

Requirements: Area of Concentration in Social Justice

Blurb on website -

The Social Justice Law concentration blends practical work and relevant coursework for students who are interested in public interest law positions following graduation. Features include internships, pro bono or paid work, classroom and practicum courses, and a rigorous writing requirement that demonstrate a dedication to a future career in the area of social justice.

Candidates are encouraged to discuss their interest in the Area of Concentration with one of the Area of Concentration Directors early in the second year of their J.D. studies. The Directors are Prof. Dana Sisitsky and Prof. Pooja Dadhanian.

Introduction

To graduate with an Area of Concentration in Social Justice, candidates must complete five or more electives from a designated list, with a grade of at least B in each course. Candidates who maintain a cumulative grade point average of B+ or higher in their area of concentration courses will receive an Honors designation.

The Social Justice Concentration includes three requirements:

1. Course requirement
2. Rigorous writing requirement
3. Practical requirement

All decisions with respect to satisfaction of the requirements for the Area of Concentration shall be made by one of the AOC Directors: Professors Dadhanian or Sisitsky.

Course requirements

A total of five or more electives from the list below are required. Candidates must earn a minimum grade of B or higher in each of the five courses selected from the list of courses. Please note: Not all courses are scheduled every year.

Advanced Criminal Defense
Advanced Prosecution Function
Asylum and Refugee Law
California Innocence Project I
California Innocence Project II
Child Welfare Law & Policy
Children and the Law
Civil Rights Law
Community Law Project – Academic Component

Consumer Law
Criminal Law Theory
Crimmigration
Critical Race Theory
Domestic Violence
Employment Discrimination
Energy & Climate Change Law
Environmental Law
Family Law
Gender, Power, Law & Leadership
Human Rights Law
Immigration Law
Jurisprudence
Juvenile Justice
Labor Law
Latinos and the Law
Mental Health Law
New Media Rights – Internet & Media Rights Clinic
Prison Law
Race and the Law
Reproductive Justice
Sexual Violence and the Law
Sexuality, Gender Identity, and the Law
Slavery's Imprint on the U.S. Constitution
Spanish for Lawyers
Women and Immigration Law
Wrongful Conviction Seminar

Or any other course subject to the advance approval of one of the Co-Directors.

Rigorous writing requirement

Candidates must complete a rigorous writing requirement, which may consist of any of the following:

1. A scholarly writing paper on a social justice related topic in any of the above classes. A scholarly writing paper shall be at least 7,000 words in length (exclusive of footnotes) and be completed under the supervision of a faculty member; or
2. A paper of at least 7,000 words in length (exclusive of footnotes) on a social justice related topic in any of the above classes, even if it does not meet the scholarly writing requirement. The paper shall be completed under the supervision of a faculty member or adjunct faculty member.

Note that applicants should get pre-approval that paper is sufficiently connected to a social justice theme by either Professor Dadhanian or Professor Sisitsky.

Practical requirement

Candidates must participate in public interest work (paid, pro bono, or for California Western credit) for a minimum of 100 hours. Public work interest work includes non-profit work, government work, and judicial clerkships. The Directors may consider other work to satisfy the practical requirement at our discretion. Non-clinic experiential courses (“EXP”) do not count towards the course requirement.