

# LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW

# Health Justice Project



## Interdisciplinary Approach

Students work in teams of law students, social work students, and medical students to identify and holistically resolve social determinants of health that negatively affect the health and well-being of vulnerable populations in Chicago. Through this approach, students learn in a real-time, crossdisciplinary setting and work collaboratively to address clients' health-harming legal needs. Throughout a semester with the HJP clinic, students may also participate in outreach and education for medical partners and their patients, develop resources for patients and providers, and engage in upstream or policy advocacy.

## Medical-Legal Partnership ("MLP")

The Health Justice Project (HJP) collaborates with Loyola Medicine and Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine, extending its reach to the near western suburbs of Chicago. The Maywood MLP serves vulnerable patients through an on-site presence at Loyola Medicine Maywood-Roosevelt Road, an outpatient clinic in Maywood, Illinois, and by accepting referrals for legal and social services from Loyola Medicine's Family Medicine Department and outpatient clinics. Students enrolled in the HJP Clinic play a vital role in the Maywood MLP and gain valuable hands-on experience representing clients on a range of legal issues impacting their health and well-being.

## Priorities and Practice Areas

The priorities of the HJP are to improve access to health care and healthy housing and to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Practice areas vary each semester depending on the issues identified by our health partners but may include public benefits, housing, utilities, medical debt, family law, education, immigration, and other areas of law affecting health and well-being.

"The Health Justice Project has undoubtedly shaped who I am as an advocate and individual. My most proud moment as a student advocate was telling my client that we won her appeal against the state of Illinois and her medically fragile and technology-dependent son would receive the home care nursing hours and life-long insurance that he needed. My experiences at HJP have showed me that as an attorney, I can affect systemic change, while working with individual clients to make their lives better. I am so grateful for the HJP and the incredible learning experiences I have had there."

- Lauren Koch, Class of 2021



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## HJP Faculty

**Kate Mitchell, Director, Health Justice Project & Clinical Professor of Law**  
([kmitchell9@luc.edu](mailto:kmitchell9@luc.edu))

Professor Mitchell joined the Health Justice Project after more than 16 years practicing and teaching in the areas of poverty law, children's rights and health law.

**Alice Setrini, Clinical Teaching Fellow**  
([asetrini@luc.edu](mailto:asetrini@luc.edu))

Professor Setrini returned to the Health Justice Project in 2023 as a Clinical Teaching Fellow, after serving as the executive director of the Jaharis Health Law Institute at DePaul College of Law.

**Martha Laura Garcia-Izaguirre, Supervising Attorney & Clinical Fellow**  
([mgarcia15@luc.edu](mailto:mgarcia15@luc.edu))

Martha Laura Garcia-Izaguirre (Laura) joins Loyola's Health Justice Project as a Supervising Attorney and Clinical Fellow. Laura comes to Loyola with several years of experience providing direct immigration legal services to underserved immigrant populations across New Mexico and Illinois.

**Carrie Chapman, Adjunct Professor, Health Justice Policy Practicum**  
([cchapman@legalcouncil.org](mailto:cchapman@legalcouncil.org))

As the Deputy Executive Director of Program and Policy, Carrie oversees litigation, and legislative and administrative advocacy at Legal Council for Health Justice. Carrie has extensive experience serving low-income people through litigation.

## HJP Clinic Opportunities

### **HJP Clinic**

4 credits

Weekly two-hour seminar class

### **Advanced HJP**

2-4 credits

Biweekly one-hour seminar class

### **Access to Healthcare**

(Spring only)

3 credits

Health equity course culminating in a week-long trip to Mississippi during spring break

### **Health Justice Policy Practicum**

(Spring only)

3 credits

Online evening course centered on policy projects with the Legal Council for Health Justice and other nonprofits

There are **no prerequisites** for the HJP. Students who complete a semester of the HJP clinic can also be considered for Advanced HJP.

Each year, the HJP selects a Health Justice Project Fellow who is awarded a **\$3,000 scholarship**.