

Criminal Justice Clinic Impact Report



Beyoncé on tour in London, 2003 (credit
Raph_PH/Creative Commons)

Empowering Justice: UH Law’s Criminal Justice Clinic Mission Strengthened by BeyGOOD Gift

One year after receiving a generous gift from the BeyGOOD Foundation, a charity funded by Houston native, businesswoman, and multiple grammy award-winning recording artist Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, the University of Houston Law Center’s Criminal Justice Clinic is growing its impact in the Greater Houston Community.

The mission was clear from Day One: expand access to justice, educate and empower the next generations of criminal defense attorneys, and make a difference.

The Criminal Justice Clinic provides students with hands-on experience handling real criminal defense cases while exploring the intersection of criminal law and social issues under close faculty supervision.

“Our clinics are foundational to UH Law’s commitment to our neighboring communities, offering accessible legal support to those in need. I’m thankful for generous support of many that fuel our community partnerships, including the BeyGOOD Foundation,” said UH Law Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “Together we will shepherd the next generation of criminal defense lawyers who will lead with integrity and thoughtfulness and shape the future of criminal justice in Houston and beyond.”

The funding enabled the appointment of a full-time director for the clinic. Joshua Lake

was hired as CJC Director and Professor of Practice in 2025. He brings more than a decade of local, state and federal criminal defense experience to the job.

CJC Director Joshua Lake handles direct representation in misdemeanor and felony cases, mentors law students as they gain experience in real-world casework and works to strengthen the clinic's community outreach and engagement. Read more about his journey and vision:

"1 Year of Impact"

- 👤 New CJC Director appointed
- ⚖️ Students handled misdemeanor & felony cases
- 🤝 Community outreach expanded
- 🎓 Experiential learning strengthened



Meet Joshua Lake, UH Law Center's Criminal Justice Clinic Director, Guiding the Next Generation of Criminal Justice Attorneys

Giving UH law students hands-on experience in criminal defense is a key mission of the clinic. From day one, students manage real cases involving misdemeanors such as assault, theft, DWI, and drug possession. They handle all aspects of

representation.

Lake's vision for the clinic is to create an environment where students are treated as attorneys, not observers. They are expected to meet deadlines, communicate with clients clearly and respectfully, and approach every case with the understanding that real lives and futures are at stake.

[Read Joshua Lake's Full Profile](#)

"Students are treated as attorneys, not observers."

— Joshua Lake, CJC Director

Hands-On Learning. Real Clients. Real Change.

UH Law's Criminal Justice Clinic Brings Trials Tactics to Life for Students



UHLC Students Learn Three Pillars of Courtroom Trial Success



Community Outreach

UH Law's Criminal Justice Clinic Partners with Local Goodwill to Bring Free Legal Help to Community

Read about the clinic's first outreach event of the year at a Goodwill Houston event, connecting directly with community members impacted by the criminal justice system.



University of Houston Law Center's Criminal Justice Clinic Director Joshua Lake and UHLC alumna & clinics employee Taylor Daugherty (J.D. '23) connected community members with free legal help and resources at Goodwill Houston's recent "re-entry" career event.