



GEORGETOWN LAW

RACIAL EQUITY IN EDUCATION LAW & POLICY CLINIC

Janel George
Director

Nikola Nable-Juris
Supervisor Attorney

Clinic Description

Georgetown University Law Center's newest Clinic, the Racial Equity in Education Law & Policy Clinic (the REEL Policy Clinic), opened its doors in the Spring of 2022. The REEL Policy Clinic engages law students in legislative and policy advocacy on behalf of clients to promote racial equity within the public education system. This work entails leveraging policy advocacy to address issues that disproportionately impact the educational experiences and outcomes of students of color, including discriminatory school discipline practices, school segregation, resource inequities, and educational approaches that focus on remediation of students of color. Clinic students engage in legislative lawyering on behalf of clients and participate in a twice-weekly seminar that examines substantive issues of educational, constitutional law, and administrative law. Clinic clients include non-profit educational advocacy organizations, student-led groups, parent-led groups, coalitions, and governmental entities, among others. The Clinic employs a Critical Race Theory (CRT) approach to help examine the role of the law and public policy in reproducing racial inequities in education. Clinic students seek legislative, policy, and practice interventions that help to eliminate racial inequality in public education.

The Clinic's Founder and Director is Janel George and the Clinic's Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney is Nikola Nable-Juris.

Students learn the art of legislative lawyering by employing a range of legislative and administrative tools to further clients' goals, including oral and written advocacy (such as delivering testimony before a policymaking body or drafting comment letters in response to a proposed administrative rule), interfacing with policymakers and legislative staff, legal research and writing, analyzing and drafting legislative language, and building relationships through partnerships and coalition participation, among other activities. Through legislative advocacy, students strengthen core lawyering competencies, including creative problem-solving, statutory interpretation, self-reflective lawyering, collaboration, and culturally responsive lawyering.

Clinic students spend an average of 35 hours per week on Clinic matters, including client work and related events, seminar, and other Clinic responsibilities.

Clinical Faculty

Professor George's scholarship focuses on racial stratification in k-12 public education and policy interventions to address it. For the past 15 years, Professor George has worked in the legislative arena, including as a legal fellow and as counsel with several non-profits. She also served as Legislative Counsel in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, during which time her legislative portfolio included issues of civil rights, judiciary, child welfare, health care, and education issues. As Senior Education Policy Counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), she managed a broad range of education issues and worked with several campaigns and coalitions. She began her legal career as a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow with Georgetown University Law Center. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, where she served as a Managing Editor of the Wisconsin Law Review, and she received her B.A. from Spelman College. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

The Clinic's Supervising Attorney and Teaching Fellow is Nikola Nable-Juris. She began her career as a legislative lawyer with the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, leading advocacy campaigns across the country to ban life-without-parole sentences for children. Working alongside formerly incarcerated youth and their family members, her efforts led to bill passage in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Virginia, giving hundreds of people the opportunity to return home. She also worked as a staff attorney at First Shift Justice Project with a focus on D.C.'s paid family leave benefits program and complete Georgetown's Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship with the Initiative on Gender Justice and Opportunity. Nikola earned her J.D. from the University of Maryland in Baltimore and clerked for federal magistrate judges in D.C. and Maryland. After graduating with her B.A. in Cognitive Science and Psychology from the University of Virginia, she worked with pregnant and parenting youth in Juneau, Alaska, and at domestic violence shelters in both Alaska and Virginia. She is the proud parent of two elementary school students at a bilingual D.C. public school and a toddler who can't wait to join them.

Description of the Fellowship

The Clinic is hiring a lawyer to serve as a Clinical Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney for a two-year term, beginning in fall of 2022. The Fellow will have several areas of responsibility, with an increasing role in the Clinic as the fellowship progresses. The Fellow will:

- Supervise students in day-to-day work related to Clinic projects, working closely with students on improving their legislative lawyering skills, including written and oral advocacy and legal and legislative analysis.

- Provide students with formal and informal feedback in timely, constructive, and respectful ways.
- Share responsibility for designing and teaching seminar sessions.
- Take an active role in project development and assist with the administrative and project oversight responsibilities of the Clinic.
- Participate in a clinical pedagogy seminar to strengthen clinical teaching skills and other activities designed to support an interest in clinical teaching and legal education.
- At the end of the fellowship, be awarded an LL.M. in Advocacy from the Law Center.

This fellowship offers an opportunity to work on timely issues of racial justice and education law. Fellows assume substantial responsibility for projects at an early stage of their careers and generally play a more important role in the decision-making process than do their contemporaries in other types of law practice. They also have an opportunity to work on a variety of client matters, at different stages of development, so they gain a broader understanding of how laws and public policies are developed and how the legislative process works.

Fellows work closely with a broad range of clients, meeting others who are involved in public interest law and seeing how the entities function. For those with an interest in clinical teaching, Fellows get first-hand experience in clinical supervision, and also participate in, and often co-teach, seminars.

Qualifications:

- A demonstrated commitment to addressing issues of racial justice and social justice;
- Preferred:
 - Experience in education, policy or legislative advocacy, or racial justice
 - Admission to (or desire to waive into) the District of Columbia Bar.

Pay and Other Benefits:

The annual stipend for the position will be \$57,000 the first year and, \$60,000 the second year, an LL.M. in Advocacy, plus [group health insurance and other benefits](#). The fellowship will start in the summer of 2022 and end in the summer of 2024.

Application Instructions:

Please submit a cover letter, résumé/CV, two references, a writing sample (no longer than 5 pages) preferably by April 15, 2022 (open until filled), and transcript to Katrecia Banks at kb328@georgetown.edu.