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.
• Helping students to develop critical analytical and 21st-century problem-solving skills in the context of team lawyering.
• Providing an opportunity for students to forge relationships with partner organizations.

As part of Northeastern’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 a team of 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 should adhere to the following guidelines (see application form for additional expectations):

• Submit a proposal consisting of 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.
• Apply by the end of May. Organizations will be notified in August 2018 if their proposals have been accepted.
• Accepted organizations are expected to attend three 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 January to address questions and frame the scope of the project
  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 2018-2019 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 contact:

Amanda Moore-Owens, Program Coordinator, Legal Skills in Social Context Program
Northeastern University School of Law, 416 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115
E-mail: lssc@northeastern.edu  Phone: (617) 373-3924