



PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Emory Law is deeply committed to preparing students for legal careers in public service. Students will benefit from an interdisciplinary approach that brings together respected professors, leading scholars from around the world, and “learn-by-doing” experiential programs.

Pro Bono Service

Pro bono service is an essential part of every lawyer’s professional career. We encourage students to do pro bono work on behalf of indigent and underrepresented groups. Pro bono opportunities are made available through the annual Pro Bono Fair, volunteer clinics, and on-campus training by legal services providers. Students may receive a pro bono certificate and/or medal in recognition of outstanding pro bono service. Some recent opportunities have included the International Refugee Assistance Project, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer Foundation Saturday Attorney program, and several volunteer legal clinics, among others.

Volunteer Clinics

Emory’s volunteer legal clinics provide law students practical opportunities to apply skills and concepts learned in the classroom and to serve indigent and underrepresented groups. Current volunteer clinics include:

Emory Immigrant Legal Assistance | Emory LGBTQ Legal Services | Volunteer Clinic for Veterans | International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Service in these clinics is performed on a volunteer basis, not for academic credit.

Public Interest & Government Careers

The Center for Public Service provides individual career advising and also presents a variety of programs, often in collaboration with student groups, to showcase diverse types of public interest and government careers. Recent programs have featured tips for interviewing at the Public Sector Career Fair, advice on applying for post-graduate fellowships, and access to the Emory Law alumni working as public defenders around Georgia.

Judicial Clerkships

Obtaining a judicial clerkship is a prestigious professional honor, providing a unique opportunity to observe and participate in the judicial process. A judicial law clerk’s duty often includes conducting legal research; verifying legal citations; preparing memoranda, draft orders and opinions; and proofreading the judges’ orders and opinions. Regardless of your future career path, a post-graduate judicial clerkship can be invaluable for a successful legal career. The Center for Public Service presents a wide array of programming with judges, current and former judicial clerks, and staff attorneys, as well as individual advising and assistance with developing a strategy for pursuing clerkships.



“It is exciting to focus my passion for service on inspiring Emory Law students as to the many different ways lawyers can serve society, regardless of the specific career path they choose.”

RITA A. SHEFFEY, JD, PHD
ASSISTANT DEAN FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Studying Public Interest

Beyond foundational coursework, students may select from an extensive array of courses and in-depth seminars and can benefit from the scholarship of renowned academics and practitioners.

- » Access to Justice Practicum
- » Administrative Law
- » Asylum Law
- » Catalyzing Social Impacts
- » Child Welfare Law
- » Constitutional Litigation
- » Education Law
- » Environmental Law
- » Immigration
- » International Human Rights
- » Juvenile Law
- » Pro Bono in Practice
- » Vulnerability & Justice



Emory Public Interest Committee

Founded in 1988, the student-led Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC) promotes public interest law and presents a variety of public interest programs and volunteer opportunities. EPIC sponsors one of the Atlanta legal community's signature public interest fundraising events: the Inspiration Awards, where practitioners are recognized for their commitment to public service. All funds go to support students who work in otherwise unpaid summer public-sector internships.

Funding Public Interest

- » Public Interest Scholarships: In awarding scholarship assistance, Emory Law considers a student's demonstrated commitment to public service and intention to pursue a public interest career.
- » Public Interest Summer Grants: EPIC's summer grant program is a primary source of funding for summer public interest internships. The Legal Association of Women Students (LAWS) also awards summer grants and the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division has a public interest internship program.
- » Loan Repayment Assistance Program: Upon graduation, students who embark on public service careers may receive financial assistance to help in repayment of law school educational loans, a program funded in part by Emory Law alumni.
- » Law School Debt Management Counseling: Emory Law periodically provides programs on debt management, with opportunities for individual counseling.

Your Career in Public Interest

Public Service Internships

Through EPIC and generous donors, we offer funding for qualified students who wish to work in public service. In addition to numerous Atlanta employers, organizations hiring students for the summer outside Georgia have included:

- » California Rural Legal Assistance, San Francisco, CA
- » Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA
- » Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Washington, DC.
- » Immigrant Defense Project, New York, NY
- » Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- » Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Chicago, IL
- » Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Boston, MA
- » Miami Office of the Public Defender, Miami, FL
- » National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
- » National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Washington, DC
- » New York Civil Liberties Union, New York, NY
- » New Orleans Public Defenders, New Orleans, LA
- » Office of the Appellate Defender, New York, NY
- » Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Oklahoma City, OK
- » Rockland County District Attorney's Office, New York, NY
- » San Diego County District Attorney's Office, San Diego, CA
- » Southern Migrant Legal Services, Nashville, TN
- » US Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, Washington, DC
- » Vera Institute of Justice, New York, NY



Public Interest & Clerkship Advising & Career Fairs

The Center for Public Service offers one-on-one advising to assist students interested in public service careers and judicial clerkships, as well as opportunities to participate in various career fairs, including:

- Public Sector Career Fair
- Equal Justice Works Career Fair and Conference
- Judicial Clerkship Job Fair

» Learn more: law.emory.edu/publicinterest