

Students interact with clients in a variety of ways, like assisting food policy councils in supporting local food systems, educating farmers market vendors about food safety requirements, and recommending ways to improve food assistance programs for those in need.



MISSION

The Food Law and Policy Clinic of Harvard Law School is a division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI) which works with food providers and producers, consumers, advocates, health and social services professionals, community-based organizations, government officials, and others to expand access to high-quality health care and nutritious, affordable food; reduce health disparities; to develop community advocacy capacity; and promote more equitable and effective healthcare and food systems. CHLPI is a clinical teaching program of Harvard Law School and mentors students to become skilled, innovative, and thoughtful practitioners, as well as leaders in health, public health, and food law and policy. CHLPI includes the Food Law and Policy Clinic and the Health Law and Policy Clinic.

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HarvardFLPC

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STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students in Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) have the unique opportunity to engage in action-based learning to gain a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing our current food system. Students get hands-on experience conducting legal and policy research for individuals, community groups, and government agencies on a wide range of food law and policy issues. They are challenged to develop creative legal and policy solutions to pressing food issues, applying their knowledge from the law school classroom to real-world situations.

FLPC students have the opportunity to practice a number of valuable skills, including: legal research and writing, drafting legislation and regulations, commenting on agency actions, engaging in public speaking and trainings, and community organizing, among others. Students also have the opportunity to travel to meet with clients; for example, FLPC works in places like Mississippi, Tennessee, Navajo Nation, and La Paz, Bolivia.

Students receive credit for their clinical work (3-5 credits/semester), and are also required to enroll in the Food Law and Policy seminar (2 credits). FLPC also offers summer internships to students from law schools, graduate schools, and colleges around the country. We receive a high number of applicants each year for this unique, vibrant and fast-paced summer internship opportunity.

In addition to clinical students, FLPC works closely with 30-40 students each year working on pro bono projects through two student organizations: the Mississippi Delta Project and the Food Law Society.

FOOD LAW & POLICY CLINIC HARVARD LAW SCHOOL



HARVARD LAW SCHOOL FOOD LAW AND POLICY CLINIC

OVERVIEW

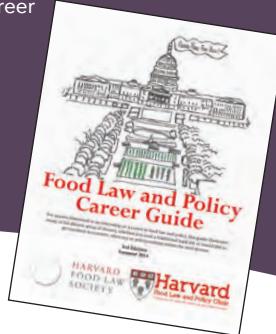
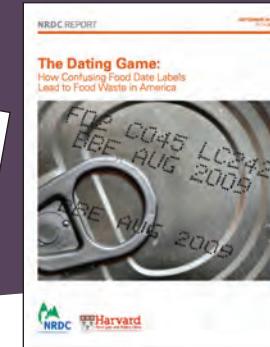
Established in 2010, the Food Law and Policy Clinic of Harvard Law School (FLPC) addresses the health, environmental, and economic consequences of the laws and policies that govern our food system. FLPC strives to increase access to healthy foods, support small-scale and sustainable farmers in breaking into new commercial markets, and reduce waste of healthy, wholesome food. As the oldest food law clinical program in the United States, the FLPC is a pioneer in the field of food law and policy, and serves as a model for lawyers and law schools entering this field.

The following four initiatives are an expression of our dedication to resolving the environmental, public health, and economic consequences of our food system:

- Food Policy Community Empowerment
- Food Access and Obesity Prevention
- Reducing Food Waste
- Sustainable Food Production

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Students in the FLPC work on a range of projects at any given time. Some of our representative current and recent projects include:



Food Policy Community Empowerment: Food Policy on the Navajo Nation

Since 2013, FLPC has worked with the Navajo Department of Health and the Community Outreach & Patient Empowerment (COPE) Project to improve health and increase food sovereignty within the Navajo Nation. In 2013, FLPC presented at the Navajo Nation Food and Wellness Summit, helping Navajo leaders and community members identify key food policy issues. Based on this meeting and subsequent research, interviews, and feedback from Navajo members, FLPC students and staff developed "Good Laws, Good Food: Putting Food Policy to Work in Navajo Nation" as a tailored resource for those working to improve the food system in Navajo Nation. FLPC students and staff traveled to Navajo Nation in 2015 to launch the toolkit and meet with Navajo leaders and community members, and is now working on implementation of the policy suggestions.

Food Access and Obesity Prevention: SNAP Defense

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest federal nutrition program, helping over 45 million individuals purchase food each month. With the new administration and Congress, FLPC expects to see proposals for major funding cuts and policy changes to SNAP. SNAP features prominently in the Clinic's ongoing food access work as well as its more recent work with the Farm Bill Law Enterprise. FLPC is working with leading advocacy organizations and our community-based partners to track the relevant policy debates and help identify strategic policy priorities to ensure the success of this critical program going forward.

Reducing Food Waste: Expiration Date Policy

In 2016, FLPC and Racing Horse Productions released the documentary EXPIRED? Food Waste in America. EXPIRED explores how misleading date labels on food products contribute to food waste. With the release of this film, FLPC aims to raise awareness about the consequences of confusing and non-science-based date labeling, and about the impact that a uniform labeling standard could have on reducing food waste. In the Spring of 2016, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Representative Chellie Pingree introduced "The Food Date Labeling Act," companion bills to standardize food date labels across the United States. The bills draw on research from FLPC and aim to standardize date labels through the use of a dual system: one label term used on foods when the date is set based on quality, and a different label used on foods that may have a safety risk past the date.

Sustainable Food Production: Farm Bill Law Enterprise (FABLE)

FABLE brings together nine leading food, agriculture, and environmental programs spanning seven law schools and the Food Law Student Network to leverage and expand the expertise of these partners by conducting coordinated research on various facets of the farm bill, identifying and proposing policy changes to improve the next farm bill, and building a platform for opportunities to engage in future farm bills. FABLE launched in fall 2016 and aims to publish research and policy recommendations for the farm bill in summer 2017, as well as work together to shape ideas and content for the next and future farm bills. Students work alongside leading farm bill experts within the Clinic, across our FABLE partner institutions, and throughout the country to produce original scholarship that can reshape the food policy landscape at a national scale.

FLPC also publishes materials related to the field of food law and policy, like this career guide. ▶