

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Community Lawyering Clinic

The Community Lawyering Clinic is grounded by our commitment to access to justice for underserved communities. Our collective work is centered by our three-word mission statement:

Educate. Empower. Transform.

In this unique collaboration between Southwestern Law School and California State University, Northridge ("CSUN"), Professor Vázquez and law students run the CSUN Student Legal Clinic and assist CSUN students with their legal matters. In this fast-paced clinic, law students learn a large range of law and policy, client-centered lawyering skills and practice high-volume legal research and writing. Professor Vázquez empowers students to holistically center clients' legal needs across a wide variety of legal issues. Students will learn to practice trauma-informed, anti-racist & 21st-century lawyering skills. In addition to legal consultations & representation, law students design and conduct large-scale legal empowerment workshops for the CSUN student community.

What types of cases does the community lawyering clinic represent?

The Clinic provides legal consultation & empowerment for any legal matter. We represent clients with Immigration and Immigrant Rights matters as well as limited-scope representation for select legal matters, such as crime victim assistance, tenants' rights and workers' rights. The Clinic also offers Small Claim Court pro se legal support.



As a CLC student, I became more confident in my issue-spotting and legal research skills. I learned how to conduct research in a field of law that I had little experience in and to master the basics of that field so that I could navigate my clients through the legal maze.

- Ithzel Santana

Community Lawyering Clinic Student, Fall 2022



Class Meets:

Tuesdays, 1:30–3:30 pm



Curricular Commitment:

5 Units, Graded



Eligibility Requirements:

- Good academic standing
- Complete first year of study



How will the Community Lawyering Clinic benefit my education and career?

Professor Vázquez carefully crafts her curriculum to empower her law students to excel in any area of legal practice. Students will develop interviewing skills and learn to issue spot in real-time as they assess legal needs during many legal intakes & consultations. Law students will learn to orally and efficiently present a case plan during case rounds with Professor Vázquez. Students will conduct legal research and draft legal empowerment plans in a lay-friendly manner. Law students will conduct closing meetings to ensure that CSUN student is empowered with an understanding of the law and has resources for access to justice. For cases selected for representation, students will work on all aspects of the case. Finally, law students will work closely with Professor Vázquez and have the opportunity to develop a mentor, recommender and future colleague for years to come.



Did you know?

Professor Vázquez is the Director of the Public Interest Law Concentration. She is an expert in Immigrant Rights, Critical Race Theory as well as Lawyer Wellness, with an emphasis on first-generation and BIPOC lawyers.



Interested in applying?

Fill out the application form on the Southwestern Legal Clinics portal page at swlaw.sharepoint.com/sites/clinic or by scanning the QR code.

For more information about the Community Lawyering Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/communitylawyering.

