The Health Justice Project is an interdisciplinary live-client clinic in which law, medical, public health and social work students participate in a medical-legal partnership between Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Erie Family Health Center. Students and practitioners of diverse professions collaborate to resolve health-related social and legal issues. Law students participate in the Health Justice Project as Client Advocates, Student Attorneys, and Policy Advocates.

Client Advocates (2L, 3L)

*Introduction to Health Justice (754)*

Once a legal or social issue is identified by a health partner, Client Advocates conduct an initial interview and intake and, through direct interaction with clients, practice issue spotting, interviewing and creative problem solving. Clients may present with a variety of matters related to health, such as poor housing conditions, medical debt, disability, special education needs, public benefits denials and other critical issues. Students also gain an understanding of interdisciplinary collaboration in the practice of law and an overview of legal systems that respond to poverty and health disparities. Faculty permission required.

Student Attorneys (3L)

*Health Justice Project (755); Advanced Health Justice Project (757)*

Student Attorneys address the social, legal and systemic barriers that prevent long-term health and stability for low-income individuals and families in Chicago. Case subject matter may include housing, public benefits, disability and other areas of law. Student Attorneys attend hearings and court appearances, participate in an interdisciplinary partnership and tend to other client matters throughout the semester. Enrollment in the Health Justice Project requires a significant time commitment and flexibility in the student’s schedule. Students who have successfully completed the Health Justice Project (755) and Interdisciplinary Health Advocacy (756) may enroll in Advanced Health Justice (757), in which they will continue to represent clients and complete projects responsive to the needs identified during their clinical experience. Student Attorneys must enroll in both the Health Justice Project and Interdisciplinary Health Advocacy. Faculty permission required.

*Interdisciplinary Health Advocacy (756)*

Students join an interdisciplinary team to address the health problems of low-income patients. Students partner with law students, medical students and residents, social work students, and health providers to address the needs of patients and explore communication and ethical issues among disciplines. Students provide training to healthcare providers who work with low-income patients so that they can screen for and identify social and legal issues that negatively affect health. Students actively participate in precepting (medical case rounds), didactics (medical lecture) and grand rounds at Erie Family Health Center. Student Attorneys must enroll in both the Health Justice Project and Interdisciplinary Health Advocacy. Faculty permission required.

Policy Advocates (2L, 3L)

*Health Justice Policy (761)*

Policy Advocates engage in multiple activities that may include the representation of a national organization and the development of policy approaches to support access to health for low-income individuals. Students practice legislative lawyering skills, which may include stakeholder analysis, legal research and drafting, creative problem solving, interdisciplinary collaboration, among others. Students also work on an interdisciplinary team that includes social work and medical students. Faculty permission required.