Immigration Law Courses and Opportunities

Immigration lawyers work both for the government and for individuals seeking lawful status, legal residency or citizenship in the United States. Some work for companies or educational institutions, helping employees with immigration issues. Others serve individual clients. Some work for non-profit groups helping people seeking asylum or other humanitarian immigration benefits. An immigration lawyer must be knowledgeable about immigration law, such as the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1952 and amendments to the INA such as the 1996 Anti-Terrorist and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA), Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), the 2001 USA PATRIOT Act, and the 2005 REAL ID Act, and their implementing regulations. In addition to these specific laws, the 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 to the nation state 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)
- Family Law
- Employment 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, 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