



Poverty Law Program

Made possible through the generosity of the Robert P. Heaney Family Fund
Director: Katelyn Cherney, JD, Special Assistant Professor

LAW 395 / Poverty Law: Legal Needs of the Unrepresented

This course provides comprehensive coverage of all aspects of public benefit law, and aims to instruct students on how to practice in this area. The course emphasizes AFDC/TANF, food stamps/SNAP, Medicaid, Social Security/SSI, unemployment compensation, and the adverse health effects legal issues impose on those living in poverty. The course covers seminal cases, legislation, and commentary on a wide range of other programs, including health needs, public housing, Section 8, the Low-Income Housing Credit, LIHEAP, school meals, WIC, disaster assistance, trade adjustment assistance, foster care, veterans' pensions and general assistance among others.

Civil Poverty Law Externships

Students receive course credit and scholarship assistance to work 150 hours for a nonprofit legal advocacy organization, including:

- Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Iowa Legal Aid (Council Bluffs)
- Immigrant Legal Center
- Women's Center for Advancement
- Family Housing Advisory Services
- Nebraska Appleseed
- Disability Rights Nebraska
- ACLU of Nebraska
- Veterans Legal Support Network

Law Student Pro Bono



Pro Bono Program

All graduates who complete at least 50 hours of pro bono legal service, which may include up to 15 hours of community service, are recognized at Law School Hooding and by the Nebraska Supreme Court and the Nebraska State Bar Association.

What Qualifies as Poverty Law Pro Bono Work?

Pro bono work is the provision of voluntary, law-related public service under the supervision of a licensed attorney for which the student does not receive academic credit or pay. Such pro bono legal services must be provided without fee or expectation of fee to persons of limited means or charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means

What Qualifies as Poverty Law Community Service?

Community service activity is any volunteer work completed for a nonprofit organization primarily serving persons of limited means, or completed through a Creighton-sponsored event, or Creighton partnership site identified through the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice, that primarily serves persons of limited means.