Public Interest Law

BE READY TO PROTECT THE POWERLESS
At Case Western Reserve University School of Law we put social justice at the heart of our mission. We work to improve the local bail bond system, reform municipal policing, prosecute international war crimes, research Innocence Project cases, address human trafficking, and work to remedy the lead contamination crisis in our city and the nation.

We raise our voices for social justice. In our Criminal Justice Clinic, students prepare and argue all pre-trial matters. We assist clients with naturalization and citizenship applications in our Immigration Clinic. The Ohio Attorney General’s office supports the work of our Human Trafficking Program, which includes representation, advocacy, immigration status, and employment.

**Dual Degrees**

Earn two graduate degrees in just four years. Credit-sharing between the School of Law and the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences allows you to earn your JD and MNO (Master of Nonprofit Organizations) or MSSA (Master of Science in Social Administration) simultaneously.

**Stipends for Externships**

The Social Justice Law Center provides stipends for summer and semester-long public interest law internships and externships. It also supports research projects for our Stephanie Tubbs Jones Scholars—a dozen talented students in each class recognized for their interest in public interest law. The Student Public Interest Law Fellowship (SPILF) also supports students interested in public interest law careers. Through an annual auction and other events, SPILF raises money to provide annual grants to law students who accept summer internships with public interest employers.

**Street Law**

Street Law student volunteers lead an innovative teaching program in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court’s juvenile detention center for youth ages 14 through 17. Lessons aim to help them understand relevant legal topics, such as discrimination, crime, and domestic law.

**Loan Repayment**

CWRU JD graduates who use their legal training to provide services in the public interest are eligible for a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) grant to help cover student loan payments for up to eight years of eligibility. Our LRAP program has provided loan repayment assistance to alumni since its inception over 25 years ago.

“I have the tools and teamwork to spend my career helping my hometown be a better place for all. My externships have focused on housing issues, family law, evictions in Cleveland, and disaster relief in Puerto Rico.”

Allison Meyer ’20

Allison Meyer returned to Cleveland mid-career, after nine years of national and international experience. In addition to her coursework, she won a grant from the Cleveland Leadership Center to expand her local storytelling project into a public art installation. In her 2L summer, she also completed an externship with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.
Working for Social Justice
Our courses prepare you for real-life challenges. Some examples:

- Civil Litigation Clinic
- Civil Rights, Human Rights & Immigration Clinic
- Death Penalty Lab
- Immigration Law
- LGBTQ+ Legal Issues
- Prisoner Rights and Litigation
- Race and American Law
- The Wire and the War on Drugs
- Wrongful Convictions

Externships
- Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Cleveland, Ohio
- Oasis Legal Services, San Francisco, California
- International Partners in Mission, El Salvador
- Texas Innocence Project, Fort Worth, Texas
- Equality Ohio, Columbus, Ohio
- Centro Para, Puerto Rico
- Pulitzer Center, Washington, D.C.
The Great Lakes are Cleveland’s front yard, and that energy flows through a diverse and welcoming metro area with friendly, affordable neighborhoods, downtown glam, live music, and three professional sports teams: the Cavs, Browns, and Indians. Superb public transit, including a rail link to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, makes the area easy to explore.

We rank 9th in the nation for practical training. (preLaw magazine)

Eight law clinics and 100+ externships provide every 3L student with a capstone.

CWRU Moot Court and Mock Trial teams are among the best in the nation.

92% of graduates employed or pursuing graduate degree within 10 months (Class of 2019).

30th for faculty scholarly impact (Heald and Sichelman Study)

Intrigued? Learn more about us at case.edu/law. Or contact lawadmissions@case.edu.