From helping veterans get the benefits they earned, to briefing and arguing constitutional claims in the United States Courts of Appeals, our students have the opportunity to practice their lawyering skills and professional judgment while working closely with supervising attorneys. These professors are leaders in their fields who recognize the value that close mentorship, guided reflection, and exploration of professional responsibility and social justice in the context of client representation can have on a legal education.

“For those to whom much is given, much is required.” This quote from President Kennedy embodies the spirit of the William & Mary students who devote their time and talent to those who lack the means to obtain the justice they deserve. Our clinical program—featuring nine clinics with more than 150 positions for 2L and 3L students—addresses the unmet legal needs of our community while strengthening skills and a sense of responsibility among our students. We expect much of our clinic students, and they do not disappoint. Their passion and dedication to their clinic work is inspirational, and forms a solid foundation for their future pro bono work and ethical practice of law.

Patricia E. Roberts
Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Clinical Programs
The Puller Clinic assists veterans with claims for disability compensation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as discharge upgrades and medical separations. Students interview clients, analyze medical records, communicate with health care providers, draft briefs and appeals, and craft strategies to address the needs of veteran clients through interprofessional partnerships with other universities. The Puller Clinic has captured national attention and has been hailed on Capitol Hill as a model for law schools across the country.

Patricia E. Roberts, Managing Attorney
Appellate and Supreme Court Clinic

Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic

The Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic provides science-based legal and policy analysis of environmental and land use issues affecting coastal resources. Students work in partnership with Virginia scientists from William & Mary’s Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Virginia Sea Grant, examining issues ranging from property rights to federalism. The clinic’s activities are inherently interprofessional, so students are trained to work with scientists, local policymakers, nonprofits, private citizens, and the business and military communities, engaging them in discussion and adaptation planning concerning the most complex coastal resource management issues facing Virginia and the nation.

Roy A. Hoagland, Managing Attorney
Special Education Advocacy Clinic

The Parents Engaged for Learning Equality (PELE) Special Education Advocacy Clinic assists children with special needs and their families with eligibility, Individualized Education Programs, discipline matters, mediation, and administrative hearings, empowering families by teaching them how to advocate for their children’s rights under the law. The PELE clinic also hosts a nationally recognized Institute in Special Education Advocacy each summer for attorneys, advocates, and law students from across the country.

Crystal S. Shin, Managing Attorney
Domestic Violence Clinic

The Domestic Violence Clinic provides 3Ls the opportunity to interview victims and witnesses, provide advice and counsel to those victims, and represent them in court when appropriate. Through work with a local shelter, this clinic is expanding to provide more holistic civil legal services to victims and their families, helping to address the significant impact that violence can have on entire families in every facet of their lives.

Darryl W. Cunningham, Managing Attorney

Elder Law Clinic

Elder Law Clinic students assist low-income seniors in planning for long-term care needs, creating necessary documents to ensure their privacy and protection, advocating for necessary services and resources, and addressing their immediate legal needs in areas such as housing, elder abuse, guardianship and conservatorship, competency, Medicaid and Medicare, estate planning, consumer protection, and veterans’ pension benefits.

Helena S. Mock, Managing Attorney

Family Law Clinic

Family Law Clinic students are 3Ls who work in the Williamsburg office of the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, providing legal services to low-income clients who address family law needs such as divorce, custody, support, and equitable distribution matters.

Darryl W. Cunningham, Managing Attorney

Federal Tax Clinic

The Federal Tax Clinic teaches 3Ls federal tax practice and procedure, and prepares them to assist in the representation of low-income Virginia taxpayers before the IRS, U.S. Tax Court, and U.S. District Court by handling cases referred by the Community Tax Law Project.

Craig D. Bell, Managing Attorney

Innocence Project Clinic

Students in the Innocence Project Clinic participate in the legal investigation and research of inmate claims of actual innocence. Students interview inmates and witnesses, search for DNA and other forensic evidence, review trial transcripts, and research and prepare written summaries of the cases referred to the Clinic by the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project (MAIP). MAIP uses the students’ work as a basis for determining which cases to pursue.

Frederick R. Gerson, Managing Attorney