Academic Plan
2015-2020

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the State’s only public law school and the leading public law school in the Northeast, the University of Connecticut School of Law offers a professional education of the highest quality that prepares its graduates for a lifetime of fulfilling service at the bar, in government, business, or education.

The Law School faculty excels at marrying theory with practice-based learning. Through clinics, externships, and other practice-based offerings, our students and faculty are increasingly engaged in directly improving our city, state, and world. With strategic investment, the Law School is poised to become one of the top fifteen public law schools in the country and a major presence on the global stage.

This Academic Plan focuses on strategic areas and strengths in research, curricular offerings, and academic programs. Overarching all of these areas is a profound commitment to interdisciplinarity in scholarship and teaching, a commitment seen at many law schools but uniquely strong at UConn Law School. As described in this Plan, our interdisciplinary approach cuts across all areas of study and research.

The Law School has identified four strategic areas in which to focus increased resources and attention in the coming years—each reinforcing a UConn-wide strategic priority:

- Insurance, Risk, and Regulation
- International and Domestic Human Rights
- Energy and Environmental Law
- Law, Mind, and Cognition

The Law School already enjoys national and international distinction in the first two strategic areas. We propose to reinforce existing strengths in Insurance, Risk, and Regulation and International and Domestic Human Rights and to capitalize on them by expanding our profile in health care and health law and policy, as well as the integration of international human rights and domestic civil rights.
As for the third area, Energy and Environmental Law, the Law School aims to build upon the programmatic successes of its Center for Energy & Environmental Law through faculty hiring and greater involvement in policy-making.

In the fourth area, too, existing faculty expertise can be leveraged and added to, to create synergies with UConn initiatives in the dynamic area of Law, Mind, and Cognition. Emphasis on these areas will serve our students by training them in legal specialties that will likely be in high demand.

The Law School has four additional current areas of strength, which also dovetail with UConn’s strategic priorities:
- Intellectual Property and Innovation
- Tax Law
- Clinical and Experiential Education
- Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Where we discuss each of these strategic areas and strengths below, we highlight sample interdisciplinary initiatives with other UConn units. Because law touches virtually every discipline at UConn, the Law School has tremendous potential to build bridges across the UConn campus and contribute to its most exciting initiatives, from genomics to sustainable energy to cognitive science. Already we have three jointly appointed faculty members, five dual degree programs, involvement by students and faculty from other schools in our programs, and a wealth of cosponsored events and initiatives. Strategic faculty hiring, establishment of more dual degree programs, and interdisciplinary centers can facilitate other connections.

This Academic Plan is focused exclusively on research, curricular offerings, and academic programming, and does not speak to important Law School strategies related to fundraising, facilities, student life, teaching techniques, admissions, and faculty recruitment and retention. The Law School’s new leadership team is working assiduously on all of these initiatives, viewing them as supporting and enhancing this Academic Plan.
B. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the University of Connecticut School of Law is:
• To train skilled, ethical, critically-thinking, and public-spirited professionals
• To advance scholarly research that enhances law and policy both domestically and across the globe; and
• To engage in community outreach that serves the unmet legal needs of residents of our city, region and state.

This Academic Plan demonstrates how the Law School plans to fulfill its three-part mission in 2015-2020 by building on its tradition of a rich and diverse educational experience, high-level scholarship, and meaningful community engagement. Our learning environment is fulfilling for students and faculty alike. Our students are excellent, with strong academic backgrounds; 13% come to the Law School with advanced degrees. Moreover, our students are a diverse population, with about 26% identifying as racial/ethnic minorities. The total student body represents nearly 100 undergraduate institutions.

At the Law School, a first-class legal education is built upon small classes, extensive faculty contact, broad practice opportunities, and the world as our campus. Our community of professors and students share knowledge and experiences from the outset, starting with the essential foundation subjects and building to an impressive array of intellectually engaging classes, clinical and externship opportunities, symposia, and employment networking events. Students rapidly become part of the dynamic fabric of our community of learners at UConn Law.

Whether taking core courses or one of our dozens of small seminars, participating in a certificate program, or working with clients in one of many clinical opportunities, the Law School provides a comprehensive and progressive education in which students are exposed to both theoretical and practical aspects of law. The course of study reflects the diversity and intellectual ambition of the students and faculty. The environment is collegial, and the low student-to-faculty ratio engenders a collaborative environment and assures close contact with some of the nation’s leading legal practitioners and scholars.
C. STRATEGIC AREAS

With strategic investment, the University of Connecticut School of Law is poised to become one of the top fifteen public law schools in the country and a major presence on the global stage. To achieve this goal, the Law School proposes the following four strategic areas:

- Insurance, Risk, and Regulation
- International and Domestic Human Rights
- Energy and Environmental Law
- Law, Mind, and Cognition

In this Part C, we describe our goals for each strategic area, identify our current strengths, and propose specific initiatives that build on the identified strengths. These strategic areas correspond to the University’s strategic areas as follows:

**LAW SCHOOL STRATEGIC AREAS**

- Insurance, Risk, and Regulation
- International and Domestic Human Rights
- Energy and Environmental Law
- Law, Mind, and Cognition

**UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC AREAS**

- Creativity, Innovation, & Entrepreneurship
- Human Diversity, Disparity, & Rights
- Sustain Environment & Enhance Resilience
- Brain, Mind, & Cognition
STRATEGIC AREA #1: INSURANCE, RISK, AND REGULATION

GOALS

• Maintain our position as the leading national and international center for the study of, and research relating to, insurance law
• Continue building our national reputation for research in financial risk and regulation
• Establish a national reputation in health law, with an emphasis on health care policy and finance

CURRENT STRENGTHS

The Law School boasts breadth and depth in the closely linked areas of insurance law, financial risk and regulation, and health law, with many faculty members devoted to research and writing in these areas. Distinguished adjunct faculty with backgrounds as economists, general counsel, private law firm partners, and public commissioners supplement the offerings of the full-time faculty. Law School graduates are well-prepared for advancement in a variety of institutional settings: insurance and other financial services companies, regulatory agencies, private law firms, hospitals and other health care organizations, corporate law departments, and non-profit organizations.

Located in America’s historic insurance capital, the Law School is a national and international leader in the field of insurance law. The Insurance Law Center is the preeminent institution of its kind in the country, and its LL.M. program attracts students and faculty from across the nation and around the world. We publish the only peer-reviewed law review devoted to insurance law scholarship, and offer more than 20 insurance law courses, substantially more than any other school. The Center’s national reputation has been established by the innovative work of 20 percent of the full-time faculty, who do research on various aspects of insurance law. The Center regularly hosts prominent visitors from around the world.

Insurance is primarily concerned with reallocating risk, but in recent decades, it has become increasingly apparent that the creation and management (or mismanagement) of risk are crucial functions of our entire financial system, including banking, securities, and related financial services. Accordingly, the Center has been expanding its scope beyond traditional, private insurance products to engage with the broader issues of financial risk, financial regulation, and compliance. Our faculty members are leading experts in financial
regulation, consumer financial protection, corporate groups, bankruptcy, financial markets, derivatives, and hedge funds. The Center’s recent conferences have brought together academics from multiple disciplines, practitioners, regulators, and policymakers to examine a broad range of crucially important topics that go beyond the traditional borders of insurance law, including climate change risk, financial derivatives, and pensions and aging. These are also fundamentally issues of distributive justice, an important topic that also implicates the second strategic area identified by this Academic Plan; as we learned in the recent foreclosure crisis, people's access to credit and vulnerability to devastating financial risk are significantly influenced by their socio-economic status, race and gender.

In a similar vein, it is clear today that protecting people against the risk of poor health presents complicated questions of medicine, policy, law, and ethics that go beyond the scope of traditional health insurance. Again, poor health is not merely a medical issue but a social one—significantly affected by racial, familial, and socio-economic status. The passage of the federal Affordable Care Act has focused public attention on this issue and increased the need for legal expertise in this area. However, legal scholarship in health has tended to focus on hot-button ethical issues such as end-of-life care and reproductive rights, and not health care finance and regulation.

Based on our existing strength in insurance and finance law, this is a clear niche that we can occupy. Over 10 percent of the Law School’s full-time faculty have researched and published in mental health law, disability law, health law and finance, or health, technology, and human rights. The Law School’s adjunct health insurance law faculty includes a former state insurance commissioner and the deputy general counsel of Aetna. Meanwhile, School of Medicine faculty members offer cross-listed courses on comparative health systems, health and human rights, and public health to medical, law, and public health students. We also have an established dual degree program with the Master of Public Health program.

### INSURANCE, RISK, AND REGULATION: EXISTING INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES WITHIN UCONN

**BUSINESS SCHOOL:**
- Dual degree program offering Master of Business Administration
- Working relationship with M.S. Program in Financial Risk Management
- Collaboration on courses, such as Comparative Insurance Regulation

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE:**
- Dual degree program offering Master of Public Health
- Cross-listed courses on comparative health systems, health and human rights, and public health
- Faculty participation in grant application to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to develop an in-state telemedicine program

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**A. Hire a Director of the Insurance Law Center**

With the departure of the Director of the Insurance Law Center in summer 2014, hiring a nationally recognized expert in the field of insurance and risk to fill the position is a major priority. We expect the new
Director to build on the Center’s current strengths while developing new strategic initiatives.

B. Develop a Certificate Program in Financial Services Risk Management and Compliance for Lawyers

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in 2010, the risk management and compliance activities expected of financial firms by federal financial regulators have markedly increased. Multi-billion dollar enforcement settlements are becoming a norm and financial companies are hiring dozens of lawyers at a time to navigate the new regulatory climate. Not surprisingly, there has been an upswing in demand for Law School J.D. and LL.M. graduates with financial services law expertise. In response, the Insurance Law Center is conducting a study to explore the feasibility of offering a new certificate program for lawyers in financial services risk management and compliance. To the best of our knowledge, no U.S. law school trains lawyers in financial services risk management or in insurance compliance. Such a program could fill a growing market need while attracting new sources of revenue to the Law School.

C. Establish a Center for Health Law and Policy

We propose to establish a Center for Health Law and Policy that has the potential to gain national prominence; to contribute to UConn’s overall strengths in Genetics, Genomics, and Personalized Medicine and Health and Wellness; and to help translate academic research in other UConn units into substantive changes in law and policy.

The Center for Health Law and Policy will help focus and market our existing strengths, and also serve as a central point for collaboration with other UConn units, including the proposed Health and Wellness Institute. Although the issues of health care policy are closely related to those addressed by the Insurance Law Center, a separate center will help the Law School establish a distinct national reputation for health law. The center could serve as a forum for interdisciplinary collaboration with a wide range of UConn schools and departments on topics ranging from bioethics to innovation in biosciences to aging to the structure of the health care system. A new center could sponsor and manage dual degree programs, such as a dual J.D./M.D. program. The Center would require funding for programs and for administrative support.

We propose, as a future step, to hire one or more additional faculty members to direct the Center and to expand the scope of our scholarly research in the area of health law and policy. A priority is hiring experts in the legal issues surrounding biomedical research, such as genetics and personalized medicine, food and drug law, or bioethics. These new hires could also collaborate with researchers and entrepreneurs working at UConn as well at the Tech Park and the Jackson Laboratory.

We propose to create one or more new law clinics to give our law students practical legal experience while serving the broader community. Possible areas of focus are the representation of the UConn Health Center in legal matters that arise there (expanding an existing externship placement); veterans’ rights (pursuing claims for disability or medical benefits); and/or an elder law clinic (helping secure health benefits and other issues related to aging and poor health). Depending on how the clinics are structured (with full time faculty or adjuncts), this part of our initiative may require hiring of additional clinical faculty and administrative support staff.
STRATEGIC AREA #2: INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS

GOALS

• Draw upon existing strengths in international law, human rights, and social justice to develop a ground-breaking research program that integrates international human rights and domestic civil rights
• Build a national reputation on issues at the intersection of human and civil rights though a range of external research grants, externally focused conferences, workshops, and events
• Cultivate interdisciplinary academic and research partnerships with other UConn units, including the Human Rights Institute, the Office of Global Affairs, the School of Social Work, the Business School, the School of Medicine, and the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, leading to external funding opportunities
• Influence legal and policy debates on current domestic and global questions of the day relating to human rights, civil rights, and social justice

CURRENT STRENGTHS

Connecticut’s is an export economy deeply connected to global markets and politics. To excel in advising clients engaged in this increasingly global economy, lawyers must comprehend the international legal framework within which their clients’ decisions must be made.

The Law School—with long-established strengths in international, comparative, and human rights law—is a leader in providing such training. Fully 20 percent of the Law School faculty works in the area of international, comparative, and human rights law. This number includes authors of leading casebooks, treatises, and monographs in the field, and faculty regularly serve as visiting professors and lecturers at universities worldwide. They have won numerous Fulbright fellowships for work overseas, as well as fellowships at such prestigious institutions as the European University Institute in Florence, the Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt, and the American Academy in Berlin. Faculty working in domestic human rights and social justice fields add to these strengths through their teaching and research in domestic women’s rights, children’s rights, Indian rights, disability rights, and workers’ rights. Students and faculty in the Law School’s Asylum and Human Rights Clinic advance human rights by representing refugees in the United States who have fled human rights abuses in their own countries. Other clinics such as the Criminal Clinic, Center for Children’s Advocacy, Poverty Law Clinic, and Mediation Clinic promote access to justice for persons of limited means who cannot afford legal representation.

The Law School’s pioneering study-abroad programs and graduate legal studies for foreign lawyers contribute to UConn
INTERNATIONAL LAW
BY THE NUMBERS

- **30%** of Law School faculty research in international law, human rights and social justice
- **12** international exchange programs open to J.D. students
- **10** countries where faculty have institutional connections
- **50** LL.M. and exchange students in 2012

nn’s international reputation and its ability to compete in the international market for higher-education services. We have 12 international exchange programs open to J.D. students, and our faculty has strong connections to partner institutions in Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. In cooperation with the student-edited Connecticut Journal of International Law, now nearing its third decade, the Law School has sponsored international law conferences in The Netherlands, Hungary, Puerto Rico and China, as well as dozens of major conferences at the Law School. The Law School’s masters (LL.M.) and doctoral (S.J.D.) program, together with our exchange programs, brought almost 50 international law students to the campus last year, including eight judges seeking training in U.S. law. The Law School has long offered both J.D. and LL.M. candidates the opportunity to concentrate in human rights law through a specialized certificate. In fall 2013, the Law School added to our experiential offerings for J.D. candidates an International Legal Practice course that combines a graded seminar and non-graded externships overseas.

The Law School, which enjoys considerable faculty expertise in international and domestic human rights, has an opportunity to launch one of the very few initiatives that integrates the global and local dimensions into a cohesive whole. The two fields have been relatively separate and distinct at U.S. law schools for historical reasons, and although they draw on different sources of law, both address social and economic inequalities and the inalienable rights of individuals. A program dedicated to “bringing human rights home” would position us to provide academic leadership for a growing trend among non-profits and public policymakers to integrate international human rights and domestic law. Successfully integrating international human rights with domestic civil rights issues, and combining classic civil-political rights with economic and social rights would situate the Law School at the forefront of U.S. scholarly and policy debates. Enhancing this area will better prepare the Law School’s graduates both for the global marketplace and for providing access to justice for the poor and middle class in America. Augmenting faculty expertise in human rights and civil rights will also position the Law School to compete more successfully in the global marketplace for legal education through its LL.M. programs, which bring additional revenues to the Law School.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

A. Hire a Faculty Member in International and/or Domestic Human Rights

Potential hires might include a new faculty member in Human Rights and Environmental Justice who would teach and conduct research at the intersection of human rights and the environment, build relationships with faculty in Storrs at the Business School, Environmental Studies Program (housed at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), and Human Rights Institute, and complement the research initiative in the Center in Energy and Environmental Law. Another example would be a faculty hire in Human Rights and Health, who would teach and research in areas such as global health or health and civil rights in the United States, complement the Law School program in Insurance, Risk and Regulation, and build relationships with faculty in Storrs at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at the Human Rights Institute, the Office of
Global Affairs, and at the UConn Health Center.

### B. Develop an LL.M. in Human Rights and Social Justice

The Law School already has a strong LL.M. program and the capacity to grow larger. Increasingly international students from China and the Middle East are seeking to take classes in human rights and graduate with a Certificate in Human Rights. By expanding the umbrella to include civil rights and social justice courses, the Law School could offer a highly marketable and appealing LL.M. in Human Rights and Social Justice.

### C. Enhance Clinical Offerings that Advance Human Rights and Social Justice

While existing Law School clinics provide excellent experiences in a wide range of practice settings, we propose to expand clinical offerings that advance human rights and social justice. Such clinics would require staffing, ideally through clinical faculty hires and corresponding administrative support.

An International Human Rights Clinic, for example, would expose students and faculty to international law, a unique hybrid of civil and common law traditions. Through the Dodd Human Rights Prize, UConn already has excellent contacts with attorneys arguing cases before the Inter-American Court and Commission on Human Rights, and these provide an opportunity to participate in human rights cases and in amicus briefs. Many of the schools that we compete against have international human rights clinics; however, ours would have an additional focus shared only with a few other law school clinics nationally. Offering a clinic that would focus not only on international courts, but also on the intersection of human rights and civil rights, with particular emphasis on advocacy within the United States, would be a distinctive offering. The aim would be to bring international human rights law (e.g., from the European Court of Human Rights) into U.S. courts, where it is relevant.

Similarly, a Civil Litigation Clinic would provide students with training in essential litigation skills that would enable them to advocate on behalf of low-income clients in matters such as child custody disputes, housing evictions, foreclosure actions, and other types of civil actions. The lack of affordable representation in these ar-
STRAIGHT STRATEGIC AREA #3:
ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

GOALS

• Build a national reputation as a leading law school for the study and practice of energy and environmental law
• Develop scholarly partnerships with other UConn units which will lead to more external funding opportunities, conferences, workshops, and joint publications
• Contribute to significant policy-making initiatives on energy and environmental law in Connecticut and beyond

CURRENT STRENGTHS

Connecticut and the Northeast are dynamic laboratories for innovation in environmental protection, creative renewable energy regulation, climate adaptation responses, and land-use responses in settings that range across almost every natural and man-made environmental challenge. Our graduates practice in areas directly or indirectly influenced by the business, policy, and legal aspects of energy or environmental law.

Strategic investment in the Law School’s energy and environmental law program can solidify the Law School’s academic reputation in these areas, while building interdisciplinary bridges with other UConn initiatives and engaging public, private, and non-profit partners. Growing worldwide demands for energy pose environmental challenges of vital importance, including climate change and the rapid degradation and depletion of the earth’s natural resources. Addressing these challenges requires not just scientific expertise, but legal vision to facilitate technological advances and guide policy transformation. Energy law is therefore a growth area in a tough legal market.

The Law School positioned itself to be a leader in the integrated study of energy and environmental law with the establishment of the Center for Energy and Environmental Law (CEEL) in 2010 and subsequent creation of a certificate in Energy and Environmental Law. The program has already proven to be a draw for students to the Law School, and nearly 10 percent of last year’s graduates earned a certificate in this area. With a recognized and growing preeminence in sustainable energy science, UConn is also a natural home for a leading environmental energy law program. However the pending retirement of a Law School faculty member specializing in environmental law, the expiration of grant funding for CEEL, and other gaps in faculty coverage mean that additional investment in the near term is required to minimize the

COURSES LEADING TO THE CEEL CERTIFICATE

• Administrative Law
• Advanced Energy Writing Seminar
• Climate Law
• Clinic: CEEL Externship
• Clinic: Environmental Law
• Clinic: Energy and Environmental Law Practice
• Energy Regulation and Policy
• Energy Law
• Environmental and Toxic Torts
• Environmental/Land Use
• Environmental Law
• Environmental Law of the EU
• International Environmental Law
• Land Use
• Natural Resources Law
• Renewable Energy and Green Building Law
• Renewable Energy Law
erosion of the Law School’s recent successes—and build for the future.

Only a handful of law schools nationwide—including Berkeley, Chicago-Kent, Colorado, University of Houston, Pace, Tulane, Vermont, and Willamette—integrate energy and environmental law. Unique among these institutions, the Law School is the only one to combine three important characteristics: (1) it is part of a major research university, with access to preeminent technical experts; (2) it is located in a state capitol, which enhances access to the policymakers who play an important role in energy and environmental regulation; and (3) it is located in a financial services hub (Hartford) within a major technology corridor (New York-Boston), which facilitates the formation of crucial partnerships with entrepreneurs and industry leaders.

CEEL’s affiliated faculty members are significant players in environment and energy scholarship and policy. Highly desirable law school applicants have chosen our program because of our curricular offerings and ability to engage with state policymakers.

The Law School already offers an interdisciplinary curriculum that incorporates environmental law, energy law, natural resources law, administrative governance, and land use. Specialized courses in international environmental law, toxic torts, environmental land use, and sustainability are also offered regularly.

CEEL also coordinates externships with Connecticut’s executive and legislative branches; federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; utility companies including Northeast Utilities; and private entities. Three clinics in energy and environmental law provide addi-

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: EXISTING INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES WITHIN UCONN**

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING:**
- Law School and Engineering faculty are currently coordinating external grant opportunities (e.g., on water monitoring and testing regulation related to hydrofracking)
- Law School faculty have been listed on several external grant applications

**UCONN-WIDE:**
- Joint conference on Strategic Water Resources Planning at Law School

**GRADUATE SCHOOL (CESE):**
- Law School faculty have been appointed faculty affiliates for Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering

**AVERY POINT/COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES:**
- Joint conference on Climate Resilience planned at Law School

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES/COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES/GRADUATE SCHOOL (CESE):**
- Planning underway for Master’s in Environmental Management (tentative title)

**AVERY POINT**
- Joint conference on Coastal Climate Adaptation at Law School
- Jointly edited publication of conference papers in peer-reviewed journal
tional options for students seeking hands-on experience.

The Law School greatly benefits from its connections to other UConn units. The UConn Avery Point campus and Sea Grant have co-sponsored events with CEEL, and CEEL faculty members have frequent contact with leaders of the UConn Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, which counts over seventy-five interdisciplinary faculty members (including two members of the Law School faculty) as affiliates. Law School faculty members helped advance legislation regarding the new Center for Climate Resiliency and anticipate remaining involved as that Center develops. UConn’s new Center for Energy Innovation, a partnership with Fraunhofer USA and the State of Connecticut, also presents new opportunities. CEEL has also worked closely with the Insurance Law Center on several initiatives, including a well-attended conference entitled “Climate Change Risks and Liability: The Future of Insurance and Litigation.” Thus investment in energy and environmental law has the capacity to strengthen other Law School strategic areas.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

A. Hire at Least One Faculty Member Focusing on Energy and/or Environmental Law

We propose to hire at least one tenured or tenure-track faculty member focusing on energy and/or environmental law to anchor the program, following the retirement of a long-time faculty member. This would enable the Law School to expand its course offerings, including creating interdisciplinary courses and research and experiential learning opportunities for students with other UConn units.

The new hire(s) will facilitate efforts to expand collaborative research projects between the Law School faculty and other UConn faculty to introduce law and policy elements to projects relating to energy or environmental science. For example, a Law School faculty member doing research in fuel cell development or water rights could collaborate on grants with fac-
STRATEGIC AREA #4: LAW, MIND, AND COGNITION

GOALS

• Build a national reputation as a leading law school for the integrated study of law, mind and cognition
• Develop scholarly partnerships with other UConn units that will enhance the reputation of UConn and lead to cutting edge research and new external funding opportunities in the area of law, mind, and cognition
• Work to inform the important policy debates in Connecticut and nationally that are affected by individual and group decision making and psychological factors, including child welfare policy, criminal law topics in law, mind, and cognition

LEGAL TOPICS IN LAW, MIND, AND COGNITION

- Criminal Law
- Evidence
- Elder Law
- Evidence
- Family Law
- Health Law
- Law and Psychology
- Legal Profession
- Mediation
- Negotiation

STRATEGIC AREA #4: LAW, MIND, AND COGNITION

GOALS

• Build a national reputation as a leading law school for the integrated study of law, mind and cognition
• Develop scholarly partnerships with other UConn units that will enhance the reputation of UConn and lead to cutting edge research and new external funding opportunities in the area of law, mind, and cognition
• Work to inform the important policy debates in Connecticut and nationally that are affected by individual and group decision making and psychological factors, including child welfare policy, criminal

As another example, a new clinical Law School faculty hire could develop a clinic with the School of Business advising energy technology entrepreneurs, or the new faculty member could develop a clinic with the School of Engineering and/or the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources developing legal frameworks to facilitate technical advancements getting to market. Other UConn units where CEEL has a natural affiliation are the Center for Land Use Education and Research, the Geography department, and the Center for Real Estate and Urban Economic Studies.

B. Develop a Dual Degree Program

CEEL faculty members are currently collaborating with faculty across UConn to develop a dual degree program and other opportunities for students with an environmental science and law focus. We have been encouraging the creation of a Master’s degree, tentatively in Environmental Management, for which Law School courses would be required.

Such a Master’s degree would be developed in coordination with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Graduate School’s Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering.

Dependent upon faculty interest inside and outside of the Law School, other combined degree programs could consist of a degree connecting land use law with a compatible technical degree such as engineering or environmental science, possibly granted in combination with UConn’s Fraunhofer Center for Energy Innovation in Storrs.

C. Stabilize and Expand CEEL

In just three years, CEEL has become a well-known center on energy and the environment. However, the program has never been fully funded, nor has it been a permanent budget line item. Only in recent weeks has the funding line and directorship achieved the very beginnings of stability—greatly expanding what can be achieved.

Over the long term, the Law School should develop the infrastructure for CEEL to grow. Stable programmatic funding would allow for expanding our scholarly footprint beyond the well-attended programs we have held, and the written research we have already sponsored and published.

With the right resources, CEEL could become a think tank for energy and environmental policy research and advising services for public and private entities. Paying clients could in turn help support full-time research associates doing policy research on innovative areas.
law policies, employee and organizational behavior, professional ethics, environmental policy, mental health care policy, and gun violence

CURRENT STRENGTHS

A number of Law School faculty members are well-established scholars in the area of law, mind and cognition. The Law School engages in an array of exciting and innovative research and teaching related to the area, particularly in criminal law, family law, health law and disability law. Some faculty members apply ideas from psychology to help analyze and answer legal questions about the intent, consent, motivation and decision-making of legal actors. Faculty members bring concepts from clinical psychology, organizational psychology, social psychology, philosophy of the mind, linguistics, psychoanalysis, and behavioral finance to bear on issues such as mens rea, prenuptial agreements, sexual autonomy, trauma, false confessions, and consumer decision-making.

Faculty members also incorporate psychological research into their teaching in courses and clinics, including Criminal Law, Elder Law, Evidence, Family Law, Law and Psychology, Legal Profession, the Mediation Clinic, and Negotiation, to name just a few.

The focus on human cognition and decision-making benefits students in a number of ways. Lawyers who understand the concept of cognitive bias and are familiar with its common forms are much better equipped to correctly evaluate clients’ legal matters and to counsel them to reach decisions that truly serve their best interests. Lawyers schooled in the subtleties of human persuasion are more effective advocates in the courtroom as well as at the negotiating table. Those with an appreciation for the complexities of human perception and response are better able to predict how different actors might react to a proposed course of action, thus facilitating strategic planning and problem-solving. Indeed, it is difficult to identify an aspect of legal practice in which lawyers with a rich multidisciplinary grounding in these areas will not be better able to serve their clients.

The Law School is in the early stages of developing an innovative Program on Law, Mind, and Cognition that would pull together the best work being done in neuroscience and the brain sciences with research being carried out in the field of psychology. In view of a growing understanding of human cognitive processes and behavior, legal scholars are increasingly aware of the need to incorporate findings from biology and neuroscience, psychology (cognitive, evolutionary, moral, organizational, etc.), behavioral economics and other scientific and social science fields into our understanding of how laws should be written and how policies should be implemented. Programs in this area at other law schools generally concentrate on one or the other, but none, to our knowledge, offers a holistic, integrated approach to the study of mind and decision-making.

The Program at the Law School would give structure to the teaching and research now being done and contribute to UConn’s overall strengths in Mind, Brain and Cognition. It would also provide a place for UConn faculty to come together and explore opportunities for cutting edge interdiscipli-
plinary research and help translate academic research in other UConn units into substantive changes in law and policy. In collaboration with faculty from the School of Medicine, School of Social Work, Business School, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Law School has the potential to be a leader in the national and international dialogue about the implications of mind and brain research for law.

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

**A. Establish a Program for the Study of Law, Mind, and Cognition**

A Program for the Study of Law, Mind, and Cognition will be anchored by the creation of a Chair in Law, Mind and Cognition at the Law School and the recruitment of a nationally-renowned expert in the field to establish and lead the Program. The Program would encourage collaboration and help establish the Law School as a leader in the area through interdisciplinary conferences bringing together legal scholars exploring work on mind, brain and cognition. Also of importance would be hosting annual UConn-wide workshops to which faculty from other UConn schools and departments are invited to increase collaboration within UConn in the area of Law, Mind and Cognition.

**B. Develop a Dual Degree Program with the Psychology Department**

A dual degree Ph.D./J.D. program exists at only a few law schools, such as Stanford and Arizona State University. Offering such a dual degree would propel the Law School into a special class of law schools with expertise in law and psychology. It would also be a center for cross-training, cross-consulting and research. UConn is uniquely placed to house CIDRESS because its Law, Social Work and Medical School faculty have an extraordinary level of knowledge and experience in refugee legal representation, in mental health and social work needs of refugees, in interdisciplinary training and collaborations, and in secondary trauma management. CIDRESS would include one of the first structured secondary trauma programs for students as well as a unique training program for adjudicators and government attorneys on topics such as the impact of trauma on testimony and credibility findings. CIDRESS would be anchored by the hire of an individual holding both a J.D. degree and an MSW degree.

**C. Establish the Collaboration for Interdisciplinary Refugee Studies and Services**

The Collaboration for Interdisciplinary Refugee Studies and Services (CIDRESS) would be a unique, cutting edge interdisciplinary program between the Law School, the School of Social Work and the Health Center. The program would provide integrated legal and social services to refugees seeking asylum in the United States.
In addition to the four strategic areas identified above, the University of Connecticut School of Law has distinctive, nationally-recognized strengths in four additional key subject matter areas:

- Intellectual Property and Innovation
- Tax Law
- Clinical and Experiential Education
- Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences

These strengths should continue to receive Law School and UConn attention. They correspond to UConn’s strategic areas as follows:
STRENGTH #1: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION

Intellectual property rights facilitate and strengthen the accelerated push for innovation happening in Connecticut and around the globe. As science has opened new areas of discovery, law and public policy have been challenged to keep pace, whether on issues of bioethics, privacy of personal information, or the tension between information flow and intellectual property rights. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2013 decision in Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics reshaped genetic testing and research when it held that synthetically-created DNA could be patented. The Law School has long been strong in intellectual property law and can be an important contributor as UConn seeks to lead in scientific discovery and technological job creation.

The Law School has offered students an intellectual property law certificate since 2001. The distinctive Law School curriculum includes an elective Intellectual Property course for first year law students, over a dozen additional core courses, and an in-house legal clinic that provides students with the opportunity to work with experienced intellectual property attorneys and gain real world exposure to intellectual property legal issues that are encountered on a day-to-day basis in private and corporate law practice. Our graduates are intellectual property lawyers in AmLaw 100 law firms, and hold top management positions at Fortune 100 companies such as United Technologies, including Pratt and Whitney and Sikorsky Military Systems, as well as numerous other leaders of technological development in the state.

Intellectual property accounts for over half of all U.S. exports, and the faculty at UConn has significant expertise in international and comparative intellectual property law. The Law School also regularly sends a delegation of students to Geneva to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the UN agency responsible for administering major international intellectual property conventions, for discussions of global intellectual property issues facing small and medium-sized industries. This expertise and these activities attract foreign students and integrate with the Law School’s
broader commitments to international law. In 2007, as part of the UConn Connecticut Center on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Law School launched the Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic. The faculty members at the Clinic are experienced intellectual property practitioners with expertise in handling complex intellectual property matters across a broad spectrum of technological and creative disciplines.

In 2008, the Clinic was selected as one of the original six law school legal clinics in the country whose students are permitted to practice intellectual property law before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. With faculty guidance, students in the Clinic assist individuals, start-ups and small businesses in patenting their inventions, protecting their artistic and literary creations, and federally registering their trademarks. Since its founding, the Clinic has served hundreds of clients throughout Connecticut. To date, the Clinic has filed 29 provisional patent applications, 47 non-provisional patent applications (10 of which have resulted in issued patents) and has registered 100 trademarks.

Legal expertise in handling intellectual property matters helps drive technological innovation in Connecticut and facilitates the economic benefit of scientific breakthroughs by UConn, its industry partners and the private sector. This is being accomplished by the Clinic through working relationships with the UConn Business School and STEM Schools, supporting the activities of small business incubators such as Connecticut Innovations, Inc., and forging relationships with local bar and other small business associations.

**SAMPLE INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES WITHIN UCONN**

**BUSINESS SCHOOL:**
- Collaboration between Law School’s Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic and Business School’s CT Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES:**

**STRENGTH #2: TAX LAW**

The Law School's tax offerings cover core and advanced topics of federal and state tax law, highlighting the faculty’s specialties in tax policy, state taxation, and clinical tax practice.

Most J.D. candidates take the introductory course in federal income tax, usually offered three times a year. Partnership tax, corporate tax, international tax, state tax, and the taxation of trusts and estates provide a second tier of basic courses. Faculty also regularly offer courses on American Indian tax, tax-exempt organizations, tax policy, and other specialized tax areas. The Tax Clinic, which has received grant funding from the Internal Revenue...
TAX COURSE SAMPLER

- Federal Income Tax
- Federal Taxation of Partners and Partnerships
- Income Taxation of Corporations and Their Shareholders
- International Tax Policy
- Multistate Taxation in the New Millennium
- Estate Planning: Gift and Estate Taxation
- Taxation of American Indians
- Tax Exempt Organizations
- Tax Policy

Service, hones students’ legal skills while providing vital legal assistance to low-income taxpayers. Students who complete 15 hours of tax courses, including a supervised writing project, externship, or clinic in addition to the introductory course, earn a certificate in tax studies.

Full-time faculty members have published widely in several fields related to core and more specialized aspects of the curriculum. One faculty member is widely recognized as one of two or three foremost state tax experts in the United States. Another has long enjoyed recognition as an authority and a reformer in trust administration and estate tax planning. A third has developed what is arguably the country’s best tax clinic and has written related teaching texts and articles.

Distinguished adjunct faculty extend the reach of the curriculum to provide a deep coverage of doctrinal and practical tax subject matter.

SAMPLE INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES WITHIN UCONN

BUSINESS SCHOOL:

- Possible provision of tax law assistance for Business School’s Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Disabled Vets
- Accounting Department supervision of Law School Tax Clinic student preparation of tax returns

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES:

- Presentations by tax law faculty to Philosophy Department

UCONN INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES:

- Research and co-authorship between Law School tax faculty and faculty in partner institutions in Berlin and Aix-en-Provence

STRENGTH #3: CLINICAL AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

The Law School’s long and distinguished history of excellence in practice-based learning dates back to 1967, when its Legal Clinic program opened as one of the pioneer programs in the late-twentieth century law school clinical movement. Nearly fifty years later, the Law School boasts 16 in-house and externship clinics and a semester in D.C. program and remains a leader in clinical and experiential learning.

Last year, the Law School gained national recognition by becoming one of first 15 law schools in the country to require all students to engage in experiential learning before graduating. To satisfy this requirement, students may complete one semester in a faculty-supervised clinical program (including an externship clinic), an individual externship providing high-quality legal supervision and accompanied by a seminar, or a course that includes a substantial component in which students participate in teams or as a group in one or more live lawyering projects.

Through these programs, students serve low-income clients in areas as diverse as criminal law, asylum representation, and tax appeals provide legal assistance to inventors and small businesses, work for judges, non-profits and public agencies,
and serve on state legislative committees and in the Attorney General’s office. Sixty percent of students complete a clinic before graduating—a figure well above that at either our peer schools or law schools nationally. Several years ago, the Law School also created a Pro Bono Pledge Program to encourage students to devote at least 50 hours to pro bono work before graduating. Many students have completed the pledge, some with hundreds of hours of pro bono work. The student-run Public Interest Law Group also sponsors an annual auction, the proceeds from which support to students who receive summer internships in public interest law. The Law School’s faculty, students and staff also make vital contributions to pressing public needs through service on boards and committees, media outreach, legislative testimony, law reform projects, and partnerships in areas such as human rights and public school education.

Clinics at the Law School increasingly partner with different parts of UConn. For example, the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic recently added School of Social Work students to its teams representing victims of human rights abuses. The Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative (CULI) has been working on projects for the City of Hartford with professors from the Business, Social Work, and Engineering Schools. The Intellectual Property Clinic partners with the Business School, and has the potential for further relationships with STEM schools.

While clinics are available to second- and
third-year law students, the Law School has recognized the need to lay a strong foundation in professional skills as part of the first-year curriculum. The Lawyering Process program provides intensive training in legal research and writing in the fall semester of the first year and uses simulation exercises and classroom instruction to introduce the skills of interviewing, counseling and negotiation in the spring. An inter-term Moot Court program provides an intense and engaging way for students to refine their writing and oral advocacy skills.

Notwithstanding the Law School’s strength in clinical education, the strategic expansion of our clinical programs as discussed in Section C above, augmented by an additional clinic focusing primarily on transactional skills, would place the Law School among the very top law schools nationally in this increasingly important component of legal education.

SAMPLE INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES WITHIN UCONN

SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS/SOCIAL WORK/ENGINEERING:
• Coordination by the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative (a Law School clinic) of UConn faculty/students to serve the City of Hartford through the Charter Oak Sustainable Communities Initiative

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
• Collaboration between Law School’s Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic and Business School’s CT Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK/MEDICINE:
• Participation of Masters of Social Work students and psychiatry residents in Asylum & Human Rights Clinic
• Participation of social workers, pediatricians, and psychiatrists in the Law School Center for Children’s Advocacy’s juvenile justice project using a collaborative approach to individual cases and systemic issues

UCONN HEALTH CENTER:
• Law School students assisting lawyers from the Office of the Attorney General providing legal counsel to the Health Center through our externship program

NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:
• Exploration of clinic on Education Law potentially led by Law School adjunct faculty member and Education professor with a courtesy appointment at the Law School

STRENGTH #4: LAW, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Law is at heart an interdisciplinary field, shaping and shaped by all trends in our culture and society. Our faculty excels in interdisciplinary work in the humanities and social sciences. Many faculty members have advanced degrees in fields such as anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, and sociology. More than one-third of our total research faculty members possess doctoral degrees, a proportion that rivals law faculties at Harvard, Stanford, Columbia and NYU.

Several faculty members have been fellows in Princeton’s prestigious Program in Law and Public Affairs; others have won fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Law School

FACULTY DOCTORAL DEGREES
• Anthropology
• Economics (2)
• History (3)
• Jurisprudence and Social Policy (2)
• Literature
• Philosophy (4)
Our faculty includes some of the leading legal historians in the country on issues ranging from the European Union to intellectual property to federal Indian policy to the Supreme Court. They have held important positions in the interdisciplinary national Law and Society Association and its journal, the *Law & Society Review*. Faculty members have won national recognition for their interdisciplinary work, including national book awards, fellowships, and international lectureships.

**SAMPLE INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES WITHIN UCONN**

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES:**
- Dual degree program offering Master of Public Administration
- Joint faculty appointment with the Department of Public Policy
- Faculty affiliation with Roper Center leading to possible events such as one on Public Opinion and the Supreme Court
- Law School faculty teaching courses, such as Canons of Legal Thought and Main Currents in U.S. Legal History, in the Honors Program and elsewhere

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK:**
- Dual degree program offering Master of Social Work
E. CONCLUSION

With established academic strengths in areas such as intellectual property and financial risk and regulation, and emerging expertise in areas like health care, energy law, and law, mind, and cognition, the Law School can affect some of the most important debates in the nation and contribute to crucial economic and social interests of the state. Law School alumni dominate the Connecticut bench, bar, and legislature, and hold prominent positions in government, private practice, and non-profits throughout the country. Our influential alumni base enables us to facilitate implementation of new ideas and initiatives, and our existing strength in clinical education provides a sound base for influential engagement.

The role of law in technological innovation, economic development, and sound public policy, and our recognized excellence in interdisciplinary work create numerous opportunities for collaboration across UConn. The Academic Plan offers the opportunity for increased academic prominence and robust alignment of the Law School with the UConn community.
APPENDIX 1: Relationship between UConn Strategic Areas and Law School Strategic Areas and Strengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAW SCHOOL STRATEGIC AREAS</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC AREAS</th>
<th>LAW SCHOOL STRENGTHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insurance, Risk, and Regulation</td>
<td>Creativity, Innovation, &amp; Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Intellectual Property and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International and Domestic Human Rights</td>
<td>Human Diversity, Disparity, &amp; Rights</td>
<td>Tax Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Environmental Law</td>
<td>Sustain Environment &amp; Enhance Resilience</td>
<td>Clinical and Experiential Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law, Mind, and Cognition</td>
<td>Brain, Mind, &amp; Cognition</td>
<td>Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Artists, Scholars, &amp; Public Discourse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## APPENDIX 2: Centers, Clinics, and Outreach Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University and Law School Centers</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Program Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Law Center</td>
<td>Study of insurance law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Energy and the Environment (CEEL)</td>
<td>Study of energy and environmental law</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-House and Partnership Clinics</th>
<th>Parties Served</th>
<th>Program Impact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum and Human Rights Clinic</td>
<td>Individuals seeking political asylum and related forms of relief under immigration laws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Children’s Advocacy</td>
<td>Children and adolescents living at or below the poverty level or whose families are recipients of needs-based programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative</td>
<td>Primarily nonprofit organizations, housing authorities and municipalities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Appellate Clinic</td>
<td>Individual defendants, primarily of limited means, in criminal appeals and other post-conviction proceedings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Trial Clinic</td>
<td>Individual defendants, primarily of limited means, in criminal trial-level proceedings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy and Environmental Law Practice Clinic</td>
<td>Individuals and businesses that cannot afford private representation, or otherwise lack access to the private bar, in environmental matters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic</td>
<td>Individual entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small businesses seeking help with the solicitation and procurement of patents and trademarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediation Clinic</td>
<td>Parties in employment discrimination disputes brought before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Clinic</td>
<td>Low-income taxpayers</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Externship Clinics Placements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Externship Clinics</th>
<th>Placements</th>
<th>Program Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEEL Externship Clinic</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, General Assembly Committee on the Environment, public utilities, and law firms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Law Clinic</td>
<td>Connecticut Fund for the Environment, a nonprofit advocacy organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial Clinic</td>
<td>State and federal judges</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Clinic</td>
<td>Connecticut General Assembly members, committees, and staff</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Law Clinic</td>
<td>One of Connecticut's legal services organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester in Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Federal agencies (such as the Treasury Department and Department of Energy, offices of U.S. Senators, and nonprofit organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State's Attorney's Clinic</td>
<td>Connecticut state prosecutors' officers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Attorney's Externship Clinic</td>
<td>Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Attorney's offices in New Haven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outreach Programs Parties Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Programs</th>
<th>Parties Served</th>
<th>Program Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hartford Family Court Project</td>
<td>Pro se individuals in family court</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Experience Legal Protection</td>
<td>Homeless individuals currently residing in shelters in Hartford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the Power on Clinic</td>
<td>Low-income renters and homeowners</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project</td>
<td>Students in public high school in South End of Hartford</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Street Law</td>
<td>Students in Hartford public high schools</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Truancy Intervention Program</td>
<td>Middle school students in New Britain and New Haven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Income Tax Assistance</td>
<td>Low-income taxpayers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>