



# Students as Clients:

## Reflections on Models of University-Based Legal Services

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Presented by

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# Introductions

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# Narrative 1: Immigration Clinic

# Narrative 2: Community Enterprise Clinic

## Issue Spotting

- What are the benefits of university-based legal services?
  - Benefits to the (1) student-client, (2) clinical law student, (3) clinic, (4) university
- What are the challenges of university-based legal services?
  - Challenges to the (1) student-client, (2) clinical law student, (3) clinic, (4) university

# Discussion

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- What are the benefits of university-based legal services?
  - Benefits to the (1) student-client, (2) clinical law student, (3) clinic, (4) university
- What are the challenges of university-based legal services?
  - Challenges to the (1) student-client, (2) clinical law student, (3) clinic, (4) university
- In light of the challenges, what are the best practices?

# University-Based Legal Services: Benefits, Challenges, and Best Practices

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# Benefits of University-Based Legal Services

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- **Student-Client**
  - Enhance student-client's educational experience and success by addressing legal needs
  - Reduce student-client's stress levels
  - Accessibility of legal services is client-centered - convenient location and free
  - Early legal intervention may be critical where legal options are tied to student-client's age
- **Clinical Law Student**
  - Opportunity to strengthen professional identity, given challenge of representing peers
  - Student-to-student representation leverages trust and rapport established by peers
  - Connection to student experience; making a difference in own campus community
- **Clinic**
  - Avenue to identify more clients from student population
  - Built-in outreach infrastructure through university outlets
  - Leverage campus resources to assist student-clients (e.g. international office, mental health services, diversity and inclusion centers, etc.)
- **University**
  - Collaboration between law school and main campus
  - Enhances a sense of belonging and inclusion for students

# Challenges of University-Based Legal Services

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As discussed,

- Students Representing Students
- Outreach
- Institutional Concerns

# Best Practices of University-Based Legal Services

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- **Students Representing Students**

- Develop student attorney's professional identity; raise issues of confidentiality, boundaries, and professional development to discuss in supervision and case rounds; have student attorney set clear expectations for student-client in working with law student
- Highlight importance of confidentiality in campus community, wall-off sensitive information from parties who don't need access, clear protocols for storing information and disposing of client information, use initials in public-facing documents/whiteboard

# Best Practices of University-Based Legal Services

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- **Outreach**

- Integrate clinic information into orientation events/materials for new students
- Account for diversity of student body (race, age, etc.) in outreach methods and materials
- Leverage university infrastructure for outreach, e.g. social media, web, flyers, student groups
- Create referral networks with other campus offices and services
- Host work-study students and student interns who can conduct peer-to-peer outreach
- Hold consistent “office hours” for drop-in to account for students’ busy and sometimes unpredictable schedules
- Set up online platform for scheduling appointments easily

# Best Practices of University-Based Legal Services

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- **Institutional Concerns**

- Be aware of and evaluate conflicts of interest with university as institution
  - E.g. Intellectual property - student-developed technology but maybe the university has interest in as host institution
  - E.g. University reputation - if entrepreneurship clinic serves student business with ethical or legal ramifications
- Conduct a needs assessment and define the scope of your legal clinic - assess what other offices or programs, internal or external to university, may offer overlapping services and where there are gaps in services
  - E.g. International Office works with international students on immigration issues
  - E.g. Local non-profit serves university students

# Resources

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- [Defending the AU Dream Initiative, AU Washington College of Law](#)
- [UC Berkeley Undocumented Student Program | Discover Our Model](#)
  - California Law Review: “[Discover Our Model: The Critical Need for School-Based Immigration Legal Services](#),” Perna Lal and Mindy Phillips
- [Harvard Representation Initiative](#)
- [Michigan Law Entrepreneurship Clinic](#)

# How to Contact Us

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