The Yale Law School’s wide range of health-related programming reflects the many important ways in which law and policy affect individual and public health, the health care industry, and health governance, both in the United States and abroad. The cornerstones of the program are two major initiatives: the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy and the Global Health Justice Partnership. Through these hubs, YLS students have a world of learning, advocacy and writing opportunities in the health arena. From a wide array of courses in health law and bioethics, to a steady stream of programming with academics, policymakers, and advocates from around the world, to career mentoring, experiential work with clients on health-related matters and opportunities to write for both health policy and legal audiences, YLS students are active participants in the development of this new and important legal field. The Law School’s long tradition of creating academic, policy, and government leaders makes YLS an incredibly exciting place to study health law.
Health is a highly interdisciplinary field, and the Law School encourages students to take advantage of all that the University has to offer, including taking courses in other departments, pursuing joint degrees, and getting involved with health-related organizations and projects across the University. From collaborations with the Institution for Social and Policy Studies to work with the Schools of Public Health and Medicine, Yale Law School students and faculty help to harness the power of law and policy in the service of improving health in the United States and around the world.

The Solomon Center

Established in 2015, the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy is the first of its kind to focus on the intersection of law and governance, business, and practice of health care in the United States. The Center brings together leading experts and practitioners from the public and private sectors to address cutting edge questions of health law and policy, and to train the next generation of top health lawyers, industry leaders, policymakers, and academics. The Solomon Center is changing the way law schools nationwide think about health law by moving it into the mainstream of “public law” – a field linked to politics, administration, and business – just as understandings of fields like environmental law and discrimination law changed in previous generations.

The Center supports a wide curriculum, and academic and policy research that influences real-world regulatory, business, judicial, and legislative policy. Students have opportunities ranging from Center fellowships, collaborative writing supported by faculty, amicus brief writing, and experiential learning in a wide variety of health law fields that can have a direct impact on community health and public policy. The Solomon Center distinguishes itself by doing what Yale does best: focusing on law as a tool to affect governance, industry, and the academy at the highest levels and working to prepare our students to be leaders in every aspect of the field.

The Global Health Justice Partnership

The Law School also is host to the Global Health Justice Partnership (GHJP), a path-breaking interdisciplinary collaboration between Yale Law School, and Yale’s Schools of Public Health and Medicine founded in 2012. The GHJP is built upon the crucial insight that law is a structural influence on health, and that law and governance today increasingly operate – and must operate - beyond borders. Many of the ailments and diseases that produce ill-health and health inequity have influences that originate across borders. And, diseases and ill health have not only proximal causes (pathogens, toxins, or obstruction in childbirth), but also distal, social and political causes. Whether it is multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in the mines of Southern Africa; leptospirosis in Brazil’s favelas; AIDS and hepatitis in Russian prisons; violence against migrant populations in South Asia; or obesity and diabetes in New Haven, each of these conditions is driven at both individual and population levels by social, economic, and political factors operating in local, national, regional, and international contexts. Researchers and advocates must therefore confront structural and legal factors in order to understand and redress illnesses.
and ill-health. Individuals hoping to make a lasting impact on global health must do even more: they must engage with essential matters of rights, justice, and governance in an increasingly globalized world where issues of health transcend national boundaries.

The GHJP is the first truly interdisciplinary, action-oriented program based in a law school that aims to train students, undertake research, and bring academic insights into advocacy to promote global health justice. The cornerstone of GHJP is a clinical course that allows students to engage in practical work, on interdisciplinary teams, as part of their academic training. GHJP also organizes workshops, hosts events, facilitates and funds summer internships, and runs a student fellows program to facilitate connection between law students and the broader global health community at Yale.

Health Law Courses: Lectures and Seminars

**LAW SCHOOL CLASSES**
The Law School offers a health law overview course as well as important supporting classes such as Administrative Law, Legislation, Introduction to the Regulatory State, Intellectual Property, and Antitrust. New health-related lecture and seminar courses are introduced every year by the faculty. Recent examples include:

Bioethics and Law  
The Changing Health Care Industry  
Comparative Consumer and Products Liability Law  
Drug Product Liability Litigation  
Drugs and the Criminal Law  
[The] Engineering and Ownership of Life  
Food and Drug Law  
Food Law  
Global Health, Politics & Economics  
Guns in America  
Law and the American Health Care System  
Legal and Medical Professions  
Markets, Morals and the Law  
(the National Health Service)  
Marriage and the State  
Medical-Legal Partnership  
Public Benefits Law and Antipoverty Policy  
Public Health Law  
Regulating Sexuality: Legal and Psychological Perspectives  
Regulation and Institutional Design  
Sexuality, Health, and Human Rights  
Theories of Sexuality, Gender, and the Law

OUTSIDE THE LAW SCHOOL  
The Law School’s commitment to interdisciplinary studies, and to allowing students to craft their own education, means that law students at Yale have unusual freedom to select their courses and to cross-register for classes outside the Law School. Students may choose among dozens of courses in the School of Public Health, the School of Management, and Yale College on topics such as health policy, health care economics, hospital management, and epidemiology.

Experiential Learning  
The Law School also offers the best experiential learning program in the country, with extensive opportunities for students interested in health to develop practical skills in this area.

**THE GLOBAL HEALTH JUSTICE PRACTICUM**
The GHJP clinical course, the Global Health Justice Practicum, allows Yale Law students to work with Public Health students and others...
on practical projects designed to advance health justice. Recent projects had students travelling to Southern Africa to develop a policy paper on comparative approaches to compensate miners for the health consequences of mining, working with groups such as Doctors Without Borders on access to medicines issues, working with a Congressional office to help shape domestic legislation promoting women’s health in sub-Saharan Africa, addressing UN accountability for introducing cholera to Haiti, working to reduce barriers to access to Hepatitis C drugs in low and middle income countries. GHJP projects also encompass the US. Students have written a report with the ACLU about Ebola quarantines in the US, researched the intersection of the criminalization of sex work and HIV in the US, and studied options to reduce the prices of and increase access to new Hepatitis C drugs in the US.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS
Med ​​ical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs) are exciting new opportunities for lawyers and doctors to work together to address the needs of patients. YLS students have helped to found and now participate in several partnerships in New Haven—one at the HAVEN Free Clinic; one serving pediatric patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital; one at Transitions, which serves former prisoners and their special health care related needs upon reentry; a new MLP in palliative care, in collaboration with the Yale Cancer Center; and a partnership with the Veterans Health Clinic in New Haven. MLPs offer law students experience in direct client service, under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Students help patients address legal needs that impact health, like access to government benefits or safe and healthy housing. Some MLP opportunities have optional writing components that are eligible for academic credit.

CLINICS
Students can pursue health-related projects in a number of Law School clinics, including the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, the Landlord/Tenant Clinic, the Legislative Advocacy Clinic, the Nonprofit Organizations Clinic, the Sol and Lillian Goldman Family Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic, the Transnational Development Clinic, and the Veterans Legal Services Clinic. The Legal Services Clinic offers a special MLP component.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
The Yale Health Law and Policy Society (YHeLPS) is the core of the student leadership in health law at YLS. YHeLPS is continually working to expand opportunities and programming based on student interest. One current initiative aims to develop new experiential learning opportunities at the Yale-New Haven Hospital general counsel’s office and with health-focused public interest law organizations that perform legal research, advocacy, and litigation.

This past year, law students also provided research relevant to ongoing litigation over health reform, including filing amicus briefs.
Events and Conferences

Nearly every week of the academic year contains events and conferences at the cutting edge of health law and policy. In recent years, these events have covered a wide range of topics. For example, events have addressed the passage of and litigation over the Affordable Care Act and the crisis in the Veterans Health Administration. A major conference investigated the implications of evolving First Amendment doctrine for public health and the practice of medicine. The Law School hosted a series of events in 2015 with Partners In Health founder and physician Paul Farmer, the Gruber Lecturer in Global Justice. YLS has also hosted a series of events on innovation in health care, and speakers on reproductive rights, the prison health system, medical futility, and DNA testing. Through these events, YLS has welcomed speakers at the highest level, including several U.S. Senators, renowned health sociologist Paul Starr, Zeke Emanuel, numerous federal judges, health law scholars at the top of their field, Zackie Achmat, leader of South Africa’s Treatment Action Campaign; Dr. Ward Cates, head of Family Health International; Connecticut Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Joseph Amon, head of the health division at Human Rights Watch; and the UN Special Rapporteurs on Cultural Rights (Farida Shaheed) and the Right to Food (Olivier De Schutter).

This year will bring, among many others, former HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, foremost health journalist Steven Brill, former FDA commissioner Margaret Hamburg, and CEOs of several major pharmaceutical companies and hospitals.

Our invited speakers reinforce the interdisciplinary nature of YLS’s health programs and its emphasis on leadership in every part of the health care and global health field. These opportunities for policy and academic interaction are complemented by the Law School’s annual health law career and networking events.

The Solomon Center and GHJP also host professors and scholars in residence for short and long-term visits. In recent years, visitors have included one of the foremost clinical ethicists and specialists on brain injury in the country, the author of a leading health care casebook, and leading health rights advocates from South Africa and India.

Interdisciplinary Programs and Collaboration

Yale University offers a rich interdisciplinary environment that allows for study and collaboration across the fields of law and policy, business and economics, and medicine and biological science. The following are just a few examples of many ongoing collaborations:

- The Global Health Justice Partnership, described above (see www.law.yale.edu/ghjp for more information)
- The Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS), Yale’s public policy center, has an active and engaged Health Policy Group, in which Yale Law faculty participate and in which Yale Law students serve as fellows. ISPS shares the Law School’s mission to be on the frontlines of health policy development and works with the Law School to
bring major, real-world policy projects to Yale. ISPS and the Law School co-host a monthly, university-wide interdisciplinary lunch on current health-related research, presented by both Yale faculty and major health policy leaders outside the University.

- Collaborations on Cancer, with Yale physicians at the Yale Cancer Center and the Yale COPPER Center, is a partnership to study how law can contribute to research and treatment.

- Collaborations with the School of Management, Yale’s business school, including a co-hosted conference and seminar on health care consolidation and competition.

- The Healthcare Collective is an umbrella organization that facilitates coordination among the many health-related student groups at Yale’s graduate and professional schools.

- The Information Society Project (ISP) is based at YLS and focuses on how new information technologies affect democracy, development, and civil rights. The ISP houses the Program for the Study of Reproductive Justice, led by a former Supreme Court litigator. It also runs many events of interest to students with a health law focus, taking up cutting-edge issues related to privacy, intellectual property, new technologies, and health.

**JOINT DEGREES**

In addition to cross-registering for individual classes outside the Law School, students have the option of applying to joint degree programs with other schools within Yale University, such as the School of Public Health, the School of Medicine, or the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Students may also apply to the accelerated three-year JD-MBA program offered in conjunction with the School of Management. For more information on joint degrees, please visit [www.law.yale.edu/jointdegree](http://www.law.yale.edu/jointdegree).

**THE JACKSON INSTITUTE’S GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GLOBAL HEALTH**

Yale Law students also may pursue a Graduate Certificate of Concentration in Global Health (awarded by Yale’s Jackson Institute). This Certificate provides recognition that a student has completed interdisciplinary study and integrative research to address fundamental and applied economic, political, social, cultural, and scientific issues relevant to global health. For more information, see [jackson.yale.edu/graduate-certificates](http://jackson.yale.edu/graduate-certificates).

**Student Organizations and Publications**

The **Yale Health Law and Policy Society** (YHeLPS) serves as a central hub for health-related programming at the Law School. YHeLPS invites speakers, plans career information sessions and networking events, organizes experiential learning opportunities like the Medical-Legal Partnerships, and coordinates with other health organizations throughout Yale University. The student directors of YHeLPS play an active role in shaping the organization’s mission and developing new programs.

The **Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics** (YJHPLE) is a biannual publication of the Yale Schools of Law, Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing. YJHPLE is one of the
top health law publications in the country and provides a forum for interdisciplinary discussion relevant to academics, professionals, and policymakers.

Founded at YLS in 2001, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines is an international organization of students from law, medicine, and other disciplines who strive to improve access to medicines in resource-limited countries. The Yale chapter of the organization works with faculty, university officials, media, and policymakers on issues of research, intellectual property, and access to medicines.

Yale Law Students for Reproductive Justice works on educating, organizing, and supporting law students who seek to protect and expand reproductive rights as basic civil and human rights.

Professional Development and Post-Graduate Fellowships

CAREER COUNSELING
YHeLPS coordinates with the Solomon Center and the Career Development Office to support students who are interested in pursuing careers in health law. Events throughout the year highlight diverse opportunities for health-related summer internships and careers, and they allow students to network with professionals who work in hospitals, law firms, public interest organizations, and government offices.

FELLOWSHIPS IN LAW AND HEALTH
Post-graduate fellowships provide additional opportunities to continue health law study and advocacy at the Law School. The Law School has hosted fellows working on public health projects such as an NIH grant related to HIV prevention and a study of dispute resolution mechanisms for conflicts and injuries arising from clinical research. The Solomon Center will provide opportunities for student fellowships during the school year and over the summer, as well as after graduation. GHJP has opportunities for summer fellowships, and has successfully supported several students to obtain competitive post-graduate fellowships. Broader YLS post-graduate fellowship opportunities include the Liman Program, which funds work in the public interest; the Heyman Fellowships, which fund post-graduate work in government; the Gruber Program for Global Justice and Women’s Rights, which funds post-graduate work relating to international justice and women’s rights; and the Yale Public Interest Fellowship Program.