

# HEALTH LAW

## PROGRAM

### HEALTH LAW & POLICY INSTITUTE

UHLC's Health Law & Policy Institute offers one of the nation's top-ranked programs in health law – it is consistently ranked among the Top 10 by U.S. News and World Report. The Institute works to advance understanding of health law issues and to provide guidance for significant policy decisions affecting every element of health care. [law.uh.edu/healthlaw/](http://law.uh.edu/healthlaw/)

### TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

Only minutes from the UHLC campus, the Texas Medical Center is the world's largest medical complex, consisting of 14 hospitals; numerous research facilities; nine schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, optometry, and public health; and institutes of health policy analysis and the study of bioethics. As a result of the intense activity at the Texas Medical Center, Houston is home to a burgeoning health law practice, giving UHLC students unique opportunities for interdisciplinary study and professional interaction.

### HEALTH LAW EXTERNSHIPS

J.D. students may earn academic credit for externships in nonprofit organizations or government agencies, many of which are located in the nearby Texas Medical Center. The Health Law Externship Program is administered through the Law Center's Clinical Legal Education Program. While externships can be conducted in any jurisdiction, numerous placements are available in the Houston area, including hospital general counsel offices, risk management departments, government agencies, legislative bodies, and nonprofit advocacy groups ([law.uh.edu/externship/externship.asp](http://law.uh.edu/externship/externship.asp)). Students who are not receiving academic credit for the externship may be eligible to receive funding through the Summer Public Interest Fellowship program ([law.uh.edu/pil/summer.asp](http://law.uh.edu/pil/summer.asp)). Examples of previous placements include:

- Baylor College of Medicine, General Counsel's Office
- CommUnity Care Texas
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Institutional Compliance Office
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Office of General Counsel
- Texas Children's Hospital, Dept. of Risk Management and Safety
- Texas Medical Board
- The Methodist Hospital, Business Practices Office
- The Methodist Hospital, Claims & Litigation Office
- The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)
- TIRR Memorial Hermann – ILRU
- UT Health Science Center



"For the summer of 2015, I received the Health Law & Policy Institute's Health Law Congressional Fellowship to serve as the Health Legislative Fellow in Congressman Gene Green's Washington, D.C. office. As the Health Legislative Fellow, I conducted legislative research, drafted memoranda, and helped prepare materials for hearings before the Subcommittee on Health, on which Congressman Green serves as Ranking Member. I also helped draft a statement for floor action on a bill, as well as statements on health-related current events. I found out about the opportunity through two professors who taught my Health Legislation & Advocacy course. I am deeply grateful to both professors and Congressman Green for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

– BOBBY DALE '17

## UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

- Advanced Health Law
- Biotechnology and the Law
- Children's Rights
- Comparative Health Law
- Disabilities and the Law
- E-Health Law Seminar
- Elder Law
- Employee Benefits Law
- Food and Drug Law
- Forensic Medicine
- Fraud and Abuse
- Genetics and the Law
- Health Care Financing, Organization & Quality
- Health Law Survey: Introduction to Health Law
- Health Law Transactions
- Health Legislation
- Health Privacy
- HIV and the Law
- Insurance Law
- Law and Psychiatry
- Law, Ethics & Brain Policy
- Legal Aspects of Bioethics
- Life and Health Insurance
- Medical Malpractice Litigation
- Medicare
- Mental Health Issues in Criminal Law
- Products Liability
- Public Health Law Seminar
- Regulation of Biomedical Research Seminar
- Regulation of Health Care Professionals
- Rural Health Law
- Scientific Evidence Seminar
- Women and Health Law Seminar

Not all classes are offered every year, and offerings are subject to change.

[law.uh.edu/healthlaw/courses.asp](http://law.uh.edu/healthlaw/courses.asp)

## HOUSTON JOURNAL OF HEALTH LAW & POLICY

The Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy (HJHL&P) is a student-run scholarly publication dedicated to producing the nation's preeminent journal devoted exclusively to the interdisciplinary exploration of health law and policy issues. The journal publishes one symposium issue of professional and student-written articles each year. Membership on HJHL&P helps students sharpen their legal research and writing skills by working closely with faculty advisors, and provides networking opportunities with health law attorneys. Students are invited to participate on the basis of their first year grades or the summer writing competition. [law.uh.edu/hjhlp](http://law.uh.edu/hjhlp)

## HEALTH LAW ORGANIZATION

The Health Law Organization (HLO) is a student-run organization which provides a forum for discussion of the legal, medical, and ethical issues that pertain to health law and policy and the health care industry. HLO sponsors guest speakers, initiates charity fundraisers, provides networking opportunities with faculty and attorneys, and promotes social activities.

[law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp)

## INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

UH Law Center students compete locally and nationally in health-related advocacy competitions through the Blakely Advocacy Institute. In March 2015, Andi Levy, Kyle Seabolt, and Amy Westergen, assisted by Daniel Sternthal of Seyfarth Shaw, won second place at the National Health Law Transactional Moot Court Competition in Chicago, Illinois.

[law.uh.edu/blakely/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/blakely/homepage.asp)

## DUAL DEGREES

Dual degree programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than it would take to complete them separately. Students interested in pursuing this option must apply separately to the UH Law Center and to the desired program. Health-related dual degree programs include:

- **J.D./Masters in Public Health** – The University of Texas School of Public Health
- **J.D./Ph.D. in Medical Humanities** – The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston
- **J.D./M.D.** – Baylor College of Medicine

[law.uh.edu/academic/dual-degree.asp](http://law.uh.edu/academic/dual-degree.asp)

## PLANNING YOUR HEALTH LAW

### CURRICULUM

Students interested in a general introduction to health law should take health law-related courses of all types to gain an appreciation for the wide range of health law issues confronting lawyers and policymakers. Consider taking groupings of courses that are relevant to different careers. Health lawyers may work as private lawyers, government attorneys, lobbyists, legislative staffers, and government officials. A health law practice may involve representing clients in traditional civil or criminal litigation, litigation before administrative agencies, transactional/health care business arrangements, and regulatory/policy development.

Be sure to identify other core and building block courses that might be applicable to your field of study, such as Business Organizations, Evidence, and Federal Income Tax. Develop a curricular plan that takes into account the frequency of the course offerings, as not all courses are offered every year. Lastly, consider interdisciplinary opportunities, such as the dual degree programs. Investigate graduate courses in public health, business, psychology, and social work. Explore the possibility of combining your health law interests with other legal fields to maximize the strength of your law degree.