

HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

The Miami Law Human Rights Clinic is a leading U.S. law school human rights clinic where students engage in cutting-edge litigation and advocacy before international human rights bodies and domestic tribunals.



What is the Human Rights Clinic?

The Human Rights Clinic (HRC) is a law school course that gives students firsthand experience in human rights litigation and advocacy at the local, national, and international levels. Under the close supervision of Professor Caroline Bettinger-López and other faculty members who are expert human rights practitioners, law students represent clients and champion advocacy campaigns before the Organization of American States (Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights), the United Nations, domestic courts, and legislative/administrative bodies, while working on collaborative transnational advocacy projects.

The HRC works for the promotion of social and economic justice globally and in the U.S. The Clinic represents clients in litigation before international, foreign, and domestic tribunals, and collaborates with organizational partners on human rights advocacy campaigns, documentation projects, legislative advocacy, report-writing, and research. Focus areas include gender violence, racial justice, and immigrants' rights. HRC students take a lead role in all aspects of cases and projects, and receive extensive feedback on all aspects of their Clinic work. The intensive clinical experience provides students a competitive edge in the job market.

www.law.miami.edu/hrc

A Snapshot of HRC Cases and Projects

HRC cases and projects cover the full range of human rights advocacy, with a regional focus on the Americas (including the U.S. and Canada) and a thematic focus on gender violence, immigrants' rights, and racial justice. A snapshot includes:

- Serving as lead counsel on *Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) v. United States of America* (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), the first human rights case brought by a domestic violence survivor against the United States.
- Advocating on behalf of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada along with partner organizations: the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA).
- Hosting *Gender Justice in the Americas: A Transnational Dialogue on Sexuality, Violence, Reproduction & Human Rights*, which brought together 150 advocates from 20 countries in the Americas.
- Co-organizing the first international human rights hearing on Stand Your Ground laws in the United States (before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights).
- Co-organizing an international "Stop Deportations to Haiti" campaign in the wake of the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, with advocacy before the United Nations, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, U.S. and Haitian lawmakers, and others.
- Co-authoring six reports for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, to supplement the rapporteur's official visit to the United States in December 2017.
- Authoring an amicus curiae brief in the case of *Benito Tide Méndez et al., v. Dominican Republic* before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, focused on the rights of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent living in the Dominican Republic.

"The Human Rights Clinic was the best professional and academic experience of my law school career. As a law student, I testified at an American Bar Association hearing on Stand Your Ground laws, traveled to Geneva to speak before the United Nations, and provided opening remarks at a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. "

Charlotte Cassel, Deputy Director, Lotus House Shelter

Course Details

The Human Rights Clinic welcomes 2Ls, 3Ls, and LL.Ms. Students may enroll in the HRC for one full year or one semester, with the option of applying for a second semester. The HRC is 6 credits per semester, and is offered in the fall and spring semesters. Students attend class twice a week and spend approximately 15-18 hours per week on case and project work, which includes at least one hour per week of direct supervision from an instructor. The HRC may also be offered in the summer semester with a more intensive schedule. Some students stay in the HRC for an additional semester as student fellows. The HRC has a co-requisite of International Human Rights Law or a related course.

How to Apply

Students apply in the spring for the summer, the following fall, and the following spring. Check the general website of the clinics for details: www.law.miami.edu/clinics.

Fundraising Opportunities

The HRC represents clients and works on projects free of charge and welcomes contributions to support our work. If you would like to make a gift to the HRC please contact Anthony Stewart, Director, Development & Annual Giving at 305.284.1790 or email: astewart@law.miami.edu.



CLINIC DIRECTOR
Professor Caroline Bettinger-López

T 305.284.1678
F 305.284.6093
email: HRC@law.miami.edu

FIND US ON:

 **Human Rights Clinic—**
University of Miami School of Law
 **@UMLawHRC**

www.law.miami.edu/hrc