

Legislative & Public Policy Clinic Goals and Structure

This Clinic provides an opportunity for students to represent client sponsors to develop legislative or public policy change. Students engage with experienced professionals in the Legislature and can develop a network of Capitol area contacts.

The Legislative & Public Policy Clinic provides practical skills experience in researching, drafting, and pursuing adoption of California state legislative and public policy changes. Students will interact with client sponsors, elected and appointed officials in state government and their staff, lobbyists, and public affairs professionals. Students often work to develop coalitions and interact with the media in support of a legislative proposal.

Students participate in a weekly instructional seminar. A total of 150 hours per semester is required. **The Clinic is a year-long, 3 credit per semester clinic.**

Prerequisites for Enrollment

A written application is required. Previous or concurrent enrollment in *Lawmaking in California* (822) is required. Students participating in the Capital Lawyering Concentration will receive preferred enrollment.

Professors

Professor Cathy Christian is a retired partner at Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross, and Leoni, with extensive experience in election, campaign, and government law. As an attorney and legislative advocate, she represented governmental and commercial interests before the Legislature and state agencies. Previously, she handled litigation and legislative issues in the California Attorney General's office, was an appellate lawyer for the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and a staff attorney for a legal services program. You can contact Professor Christian at cchristian1@pacific.edu.

Professor Aaron Brieno served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for California State Senator Ben Hueso and recently completed a graduate program at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. He is also the founder of Inspire California, a social impact nonprofit that provides college access resources to historically underserved communities within California's San Joaquin Valley. Aaron also has extensive political campaign experience as a senior advisor for multiple regional California races. You can contact Professor Brieno at abrieno@pacific.edu.

Legislative and Public Policy Clinic Bills

2021-2022

- AB 1232 (McCarty): Establishes a non-resident tuition exemption for newly arrived immigrants and refugees in order to enroll in accredited English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at the California Community Colleges and pay in state tuition, enabling increased work and school opportunities.

2020-2021

- AB 9 (Wood): Includes vegetation management in an omnibus fire safety and prevention bill. Client: California Farm Bureau Federation. Approved by the Governor September 23, 2021.
- SB 790 (Stern): Authorizes mitigation credits for establishment of wildlife corridors to prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions. Client: California Environmental & Energy Consulting. Approved by the Governor October 8, 2021.
- AB 610 (Kalra): Modifies the circumstances under which a school principal is required to notify law enforcement of student behavior. (Students joined various juvenile justice reform organizations.) Bill died in committee.

2019-2020 All bills suspended in the Legislature due to COVID shutdown.

- AB 2402: (Committee on Insurance): requires an accurate description of actual cash value for losses be included in the residential property disclosure form. Client: Personal Insurance Federation.
- AB 2958: (Maienschein); establishes a Behavioral Health and Justice Center to provide resources for counties for mental health programs. Client: McGeorge Community Legal Services, Homeless Advocacy Project
- AB 648: (Nazarian): prohibits health care service plans and insurers from sharing personal information or data collected through a wellness program or taking any adverse action based on such information, including declining to enroll. (Students joined Consumer Reports and others working on a two-year bill.)

2018-2019

- SB 338 (Hueso): Provides legislative direction to law enforcement agencies to update operational manuals and training to better serve disabled or elderly Californians who are subject to various abuses. Client: The Arc of California and McGeorge Community Legal Services, Elder & Health Law Clinic. Approved by the Governor 10/08/2019.
- SB 212 (Ben Allen): Permits counties, cities, school and community college districts, the option to conduct elections by either ranked choice voting. Client: Fair Vote. Vetoed by the Governor, 10/13/2019.
- AB 1077 (Eggman): Requires a court to waive penalties for failure to pay fines for non-felony Vehicle Code violations and certain misdemeanors if an indigent client successfully completes a collaborative court program. Client: McGeorge Community Legal Services, Homeless Advocacy Project. Held in committee.

2016-2017: Four bills, two signed by the Governor.

2015-2016: Four bills, two signed by the Governor.

2013-2014: Five bills, three signed by the Governor