Learning through direct experience is an essential part of the very best legal education. Boston College Law School’s new Center for Experiential Learning (opening Fall 2014) will combine clinical and experiential programs to provide services ranging from civil litigation to wrongful criminal convictions, from intellectual property to international human rights.

Our goal is to enable all students to participate in some form of experiential learning, providing them with a deeper understanding of what it means to practice law and to be career-ready upon graduation.

BC Law’s Legal Assistance Bureau (LAB) was a pioneer in the field when it was founded 45 years ago. LAB, a central component of the new Center, has served as a model for clinics around the country.

The London Program, celebrating its 25th year in 2014, has placed hundreds of students in U.K. law firms and corporations while providing the very best classroom experiences through King’s College in London. It provides the foundation for our Global Practice Program, which also includes human rights semester-in-practice opportunities at locations around the globe, as well as our JD/LLM program at the Sorbonne in Paris.
IN-HOUSE DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

CIVIL LITIGATION CLINIC
At the Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau, students carry assigned caseloads and represent clients in every aspect of civil litigation including discovery, settlement negotiations, and trials.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CLINIC (CEC)
Students provide tax, employee relations, and other legal services to local small businesses and nonprofits.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC—DEFENSE
The BC Defenders represent clients charged with crimes and probation violations in the Boston Municipal Court.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC—PROSECUTION
Students handle arraignments, motions, and trials under the supervision of an assistant district attorney.

HOUSING LAW CLINIC
Students litigate cases in local district courts and the Boston Housing Court on behalf of individuals who are homeless or risk becoming homeless. Activities also include working with housing authorities and community organizations.

IMMIGRATION CLINIC
Students represent noncitizens in applications for legal status.

INNOCENCE PROJECT CLINIC
Students work on postconviction screening, transcript review, and litigation of cases of prisoners who assert their innocence.

JUVENILE RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT (JRAP)
Students represent youth in special education advocacy, school disciplinary proceedings, administrative advocacy before agencies, and in Juvenile Court status offense cases. Students also work as guardians ad litem and on policy development.

EXTERNSHIPS

ATTORNEY GENERAL PROGRAM
During a full year at the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, students practice under the supervision of an assistant attorney general on litigation, drafting legal documents, and researching and writing trial and appellate briefs. Students also argue matters in Superior Court on behalf of state agencies.

FLEXIBLE EXTERNSHIPS
By arrangement with a faculty member, students may develop individualized externship placements at nonprofit organizations, government agencies, or law firms.

IMMIGRATION EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Students work either off campus at a firm or nonprofit organization, or on campus with the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project on cases of asylum, domestic violence, employment, or deportation defense.

INNOCENCE PROJECT EXTERNSHIP
Students study the problem of wrongful convictions and provide pro bono legal assistance to prisoners who maintain their innocence. Participants choose an externship placement at the New England Innocence Project or the Committee for Public Counsel Services.

LONDON PROGRAM
At London’s King’s College, students study international aspects of regulatory processes in areas including environment, security, antitrust, intellectual property, and human rights.

SEMESTER IN PRACTICE
Students work in law firms, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and courts under the supervision of experienced attorneys.

SEMESTER IN PRACTICE: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
Students work in international organizations focusing on human rights, migration, and other public interest issues.

OBSERVATIONAL PROGRAMS

JUDGE AND COMMUNITY COURTS
Students have clerkship-like placements with justices of the District Court, Boston Municipal Court, Juvenile Court, and Housing Court departments and are assigned research and writing projects.

JUDICIAL PROCESS
Students observe a series of Massachusetts Superior Court judges once a week in both civil and criminal proceedings and compare and contrast the judges during a weekly seminar.

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

- Wendell F. Grimes Moot Court Competition
- National Moot Court
- Braxton Craven Moot Court
- Judge Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court
- European Union Law Moot Court
- Frederick Douglass Moot Court
- Saul Leffkowitz Intellectual Property Moot Court
- Philip C. Jessup Trademark Moot Court
- National Administrative and Environmental Moot Court
- National Mock Trial Team
- John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court
- National First Amendment Moot Court
- Immigration Law Moot Court
- Religious Freedom Moot Court
EXAMPLES OF EXternSHIP PLACEMENTS:

- International Criminal Court, Special Tribunal for Cambodia
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Massachusetts Office of Attorney General
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Intellectual Property Practice at MIT Tech Transfer Office
- Corporate Counsel Practice at Massachusetts General Hospital
- U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
- Boston Immigration Court
- IBM Software Group
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Partners HealthCare System
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- Innocence Project
- The Constitution Project
- Office of Senator Carl Levin
- Texas Civil Rights Project
- Indiana Public Defender’s Office
- Brookstone
- U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Disability Law Center
- Boston Redevelopment Authority
- Staples

EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- Indigent client representation in the Legal Assistance Bureau’s Civil Litigation and Housing clinics
- Representation of small businesses in the Community Enterprise Clinic
- Criminal defense in Dorchester District Court
- Remedy wrongful incarceration through the Innocence Project in the New England Innocence Project
- Criminal justice prosecution in district courts of Middlesex County

EXAMPLES OF JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS:

- Assist Superior Court judges through the Judicial Process program
- Assist District Court judges through the Judge and the Community Courts program

EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC INTEREST OPPORTUNITIES:

- Federal Defenders of San Diego
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Legal Aid of Cambodia
- Legal Aid Society of New York
- National Women’s Law Center
- UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
- US Magistrate Judge James Orenstein
- US Court of Appeals, First Circuit, Judge Bruce Selya
- US Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section
- Vermont Supreme Court
- Women’s Link Worldwide

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