Legal Skills in Social Context

At Northeastern University School of Law, students are challenged to think about what it means to practice social justice law in the 21st century.

The Legal Skills in Social Context (LSSC) program is a partnership between community organizations or agencies and the School of Law to address unmet social justice needs.

LSSC is an intensive first-year critical reasoning and practice course that focuses on developing students’ analytical, advocacy and team-lawyering skills through an exploration of the complex interplay between law and issues of diversity. It is the only course of its kind in the nation, and is renowned for:

- Exposing law students to the complex relationships among law, diversity, values and multicultural American society, as applied to historically marginalized groups.
- Challenging students’ values to help sensitize them to the formidable tasks involved in addressing societal differences.
- Requiring students to develop critical analytical and 21st-century problem-solving skills in the context of team lawyering.
- Providing an opportunity for Northeastern students to forge relationships with partner organizations.

As part of the School of Law’s commitment to experiential learning and community partnerships, students in the LSSC program employ their analytical research and writing skills to address social justice challenges identified by a wide range of partner organizations and agencies.

LSSC benefits organizations by pursuing aspects of their social justice agenda that they might otherwise forego due to staffing or resource constraints. The program provides organizations with a free and closely supervised lawyer think tank composed of 12 to 14 first-year law students. Above all, organizations contribute to the legal education of future lawyers by participating in this team-lawyering effort and by introducing students to the spirit and practice of lawyering. To participate in the LSSC program, an organization must meet the following requirements (see application form for additional expectations):

- Proposals may be for a single project or a set of small, related projects that can be completed in an academic year. Successful project proposals typically include both legal and investigative field research components.
- Applications are due by mid-July. Organizations will be notified in August 2017 if their proposals have been accepted.
- Accepted organizations are required to attend three major meetings (in-person or virtually) with their student law office team:
  1. In the early fall to meet the faculty and student teams to discuss the project objectives
  2. In early January for a deeper implementation discussion
  3. At the end of March/early April for the team’s oral presentation of findings
- Organizations whose proposals are not chosen for a project for the 2017-2018 academic year may have their proposals considered for further development and vetting by closely supervised upper-level students through an incubator course, Dynamic Lawyering for Systematic Change.

Questions?

For more detailed information, visit our website at northeastern.edu/law/lssc or please contact:

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