MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY, AND INFORMATION LAW

Yale Law School

Yale Law School has long focused on the intersection of media, technology, information, and the law. Under the umbrella of the Information Society Project (ISP), founded by Professor Jack Balkin in 1997, Yale Law School has eight different paths for involvement in media, technology, and information law.

Yale is home to the top First Amendment scholars in the country and to numerous faculty members who write about intellectual property law, information policy, and privacy law. In addition, Yale ISP resident and student fellows work on issues ranging from patenting the human genome to location tracking, and go on to become top scholars in their fields.

Beyond the academic year, Yale Law students spend their summers at public interest organizations like the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and work with legal teams at newspapers. After graduation, they place at top firms, where a strong network of Yale graduates work in media law and related fields, and at public interest organizations or journalistic institutions like the New York Times.
The Information Society Project (ISP)

The Information Society Project is an intellectual center that studies the implications of the Internet and new information technologies for law and society, guided by the values of democracy, development, and civil liberties. The ISP brings together students, scholars, activists, and policymakers to define problems and identify solutions on a wide range of topics related to the information society. The ISP hosts conferences, produces scholarship, sponsors courses, engages in policy activism, and develops and spreads ideas. Its focus includes the following research areas:

- **Access to Knowledge (A2K)** Protecting and expanding access to knowledge globally in order to secure broader participation in education, culture, and civic life; help realize the benefits of scientific and technological advancement; and inspire innovation, development, and social progress.

- **Civil Liberties Online** Developing legal rules, policy frameworks, and technical architectures to promote civil liberties online, including the preservation of privacy, freedom of speech, and individual liberty online.

- **Intellectual Property and Innovation** Encouraging intellectual property reform and sound innovation policies; exploring cutting-edge issues in copyright, patent, and trademark law; and studying technological and legal supplements and alternatives to existing intellectual property regimes.

- **Digital Education** Providing teachers and students with better access to digital education through the development of policies, regulations, and norms that promote the best use of technological resources in education and give students and educators the access they need to digital information.

- **Law and Genomics** Addressing the complex legal, social, ethical, and policy consequences of the genomic revolution, including the role of intellectual property.

The Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression

The Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression at Yale Law School promotes freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and access to information as informed by the values of democracy and human freedom. The Abrams Institute is made possible by a generous gift from Floyd Abrams, one of the country’s leading experts in freedom of speech and press issues, who graduated from and has taught at Yale Law School. The Institute’s mission is both practical and scholarly. It includes a media clinic for Yale Law students and it participates as an amicus in cases involving free speech issues. It promotes scholarship and law reform on issues that concern media and the First Amendment. The Institute also holds scholarly conferences and events on First Amendment issues and on related issues of access to information, Internet and media law, telecommunications, privacy, and intellectual property.
Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic

The Media Freedom and Information Access (MFIA) Clinic is affiliated with the Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression. Its mission is twofold: to support a robust investigative role for news organizations and to preserve the public’s right of access to information, thereby ensuring a well-informed public sphere.

Students in the clinic, under the direction of their supervising attorneys, research cutting-edge legal issues, draft legal documents and briefs, and appear in courts and before administrative agencies to argue on behalf of clients.

MFIA has garnered an impressive string of victories for journalists and the public interest at both the state and federal levels.

The Knight Law and Media Program (K-LAMP)

The Knight Law and Media Program includes courses related to law and media; writing workshops; speakers, conferences, and special events; and career counseling and support for summer internships. The program also supports the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic, which provides opportunities for students to practice media law.

Student Fellowships

ISP student fellowships are designed for current Yale Law School JD and graduate students who are strongly interested in any of the following areas: Internet and telecommunications law, intellectual property law, access to knowledge, First Amendment law, media studies, privacy, cybercrime, cybersecurity, social software, standards and technology policy, cultural evolution, bioethics, biotechnology, and law and technology generally. Student fellows frequently engage with other ISP faculty and fellows, participate in ISP events, and author ISP-sponsored research.

After graduation, ISP student fellows have become prominent law and technology academics, served in government, become policy activists in public interest organizations, and founded Internet startups. ISP fellows also become part of a network of affiliated ISP fellows around the world.
The Program for the Study of Reproductive Justice

The Program for the Study of Reproductive Justice is designed to focus scholarly attention on issues of reproductive justice, and to encourage new scholarship and the development of new legal scholars. The program focuses on a wide range of issues concerning the intersections between reproductive justice, health policy, information policy, and technology policy. These issues include the legal and policy implications of new reproductive technologies; the relationship between reproductive liberty and sex equality; and the intersections between reproductive justice and health policy, privacy, and the regulation and dissemination of information relevant to reproductive freedoms.

Visual Law Project

The Yale Visual Law Project produces short documentary films on legal issues to advance public debate.

■ Education The Visual Law Project runs a yearlong practicum at the Information Society Project at Yale Law School that trains law students in the art of visual advocacy — making effective arguments through film.

■ Innovation The Project explores the intersection between law and film through multidisciplinary workshops, discussions with renowned guest speakers, and hands-on production.

■ Advocacy The Project produces intellectually stimulating and well-researched films grounded in the stories of people who live out the consequences of the law.

Courses

The Law School curriculum includes a number of courses related to law, media, information policy, and technology. In addition, law students may take courses at Yale College, often for credit toward their degree. While not all courses are taught each semester, recent examples include:

Access to Knowledge Practicum
Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and the Law
Communications Law
Cyberlaw
[The] Engineering and Ownership of Life
First Amendment
Information Privacy Law
[The] Information Society
Intellectual Production Without Intellectual Property
International Intellectual Property
Internet Privacy
Introduction to Intellectual Property
[The] Law of E-commerce
Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic
Media Law
Open Source Systems
Professional Ethics, Public Interest, and the Media
Startups and the Law Practicum
Working with Intellectual Property

For more information on media, technology, and information law at Yale Law School, please visit www.law.yale.edu/isp and www.law.yale.edu/lawandmedia.