

The Justice Action Center (2011–2012)

New York Law School’s Justice Action Center (“JAC”) engages students with a dynamic program that explores the relationship between social justice and law. Accomplished practitioners and scholars, JAC faculty members are committed to developing socially conscious lawyers dedicated to utilizing law as an agent of social change. JAC faculty work closely with students to study and work in the areas of anti-discrimination law, civil liberties, criminal law, economic justice, education law, environmental law, family law, immigration law, international human rights law, labor and employment law, mental disability law, and social change advocacy. JAC offers students a diverse array of projects to bring together the theory they learn in JAC’s curriculum with practical experience in clinics, externships, project-based learning courses, placements, and employment.

JAC is open to all students at New York Law School starting in their second year.¹ JAC offers students a focused course of study and opportunities to engage in legal work in areas of law related to social justice. JAC has four basic requirements. First, all JAC students will participate in a JAC gateway course. Second, JAC students will complete the requirements of a concentration in a particular area of social justice law. Third, students will complete a social justice placement in a job, externship, clinic, or workshop. Finally, students will complete a JAC capstone experience. Harlan Scholars who complete JAC’s curricular requirements will receive a notation on their transcript and all students who complete the requirements will receive a certificate indicating successful completion of JAC’s curriculum with a concentration in the selected area of law.

JAC faculty and their areas of expertise are listed below. JAC faculty play several roles in the Center, including developing JAC concentration requirements, teaching JAC courses, supervising capstone projects, hosting JAC events, sponsoring symposia, supervising *Law Review* notes and comments, directing JAC Projects, teaching project-based learning courses, and moderating Justice Speaks lunches. JAC faculty are also available for consultation with JAC students about course selection, writing projects, externships, or career plans.

Richard Marsico (Director)	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Economic Justice, Education Law</i>
Susan Abraham	<i>Criminal Law, Economic Development, Social Change Advocacy</i>
Deborah N. Archer	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Economic Justice, Civil Rights</i>
Lenni Benson	<i>Immigration Law</i>
Jean Marie Brescia	<i>Special Education Law</i>
Robert Blecker	<i>Criminal Law</i>
Elise C. Boddie	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Economic Justice, Civil Rights</i>
Frank A. Bress	<i>Criminal Law</i>
Eugene Cerruti	<i>Criminal Law</i>
Heather Ellis Cucolo	<i>Mental Disability Law</i>
Lindsay Curcio	<i>Immigration Law</i>
Deborah Dorfman	<i>Mental Disability Law</i>
Stephen J. Ellmann	<i>Civil Liberties, Social Change Advocacy</i>
Kris Franklin	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, LGBT Rights, Family Law</i>

¹ Harlan Scholars who wish to affiliate with the Diane Abbey Law Center for Children and Families (“Abbey Center”), can do so only by affiliating with JAC. Such students are not required to satisfy any JAC requirements as long as they satisfy the Abbey Center requirements.

Anne Goldstein	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Labor and Employment Law</i>
Lawrence M. Grosberg	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Social Change Advocacy</i>
Seth D. Harris (on leave)	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Labor and Employment Law</i>
Mariana Hogan	<i>Criminal Law</i>
Molly Beutz Land	<i>International Human Rights Law</i>
Arthur Leonard	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Labor and Employment Law</i>
Carlin Meyer	<i>Family Law</i>
Frank Munger	<i>Poverty Law, Economic Justice</i>
Udi Ofer	<i>Anti-Discrimination Law, Civil Rights Law, Social Change Advocacy</i>
Michael L. Perlin	<i>Mental Disability Law</i>
Edward A. Purcell, Jr.	<i>Civil Rights Litigation, Federal Courts, Social Change Advocacy</i>
David Schoenbrod	<i>Environmental Law</i>
Nadine Strossen	<i>Civil Liberties Law</i>

REQUIREMENTS

To complete the JAC affiliation successfully, students are required to:

1. Complete a JAC gateway course;
2. Satisfy the concentration requirements in a particular area of social justice law;
3. Complete a social justice placement; and
4. Fulfill the JAC capstone requirement in the final year of enrollment.

These requirements are described below.

Justice Action Center Gateway Course

All JAC students must satisfy the JAC “gateway” course requirement. The gateway course is designed to develop a sense of shared experience among JAC faculty and students, an awareness of problems faced by lawyers involved with social justice issues, and the ability to think critically about them. Day division students satisfy the requirement by enrolling in the Justice Action Center Colloquium in the fall of their second year. Evening division students satisfy it by enrolling in the Colloquium or in Law, Public Policy, and Social Change in any semester before they graduate.

Justice Action Center Colloquium: Legal Practice for Social Change (2 credits)

The JAC Colloquium is a required, graded, two-credit seminar exclusively for JAC affiliates and taught by JAC faculty. All day students must take the Colloquium in the fall semester of their second year. Evening division students may take the Colloquium at any time before they graduate. Through case studies including school segregation, Hurricane Katrina, the school-to-prison pipeline, and the war on drugs, Colloquium students learn about the potential of law to effectuate social change. We will consider different approaches to social change through law, including class action litigation, individual client representation in criminal and civil contexts, legislative advocacy, and community organizing. We will consider critiques of these models and alternative approaches, and study organizations involved in social change through law.

Law, Public Policy, and Social Change (2 credits)

This course is open to all JAC students.² Evening division students may take this course to satisfy the JAC gateway course requirement. This course will challenge students to consider the various roles that lawyers play in movements for social change and the political nature of litigation, judicial decisions, and social change. Students will study past and present examples of lawyers working to advance public policy, including the work conducted by lawyers to end legal segregation of the public schools, organize the Montgomery bus boycott, build the post–September 11, 2001 civil liberties movement, and organize the growing movement to reform education and public safety policies that contribute to the school to prison pipeline.

Justice Action Center Concentrations

Each JAC student will complete a concentration of four courses in a particular area of social justice law. Each concentration contains a list of courses students can select to satisfy the four-course requirement. Most of the concentrations divide these courses into one or more courses the student must take to satisfy the concentration (required courses) and other courses that satisfy the four-course minimum but are not required (related courses). Other concentrations simply list courses that would satisfy the four-course requirement without dividing the list into required and related courses. Required courses are introductory courses in the field. Related courses generally cover advanced subjects in the field or other relevant subjects or skills. Not every course listed in a concentration is offered every year, so students should consult with faculty about course selection. (Information *when known* about the timing of course offerings is indicated in parenthesis next to the course. Even where no notation is included, however, a course may not be offered during a student’s period of affiliation with the Center.) Students may also design their own concentrations, including creating a dual affiliation with another Center, in consultation with and with approval from the Director. The application for a student-designed concentration is available on the Center website.

There are also several courses that are relevant to any student interested in social justice law. We recommend that you take one or more of these courses, although you may not necessarily be required to take them to satisfy your concentration. The strongly recommended courses are Administrative Law, Civil Rights Law, Remedies, and Statutory Interpretation.

Anti-Discrimination Law

Required Courses

At least TWO of the following courses:

- Employment Discrimination Law
- Racial Discrimination and American Law
- Sexuality and the Law

Related Courses

- Americans with Disabilities Act: Law, Policy, and Practice
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Civil Rights Law

² Although this course is open to all JAC students, it will only satisfy the gateway course requirement for evening division students.

- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Feminist Jurisprudence: Theory and Application (infrequently offered)
- Gender in American Legal History
- Liberty and Equality
- Racial Justice Litigation (project-based learning course)(will not be offered in 2011–2012)
- Special Education Law and Practice
- The 14th Amendment: Construing Text and Constructing Doctrine

Civil Liberties

Courses

- Civil Rights Law
- Constitution and Terrorism
- Constitutional History: Supremacy and Nullification 1776–1868
- Constitutional Law: Free Speech
- Criminal Procedure: Investigation
- Detention in the War Against Terrorism (project-based learning course)
- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Federal Courts and the Federal System
- Federal Regulation of Electronic Media
- The First Amendment
- International Human Rights Law
- International Human Rights and Mental Disability Law
- International Human Rights Seminar and Workshop
- Law and Technology of Electronic Government and Electronic Democracy (infrequently offered)
- Law of Democracy
- Liberty and Equality
- Racial Discrimination and American Law
- Racial Justice Litigation (project-based learning course)(will not be offered in 2011–2012)
- Religion and the Constitution
- Reproductive Rights Law
- Sexuality and the Law
- The 14th Amendment: Construing Text and Constructing Doctrine

Criminal Law

Required Courses

- Criminal Procedure: Adjudication
- Criminal Procedure: Investigation

Related Courses

- Advocacy of Criminal Cases
- Advocacy, Media, and the “Big Case”

- Child Victims and the Law
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Criminal Justice Seminar and Workshop
- Criminal Law and Procedure: Death Penalty
- Criminal Law and Procedure: Sentencing
- Criminal Law and Procedure: White Collar Crime
- Criminal Prosecution Clinic
- Criminal Prosecution Field Placement
- Cybercrime, Cyberterror, and Digital Law Enforcement
- Domestic Violence and the Law
- European Criminal Law
- Federal Criminal Law
- Forensic Reports, the Role of the Expert and Forensic Ethics
- International Criminal Law
- The Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Today's Organized and White Collar Crime Cases
- Mental Health Issues in Jails and Prisons
- Mental Disability and Criminal Law
- Mental Illness, Dangerousness, the Police Power and Risk Assessment
- Professional Responsibility: Criminal Practice
- Sex Crimes and Child Abuse
- Sex Offenders
- Sexuality and the Law
- Trial Advocacy

Economic Justice: Advocacy

Required Courses

At least TWO of the following courses:

- Elder Law
- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Racial Discrimination and American Law
- Special Education Law and Practice

Related Courses

- Administrative Law
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Civil Rights Law
- Consumer Credit and Financing
- Elder Law Clinic
- Employee Benefits Law
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Federal Courts and the Federal System
- Financial Advocacy
- Real Estate: Landlord-Tenant Law

- Securities Arbitration Clinic and Seminar
- Workers Compensation Law

Economic Justice: Community Economic Development

Required Courses

At least TWO of the following courses:

- Affordable Housing and Community Development
- Affordable Housing and Community Development: Practice and Skills
- Charitable Organizations

Related Courses

- Business Basics for Lawyers
- Business Planning for the Closely Held Enterprise
- Land Use Regulation
- Real Estate Development

Education Law

Required Courses

- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Special Education Law and Practice

Related Courses

- Administrative Law
- Americans with Disabilities Act: Law, Policy, and Practice
- Children and the Law
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Civil Rights Law
- Constitutional Law: Free Speech
- Education Law and Practice (project-based learning course)(likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Racial Discrimination and American Law
- Religion and the Constitution
- Sex Crimes and Child Abuse

Environmental Law

Required Courses

Both of the following courses:

- Administrative Law
- Environmental Law and Policy

PLUS at least ONE of the following courses:

- Climate Change Issues in Real Estate and Business Transactions
- Environmental Issues in Business and Real Estate Transactions
- Land Use Regulation

Related Courses

- Animal Law
- Brownfields Redevelopment
- Conservation Law and Policy (project-based learning course)
- Energy Laws and Regulations
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Independent Study: Paper (with approved topic)
- New York City Land Use
- Preservation Law
- Real Estate Development
- Remedies
- State and Local Government
- Law of Sustainable Development

Family Law

Required Courses

The following course:

- Family Law
- PLUS at least TWO of the following courses:*
- Anatomy of a New York State Divorce Action
 - Children and the Law
 - Divorce: Lawyers, Clients, and Families
 - Domestic Violence Litigation Field Placement
 - Elder Law Clinic
 - Family Court Practice Seminar and Workshop

Related Courses

- Accounting for Lawyers: Basic Concepts
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Child Victims and the Law
- Custody Evaluations, Juvenile and Family Law, and Mental Disability Law
- Domestic Violence and the Law
- Drafting (with approved topic)
- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Elder Law
- Estate Planning
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Family Court
- Family Formation: Adoption and Reproduction
- Federal Income Tax: Individual
- The Guardianship Project (project-based learning course)
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Mediation Clinic
- Memorandum and Brief Writing

- Negotiation, Counseling, and Interviewing
- Sex Crimes and Child Abuse
- Special Education Law and Practice
- Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests

Immigration Law

Required Courses

The following course:

- Immigration Law
- PLUS at least ONE of the following courses:*
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
 - Immigration Practice Seminar and Workshop
 - Refugee and Asylum Law

Related Courses

- Administrative Law
- Civil Rights Law
- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2013)
- Employment Law
- Employment Discrimination Law
- Federal Courts and the Federal System
- Government Immigration Litigation Seminar and Workshop
- Immigration Law and Litigation (project-based learning course)(will not be offered in 2011–2012)
- Immigration and Refugee Rights Field Placement
- Independent Study: Paper (with approved topic)
- International Human Rights Law (will not be offered in 2012–2013)
- International Human Rights Seminar and Workshop

International Human Rights Law

Required Courses

At least ONE of these two courses:

- International Human Rights Law (will not be offered in 2012–2013)
- International Human Rights Seminar and Workshop

PLUS the following course:

- Refugee and Asylum Law

Related Courses

- The Creation of a Disability Rights Tribunal for Asia and the Pacific (project-based learning course) (will not be offered in 2011–2012)
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Global Justice Colloquium
- Immigration Law
- Immigration Practice Seminar and Workshop
- International Criminal Law
- International Human Rights and Mental Disability Law

- International Intellectual Property (will not be offered in 2012–2013)
- International Law in Contemporary Perspectives
- International Law: Selected Topics (with prior approval)(infrequently offered)
- Legal Research: Foreign and International
- Transnational Law: Legal Order in an Age of Globalization
- United Nations and World Order

Labor and Employment Law

Required Courses

- Employment Discrimination Law
- Employment Law
- Labor Relations Law

Related Courses

- Administrative Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Collective Bargaining and Labor Dispute Resolution
- Corporations
- Employee Benefits Law
- Employment Law and Executive Compensation Issues in the Financial Services Industry
- Employment Law Seminar and Workshop
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Immigration Law
- Immigration Practice Seminar and Workshop
- Mediation Clinic
- Negotiating, Counseling, and Interviewing
- Sexuality and the Law
- Sports Law

Mental Disability Law

Required Courses

At least TWO of these three courses:

- Advocacy Skills in Cases Involving Persons with Mental Disabilities: The Role of Lawyers and Expert Witnesses
- Survey of Mental Disability Law
- Therapeutic Jurisprudence

PLUS at least TWO of the following courses (which can include one of the three required courses):

- Americans with Disabilities Act: Law, Policy, and Practice
- The Creation of a Disability Rights Tribunal for Asia and the Pacific (project-based learning course)(will not be offered in 2011–2012)
- Custody Evaluations, Juvenile and Family Law, and Mental Disability Law
- Forensic Reports, the Role of the Experts, and Forensic Ethics
- International Human Rights Law and Mental Disability Law

- Mental Disability and the Criminal Law
- Mental Health Issues in Jails and Prisons
- Mental Illness, Dangerousness, the Police Power, and Risk Assessment
- Race, Gender, Class, and Mental Disability Law
- Sex Offenders
- Trauma and Mental Disability

Related Courses

- Criminal Procedure: Adjudication
- Elder Law Clinic
- Externship Seminar and Placement (with approved placement)
- Modern Civil Litigation: Problems and Tactics
- Special Education Law and Practice

Social Change Advocacy

Required Course

- Civil Rights Law
- *PLUS at least ONE of the following substantive law courses:*
- Americans with Disabilities Act: Law, Policy, and Practice
- Animal Law
- Constitution and Terrorism
- Detention in the War Against Terrorism
- Constitutional Law: Free Speech
- Education Law and Policy (likely not offered in 2012–2103)
- Employment Discrimination Law
- Environmental Law and Policy
- The First Amendment
- Immigration Law
- Labor Relations Law
- Law of Democracy
- Law, Public Policy, and Social Change
- Liberty and Equality
- Mass Torts
- Racial Discrimination and American Law
- Religion and the Constitution
- Reproductive Rights Law
- Sexuality and the Law
- Special Education Law and Practice
- Survey of Mental Disability Law
- The 14th Amendment: Construing Text and Constructing Doctrine
- *PLUS at least ONE of the following skills/experiential courses:*
- Advanced Appellate Advocacy
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Art of the Fact

- Civil Justice Through the Courts (project-based learning course)
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Deposition Skills
- Dispute Resolution Team (only for a semester in which student received academic credit)(can count for no more than one course toward the concentration)
- Domestic Arbitration
- Domestic Violence Litigation Field Placement
- Drafting: Legislation
- Drafting: Litigation Documents
- Electronic Discovery
- Elder Law Clinic
- Federal Civil Litigation: Discovery Process (infrequently offered)
- Judicial Externship
- Mediation Clinic
- Memorandum and Brief Writing
- Modern Civil Litigation: Problems and Tactics
- Moot Court Association (only for a semester in which student received academic credit)(can count for no more than one course toward the concentration)
- Negotiating, Counseling, and Interviewing
- Persuasion
- Racial Justice Litigation (project-based learning course)(will not be offered in 2011–2012)
- Statistical Literacy
- Statutory Interpretation
- Trial Advocacy
- Visual Persuasion and the Law

Related Courses

- Administrative Law
- Federal Courts and the Federal System
- Feminist Jurisprudence: Theory and Application
- Gender in American Legal History
- Modern Supreme Court
- Remedies

Social Justice Placements

JAC students are required to complete a social justice placement related to their concentration. JAC students can complete the social justice placement requirement through a job, an externship, a clinical course, or a workshop course *after the first year of law studies*. During the semester or summer in which a student is completing the social justice requirement, the student will meet three times with a JAC faculty member to discuss the placement and the student's experience. In many instances, if a student satisfies the placement requirement through a course, that course will also count toward a concentration course requirement. Placements must be pre-approved by the director or associate director. The application for approval of the social justice placement is available on the JAC website.

Justice Action Center Capstone Experience

All JAC students must complete a capstone experience in their final year of enrollment. There are four options for completing the capstone: the JAC Capstone Project course; a project-based learning course approved by the Director; a clinic or field placement course approved by the Director; or participating in the JAC *Law Review* Note Symposium. Students satisfying the capstone will make a presentation of their project to members of the JAC community at the end of the school year, either as part of the particular course in which they are enrolled or through separately scheduled presentations.³

Justice Action Center Capstone Project (2 credits)

The JAC Capstone Project is a two-credit course exclusively for JAC affiliates. The Capstone is a year-long project. Students in the course work under the supervision of a JAC faculty member on projects including, for example, an analysis of empirical data, a policy paper, model legislation, regulatory comments, a practice manual, an *amicus* brief, or a project developing out of a clinical course experience.

Project-Based Learning Courses

Project-based learning (PBL) courses are small-group classes. Students in PBL courses work on a particular project. The following PBL courses satisfy the capstone requirement:

- Civil Justice Through the Courts
- The Creation of a Disability Rights Tribunal for Asia and the Pacific
- Conservation Law and Policy
- Detention in the War Against Terrorism
- Education Law and Practice
- The Guardianship Project
- Immigration Law and Litigation
- Racial Justice Litigation

Clinics and Field Placements

Students can also satisfy the capstone requirement by enrolling in an approved clinic or field placement course. Students satisfying the capstone through a clinic or field placement will also submit a five-page narrative description of their experience, including a portfolio of their work. The following clinics and field placements satisfy the JAC capstone requirement:

- Civil Rights Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Criminal Prosecution Clinic
- Criminal Prosecution Field Placement
- Domestic Violence Litigation Field Placement
- Elder Law Clinic
- Immigration and Refugee Rights Field Placement

³ Students cannot satisfy their social justice placement and capstone experience requirements through the same course.

Mediation Clinic

Law Review Note Symposium

Day and evening division students completing a *Law Review* note in their final year of study (the third year for day division students and the fourth year for evening division students) can satisfy the capstone requirement by writing their notes and planning a symposium at which all *Law Review* students who elect this option will present their notes to a general audience. Students will plan the symposium, including developing the program, preparing an invitation list, designing the invitation, and soliciting guests. Students will also draft and seek to publish in an appropriate venue a short (500–750 word) opinion piece relating to their notes.

For more information on the center, please visit our website: www.nyls.edu/jac