

Immigration Law Courses and Opportunities

Immigration lawyers work both for the government and those seeking lawful status, legal residency, or citizenship in the United States. Some work for companies or educational institutions, help employees with immigration matters. Others serve individual clients who need assistance with family-based immigration. Some work for non-profit groups helping people seeking asylum or other humanitarian immigration benefits. An immigration lawyer must be knowledgeable about relevant statutes and implementing regulations, as well as caselaw from both administrative and federal courts that interpret them. Additionally, an immigration lawyer must have a sophisticated understanding of the legal, social, historical, cultural, and political factors that constructed immigration law and policy in the U.S., including the tension between the right of a sovereign nation to determine whom to admit and the constitutional and human rights of noncitizens to gain admission or stay in the U.S.; issues that arise between noncitizens and citizens of the U.S. with regard to employment, security, and civil rights; and the tension between the federal and state governments in regulating immigration law.

Foundational Courses

Immigration Law
Immigration Practice and Advocacy
Constitutional Law I & II
Administrative Law

Related Courses

Federal Courts
International Law
International Protection of Human Rights (EW)
Employment Law
Family Law
Advanced Criminal Law
Criminal Procedure
Legislation

Related Clinics and Experiential Courses

Family Immigration Detention Clinic
Civil Clinic
Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women
Trial Advocacy
Advanced Legal Research
Advanced Legal Writing and Editing
International and Foreign Legal Research

Externships

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas
Mosaic Family Services

RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services)
Catholic Charities of Dallas
Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America
International Rescue Committee
Refugee Services of Texas
Equal Justice Center
Worker's Defense Project
Texas Pro Bar (South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) (Dallas Immigration Court)

Professional Organizations

- American Immigration Lawyers Association, FREE Law Student Membership (<http://www.aila.org/membership/join/law-student-membership-application>)
- Federal Bar Association, Immigration Law Section, Associate Membership (law student rates) (<http://www.fedbar.org/Membership/Membership-Categories/Associate-Membership/Law-Student-Rates.aspx>)
- State Bar of Texas, Immigration and Nationality Law Section (<http://www.texasimmigrationandnationalitylaw.com/>)
- Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (<http://www.dallashispanicbar.com/>)
- Dallas Bar Association, Immigration Law Section (<https://www.dallasbar.org/sections-committees/immigration-law-section>)

Faculty

Some of the full-time faculty members who teach or have an interest in this area:

Natalie Nanasi
George Martinez