

While in residence at the Human Rights Institute, Practitioners-in-Residence will have the opportunity to work on their own scholarly or policy-oriented papers or books for publication, develop workshops and new research agendas, or prepare for conferences or new human rights projects. Mentoring about academic scholarship is available, as are opportunities for presenting and obtaining feedback on draft work. Practitioners also have the opportunity to participate in the broader intellectual life of the law school, and may deliver guest lectures in the Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic and other human rights course offerings, participate in the mentoring of Columbia Law School students, advise on ongoing projects of the Human Rights Institute and Clinic, and design workshops or other events with experts from the field. The Human Rights Practitioners-in-Residence program is administered by the Human Rights Institute.

During recent decades, Columbia Law School's Visiting Scholars Program has hosted thousands of exceptional international scholars, professors, judges, practitioners, and government officials. The individuals who participate in the program each year are immensely diverse. Their research and scholarship touch on a multitude of legal disciplines, including comparative and international law, human rights, legal philosophy, and constitutional law. Visiting Scholars range from senior faculty at the world's leading research institutions, to doctoral students who are at the start of their scholarly careers. The Visiting Scholars Program is administered by Columbia Law School's International Programs. For more information, please visit: <http://web.law.columbia.edu/international-programs/visiting-scholars-program>

Human Rights Fellowships and Awards

The Human Rights LL.M. Fellowship Program

The Human Rights LL.M. Fellowship is designed to support students pursuing an LL.M. degree at Columbia who show exceptional commitment and potential to use their education to become innovators and leaders in human rights practice and/or academia. The fellowship is jointly coordinated by the Human Rights Institute and

the Office of Graduate Legal Studies. Fellowships offer partial to full waivers of tuition, and in some cases, a living stipend, depending on the applicant's demonstrated level of financial need.

LL.M. Human Rights Fellows will receive tailored skills and career mentoring in both practice and academic scholarship from Human Rights Institute faculty, staff, and advisors; be invited to special events with leading human rights advocates and scholars; and be afforded the opportunity to participate in the Human Rights Institute's cutting-edge research projects. Fellows will also be given special consideration for admission to the Human Rights Clinic. Fellows are expected to devote a significant part of their studies while at Columbia to human rights, and to take an active part in the law school's vibrant human rights community. Applicants must demonstrate experience in international human rights and a commitment to a career in the field, whether in academia and/or human rights practice. Candidates from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and candidates who face impediments to education and leadership because of their race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic background, gender, or sexual orientation are strongly encouraged to apply.

Post-Graduate Fellowships

More information on the following fellowships is available on the Social Justice Initiatives website.

The David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship

The Leebron Fellowship enables Columbia Law School graduates to spend one year working with a host organization on a human rights project of the graduate's choice, anywhere in the world.

The Sandler Fellowship

Human Rights Watch, a leading international human rights fact-finding and advocacy organization, has created the Sandler Fellowship for a Columbia Law graduate from the J.D. program in honor of Judge Leonard Sandler '50. The fellow will spend one year in either the New York City or Washington, D.C. office monitoring human rights developments in various countries, conducting on-site investigations, drafting reports on human rights conditions, and engaging in advocacy aimed at publicizing and curtailing human rights violations.

Herbert & Nell Singer Social Justice Fellowship

This Fellowship honors class of 1928 graduate Herbert Singer and his commitment to providing support to meaningful learning experiences in public interest law. This annual Fellowship will help launch the social justice career of a Columbia Law graduate who demonstrates substantial commitment, ability, and preparation for making a difference as a public interest lawyer by providing a stipend to do civil public interest or human rights legal work at a not-for-profit organization in the United States. The fellow must begin work within five months after graduation or completion of a clerkship.

Columbia Postgraduate Social Justice and Government Fellowships

These fellowships provide a stipend to selected J.D. and LL.M. students in the graduating class who obtain a qualifying position at a public interest, human rights, or government organization anywhere in the world.

The Lowenstein Fellowship

The Lowenstein Fellowship provides enhanced loan repayment support for Columbia Law School students. Endowed by Professor Louis Lowenstein and his wife Helen, these fellowships are awarded to outstanding graduates pursuing any type of public interest law, including government service. The Law School will cover 100 percent of eligible debt service for loans borrowed up to the cost of Columbia Law School tuition for fellows whose annual income does not exceed \$100,000 as long as the fellow remains in public interest law work. Lowenstein Fellowships are awarded to students who have demonstrated a serious commitment to work in public interest law, plan to work as a lawyer full-time in the public interest sector immediately following graduation or a clerkship, have taken educational loans to finance part of his or her Columbia Law School education, and are eligible for standard LRAP.

Berger LRAP Fellowship

Endowed by Max W. Berger '71 and Dale Berger, this fellowship is awarded to one Columbia Law School graduate whose career and first postgraduate job (other than a judicial clerkship) will be substantially devoted to

using the law to fight racial, gender, and/or other discrimination. This fellowship will be offered in alternating years with the Bernstein Fellowship (below).

Bernstein LRAP Fellowship

The Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP Fellowship (Bernstein Fellowship) is awarded to one Columbia Law School graduate whose career and first postgraduate job (other than a judicial clerkship) will be substantially devoted to using the law to fight racial, gender, and/or other discrimination. This fellowship will be offered in alternating years with the Berger Fellowship.

Human Rights Graduation Awards

David M. Berger Memorial Prize

Established in 1973 in memory of David M. Berger '69, this prize honors the memory of Wolfgang Friedmann, professor of international law from 1955 to 1972, and is awarded annually to a third-year student interested in international law and world peace.

Edwin Parker Prize

Established in 2011, this prize is awarded annually to students who excelled in the study of international or comparative law, as nominated by members of the faculty and selected by the Columbia Law School professor who is director of the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law.

Human Rights Commendation

Awarded by the Human Rights Institute, the annual Human Rights Commendation recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to human rights at Columbia Law School and to the human rights field. Honorees are selected based on their commitment to advancing human rights opportunities at Columbia, engagement in mentorship of new students in human rights, activities undertaken in and out of the Law School to advance human rights, and commitment to a career in human rights and to advancing the human rights field.

Human Rights Law Review

The Columbia Human Rights Law Review (HRLR) is one of the oldest and the most recognized human rights journals in the world. Established in 1967, HRLR is run by students and is dedicated to the analysis and discussion of human rights and civil liberties under both domestic and international law. HRLR is an academic journal that publishes scholarly articles written by professors, practitioners, and students. Those who have published in the HRLR include Marvin E. Frankel, Arthur C. Helton, Louis Henkin, Michael Posner, Antônio Augusto Cancado Trindade, and Bishop Desmond Tutu. The HRLR publishes and sells *A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual* ("the JLM"), a legal resource produced to assist prisoners and others in negotiating the U.S. legal system. With thirty-six chapters on legal rights and procedures including the appellate process, federal habeas corpus relief, the Prison Litigation Reform Act, religious freedom in prison, the rights of prisoners with disabilities, and many more, the JLM is a major legal reference for prisoners and libraries across the country. 1L students can apply to the HRLR in the spring after their 1L year. LL.M. students can apply to HRLR as well. Members of the editorial board are chosen from the second-year staff. Staff editors are involved in every aspect of the production and publication of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review and *A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual*, which means every member of the HRLR team is given an opportunity to develop practical and professional skills while contributing substantially to the advancement of human rights. For more information: <http://hrlr.law.columbia.edu/>.

Public Interest Lawyering (PILnet) Fellows

Each year, Columbia Law School is proud to welcome PILnet Fellows – human rights advocates from NGOs around the world – to participate in an eight-month program that combines academic and practical training with the purpose of educating and building the capacity of a new generation of public interest advocates in selected countries around the world. Fellows are nominated by local NGOs to which they return at the end of the program to implement a project developed during their fellowship period in New York. Fellows spend the first

semester of the program at Columbia Law School, where they take courses in human rights and public interest law alongside Columbia Law Students. In the spring, fellows participate in study visits to Washington, D.C. and various European cities, followed by an internship at a public interest law organization in New York. Columbia Law Students interested in human rights work are strongly encouraged to reach out to PILnet Fellows.

Moot Courts

Columbia Law students often participate in Moot Court competitions involving international and human rights legal questions. Students find the competitions to be an especially rewarding aspect of their time at the Law School. The school supports Moot Courts through faculty supervision and funding opportunities. There are a range of opportunities, including:

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the world's largest moot court, with participants from more than 500 law schools across more than 80 nations. The competition simulates a dispute between two countries before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial arm of the United Nations. Recent topics have included the legality of humanitarian intervention, the threat or use of force, sexual abuse by United Nations Peacekeepers, and the rights and obligations of international organizations. Competitors in the World Championship Round usually have the opportunity to argue before a judge on the International Court of Justice.

The written memorial is due in early January. The team competes in the Super Regional rounds in February and, if successful, advances to the Shearman & Sterling International Rounds and Jessup Cup World Championship in March.

European Moot Court

The European Law Moot Court Competition is a traditional competition in which teams of students prepare written pleadings with respect to a problem of European law and present their arguments in oral proceedings before the Court of Justice. The case is set each year under the auspices of the European Law Moot Court Society.

The purposes of the competition are to promote awareness of European law, expertise in the practice of European law, and practical experience in preparing and arguing cases before the Court of Justice. In addition, the competition provides a forum for the discussion of questions of current legal, social, and practical significance emerging from European integration, and the legal and political changes in Europe.

Jean-Pictet Competition

The Jean-Pictet Competition is the leading international humanitarian law (IHL) moot court competition, and one of the most innovative training programs in public international law for law students. Every year, approximately 150 students representing 48 universities from over 30 countries take part. While most moot competitions are brief based, the Jean-Pictet Competition focuses on simulating the real-life legal decisions made by military advisers, legal advisers, and humanitarian aid workers on a daily basis in armed conflict zones. The competition involves a fact pattern that evolves through seven various simulations in which participants adopt different roles and respond to new legal hurdles.

In past competitions, participants focused on issues such as children participating in hostilities, environmental consequences of military targeting, detentions in non-international armed conflicts, and the immunities of peacekeepers. The competition allows for unique opportunities to network with IHL practitioners.

Beyond the Law School

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) was established in 1978 at Columbia University. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering

innovative interdisciplinary academic research, and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations, and universities around the world. ISHR recognizes that on a fundamental level, human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to the practitioners' world in the process, to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR's emphases on interdisciplinarity, engagement, and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

ISHR's distinction is also earned through its active engagement with the world of human rights practitioners. This engagement informs the academic work of Columbia's faculty while simultaneously challenging activists to assess and evaluate their approaches to human rights in the light of academic findings. ISHR continues to be a leader in bridging the academic study of human rights and the worlds of advocacy and public policy. ISHR's global connections are especially strong with advocates in the Global South, predominantly through the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) and the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA). HRAP has long been recognized as playing a unique role in capacity-building and continues to attract the best advocates from all over the world. AHDA brings together scholars and advocates who focus on work that addresses the historical legacy of conflict, and the impact that the memory of past violence has on contemporary politics, society, and culture.

For an extensive list of human rights focused courses across the University, please visit:
<http://humanrightscolumbia.org/education/hrsma/courses>.

Contact Us

For more information on academic and career opportunities in human rights advocacy, please contact:

Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute

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Social Justice Initiatives

William and June Warren Hall, 8th Floor

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