Every year, the Yale Law School community brings energy and vision to public interest work. Students can begin taking a clinic in their first year of law school and continue doing so throughout their law school careers. With more than two dozen clinics and more clinic slots per capita than any other law school in the country, Yale Law School provides unparalleled opportunities for students to engage in public interest work during the academic year.

Beyond the academic year, the Yale Law School community’s commitment to public interest continues as more than three quarters of the first-year class take summer jobs in the public sector, many funded by Summer Public Interest Fellowships. Up to 40 students each summer may receive fellowships to do human rights work all over the world.

After graduation, the Law School provides financial support for public interest work in the form of a generous and flexible loan forgiveness program and approximately 30 to 35 full-time post-graduate fellowships each year. Five years after graduating, roughly 30 percent of each Yale Law School class is working in public service.
Experiential Courses and Public Interest Programs

**CLINICAL AND OTHER EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COURSES**

During their three years here, nearly 80 percent of Yale Law School students enroll in one or more of our many clinics. Yale Law School is one of the only schools in the country where students are eligible to participate in a clinic as early as the spring of their first year. Yale offers a large and evolving slate of clinics and other experiential courses. In recent years these have included:

- Advanced Issues in Capital Markets
- Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic
- Appellate Advocacy
- Arbitration and Mediation Skills
- Arthur Liman Public Interest Practicum
- Capital Punishment Clinic
- Civil Litigation Practice
- Complex Civil Litigation
- Corporate Crisis Management
- Drafting and Negotiating Merger and Acquisition Transactions
- Education Adequacy Project
- Educational Opportunity & Juvenile Justice Clinic
- Environmental Protection Clinic
- Ethics Bureau at Yale
- Eugene and Carol Ludwig Community and Economic Development Clinic
- Global Health Justice Practicum
- Global Refugee Legal Assistance
- Immigration Legal Services
- International Arbitration
- Landlord/Tenant Legal Services
- Legal Assistance Clinic
- Legislative Advocacy Clinic
- Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic
- Mortgage Foreclosure Litigation Clinic
- Native Peacemaking
- Nonprofit Organizations Clinic
- Prosecution Externship
- Regulatory Compliance
- Samuel Jacobs Criminal Justice Clinic
- San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project
- Sol and Lillian Goldman Family Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic
- Startups and the Law
- Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic
- Trial Practice
- Veterans Legal Services Clinic
- Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic

For a full list of our current course offerings, please visit courses.law.yale.edu.

**JOINT DEGREES**

Students wishing to specialize may also apply to pursue a joint degree with another graduate program, such as Forestry & Environmental Studies, Public Health, or the three-year Accelerated Integrated JD-MBA program with the School of Management, one of the leading business schools in the country for students interested in public interest and nonprofit
management. For more information, please visit www.law.yale.edu/jointdegree and www.law.yale.edu/jointdegreecorporate.

SELECT PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMS

The Arthur Liman Public Interest Program sponsors an annual Public Interest Law Colloquium; a weekly workshop at which students, faculty, and practitioners discuss emerging issues of theory and advocacy; and other public interest programming and research projects. The Liman Program also provides yearlong fellowships for Yale Law School graduates to do public interest work.

The Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights coordinates a diverse program of human rights activities from lectures and conferences to the Human Rights Workshop, a biweekly speaker series. In addition, the Center offers summer human rights fellowships for students and the Bernstein and Robina Fellowships for recent graduates, described in further detail below.

Each year the Rebellious Lawyering Conference draws hundreds to the School. This student-run event covers public interest topics—from activism to politics to litigation—while exploring how law students and other activists can contribute to efforts to achieve justice in their communities.

The School’s many other centers and programs, such as the China Center, the Gruber Program for Global Justice and Women’s Rights, the Justice Collaboratory, the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy and the Information Society Project also involve students in public interest advocacy and programs.

Public Interest Career Services

Yale Law School’s Career Development Office (CDO) provides a wide array of public interest services to students and alumni. The Law School has a dedicated Public Interest Advisor to provide assistance to students interested in exploring public interest opportunities. The Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights and the Gruber Program for Global Justice and Women’s Rights also consult with students interested in international public interest work.

CDO also sponsors career education programs focused on the public interest sector, inviting leading public interest attorneys from across the country, many of them Yale Law School graduates, to speak about careers in their areas of practice.

Through the Mentors-in-Residence Program, visitors who have been successful in public interest careers spend time at the Law School providing individual counseling sessions to students.

CDO organizes an annual Public Interest Student Career Fair, at which second- and third-year students who have worked in public interest jobs over the summer share their experiences with interested students.

CDO also conducts two interview programs each year, attended by public interest and government employers who come to recruit Yale Law School students.
RESOURCES
CDO maintains a web-based database of job listings, including public service job listings for summer, entry-level, and graduate opportunities. In addition, membership in the Public Service Jobs Directory gives students access to a nationwide database of public interest organizations and opportunities. CDO also maintains a collection of public interest directories and produces a number of extensive guides and brochures to assist students in developing their career paths. Students can obtain overview information as contained in the Public Interest Careers guide or area-specific information as contained, for example, in guides on Environmental Law, International Public Interest Law, Working on Capitol Hill, and Public Interest Law Firms, along with a wealth of information on post-graduate public interest fellowships.

Student Groups
Yale students are deeply engaged in extracurricular activities. Many student organizations develop and lead projects in the public interest, ranging from working on behalf of capital defendants to outreach in the New Haven public schools. The projects they sponsor change from year to year, based on the interests of the students and the needs of the communities with which they work. Information about the work of some of these student organizations is available at www.law.yale.edu/publicinterest.
Financial Support for Public Interest

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS
The Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program (SPIF) provides funds to all Yale Law School students who need funding to work at government and nonprofit organizations. The Law School provides fellowships of up to $6,000 (based on a weekly stipend for a maximum of 12 weeks) to about 160 students each summer. Students have the opportunity to increase their weekly stipend by participating in student fundraising activities. Students may receive SPIF funding for two summers.

The Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights provides Kirby Simon Summer Human Rights Fellowships supported by the Robina Foundation. The fellowships combine a weekly stipend with travel grants for work abroad. The Schell Center typically gives fellowships to about 30 law students, including travel grants totaling more than $25,000 each summer.

The Mary A. McCarthy Memorial Fund provides grants for summer or brief post-graduate work in public interest projects. Grants vary in size from $500 to $10,000, depending upon the number and relative suitability of the proposals received.

The Ford Foundation Law School Public Interest Summer Fellowship Program supports first- and second-year students’ summer work on social justice issues with the Ford Foundation’s grantee organizations around the world. In summer 2015, 14 students received $13,500 for 10-week internships with Ford Grantee Organizations.

POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
Yale Law School fellowships provide funding to help students pursue their public service goals after graduation. In the academic year 2014–15, 29 Yale Law School fellowships were awarded to students and recent graduates. The fellowships generally provide a stipend of approximately $45,000 for the year. Robert L. Bernstein International Human Rights Fellowships are available to recent Yale Law School graduates for international human rights advocacy work. A number of Robina Foundation Human Rights Fellowships are also available for recent graduates pursuing human rights work in foreign or international courts or intergovernmental agencies. Liman Fellowships are awarded for graduates to spend a year responding to problems of inequality and improving access to justice for people in the United States who do not have resources. Heyman Fellowships give graduates the opportunity to work with high-level leaders in the federal government. The Yale Law School Public Interest Fellowship Program supports recent graduates for one year of full-time public interest work. The Gruber Fellowships allow recent graduates to spend a year working on issues of global justice or women’s rights.

The Law School also offers graduates a fellowship at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and a nine-month internship/clerkship at The International Court of Justice in The Hague. The Ford Foundation also supports a fellowship program for graduates to work for one year with selected Ford Foundation grantee organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

The Initiative for Public Interest at Yale, a nonprofit organization founded and run by Yale Law School students, also provides one-year grants of up to $38,500 for individuals
who are launching projects that protect the legal rights or interests of underrepresented groups.

**LOAN REPAYMENT**
The *Career Options Assistance Program (COAP)*** provides full need-based loan repayment on a sliding scale based on income. COAP includes jobs in all sectors (including academia and government), and participants can move in and out of the program as their needs change. In 2014, the Law School provided more than $4.3 million in COAP benefits to 435 graduates.

**JOB SEARCH EXPENSES**
Each year, CDO pays the registration fees and travel expenses for students wishing to participate in the Equal Justice Career Fair and Conference and the NYU Public Interest Career Fair. The Travel Reimbursement for Interviews in the Public Interest Program (TRIPI) reimburses second- and third-year students for travel expenses up to $600 for public interest interviews. The Law School offers reimbursement support for clerkship interview travel/transportation costs in the form of COAP-eligible loans up to a maximum of $1,500.

**Representative Summer Employment**
In the summer of 2015, Yale Law School students worked for many public interest organizations, courts, and government agencies, including:

American Civil Liberties Union
Berkeley Law School — Human Rights Center
Bronx Defenders
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Campaign Legal Center
Center for Constitutional Rights
Constitutional Court of Kosovo
Earth Justice
Environmental Defense Fund
Housing and Economic Rights
Equal Justice Rights Advocates
Human Aid Relief Trust
Human Rights Watch
Immigrant Defense Project
Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project
International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
Legal Aid Society
Lawyers for Children
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
National Center for Lesbian Rights
New Haven Legal Assistance
New York Office of the Attorney General
Office of the U.S. President — Office of Management and Budget
Office of the White House Counsel
Orleans Public Defenders
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
Prisoners Legal Services of Massachusetts
Sierra Club
Southern Center for Human Rights
Supreme Court of Israel
U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
U.S. Attorney’s Office
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of the Treasury
U.S. Embassy — Beijing
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
U.S. Senate — Committee on Health,
   Education, Labor & Pensions
Wikimedia Foundation
World Bank