Clinical Tenure

April 15, 2020

Cornell Law School
Key Moments in Clinical Legal Education

ABA Standard 405(c) (1996): “A law school shall afford to full-time clinical faculty members a form of security of position reasonably similar to tenure, and non-compensatory perquisites reasonably similar to those provided other full-time faculty members.”

NYS Bar Pro Bono Requirement (2012): Applicants who successfully pass the bar examination in New York State must demonstrate that they have performed 50 hours of qualifying pro bono service before applying for admission to practice. (NY Court of Appeals Rule 520.16)

Carnegie Report (2014): “Most law schools give only casual attention to teaching students how to use legal thinking in the complexity of actual law practice. Unlike other professional education, most notably medical school, legal education typically pays relatively little attention to direct training in professional practice. The result is to prolong and reinforce the habits of thinking like a student rather than an apprentice practitioner.”

- Key recommendation: Make clinical education more central to legal pedagogy.

NYS Skills Competency Requirement (2015): Applicants must establish that they have acquired skills and professional values necessary to competently practice law through one of five curricular or apprenticeship pathways. (NY Court of Appeals Rule 520.18)


- Capital Punishment Clinic
- Legal Aid Clinic
Evolution of Clinics at Cornell Law School: Clinics/Practicum Courses in 2019-2020

**CLINICS**
- Asylum & Convention Against Torture Appellate
- Capital Punishment
- Child Advocacy
- Entrepreneurship
- Farmworker Legal Assistance
- First Amendment
- Gender Justice
- Immigration Law
- International Human Rights: Litigation and Advocacy
- International Human Rights: Policy Advocacy
- Labor Law
- Securities Law

**PRACTICUM COURSES**
- Advocacy for LGBT Communities
- Campus Mediation
- Criminal Defense Trial - Local Court
- Estate Planning
- Low-Income Taxpayer
- NY Attorney General
- Protest & Civil Disobedience
- Racial Justice
- Saginaw-Chippewa Disenrollment
- Women's Decarceration
Percentage of Cornell Law Students Participating in Clinical Courses: 2000-2020
AALS/Gallup Study: Why Students Go to Law School

![Bar Chart]

- **Passion for Topic**
- **High-Paying Job**
- **Advancement Opportunities**
- **Helpful to Others**
- **Advocate for Social Change**
- **Public Interest and Service**

Legend:
- JD
- Other advanced degrees
## Law Schools Ranked by Clinical Program

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Clinical Program Rank</th>
<th>Clinical Tenure</th>
<th>Unitary Tenure</th>
<th>US News Rank</th>
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## Top Law Schools With Top Clinical Programs

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LAW SCHOOL PROCESS 2018-2020

2018 - 2019
INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH
• Clinic director met one-on-one with most T/TT faculty

Summer – Fall ’19
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & PLANNING COMMITTEE
• Three meetings dedicated to clinical tenure
• Votes to recommend proposal to full faculty

November ’19
TENURED AND TENURE-TRACK FACULTY
• 2 special meetings of T/TT faculty
• Nov. 30: votes unanimously in favor of proposal

December ’19
ALL-FACULTY VOTE
• T/TT Vote:
  • 22 Yes, 0 No, 1 Ab

Spring ’20
POST-VOTE POLL
• Additional 9 responses
• Round 1: votes to Assoc. Dean
• Round 2: anonymous votes
• 30 Yes, 0 No, 1 Ab
Law School Vote

40 T/TT law faculty eligible to vote at the December meeting.
December 4 meeting: 22 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

2 TT/T faculty on leave, 1 recused from the issue, and 2 in the process of leaving Cornell, bringing the pool of TT/T faculty reasonably expect to vote on this issue down to 35.

Including the non-attendees canvassed after the meeting, new vote total: 30 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain.
THANK YOU