Our Mission
To provide hands-on learning opportunities for law students to advocate on behalf of real clients under the supervision of clinical faculty. Through the clinic’s commitment to social justice and providing free legal services, students’ advocacy and hard work can dramatically improve the life circumstances of people in need.

Whether representing an adult charged with a crime or a victim of domestic violence seeking an order of protection, participating students gain a better understanding of the legal system and a greater appreciation for the impact a lawyer can have on the lives of others.

The clinic courses are taught by our clinical professors, all of whom are experienced attorneys.

Through these experiences, NIU Law helps build strong “holistically trained” lawyers prepared for any practice setting, with built-in connectivity to lawyers and judges in the field—while providing a much-needed free service.

Clinic Locations
Zeke Giorgi Clinic
319 West State Street
Rockford, IL 61101
(815) 962-9980

Criminal Defense Clinic
Paul Cain
pcain@niu.edu

Civil Justice Clinic
Wendy Hinton Vaughn
wvaughn@niu.edu

Foreclosure Mediation Clinic
Swen Parson Hall, Room 318C
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-2407

Alan Boudreau
aboudreau@niu.edu

Health Advocacy Clinic - Hesed House
659 S. River Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 229-0752

Colleen Boraca
cboraca@niu.edu

NIU Clinical Law Center
Swen Parson Building, Room 197A
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-0207

Anita Maddali
amaddali@niu.edu

Please visit us at:
www.niu.edu/law/clinical_program/clinics.shtml

NIU LAW
Clinical Programs
Holistic Skills and Experiences Build Successful Lawyers

Hands-on experience plays an integral role in how we differentiate our NIU Law graduates in an increasingly competitive legal job market.
Dean Mark Cordes

NIU LAW
College of Law
Educating Successful Lawyers is Our Passion
Health Advocacy Clinic

The Health Advocacy Clinic is a joint venture between NIU Law, Hesed House – a homeless and recuperative shelter that houses the clinic in Aurora – and Aunt Martha’s Health Center – an organization supporting numerous child welfare and family services across multiple facilities in Illinois. Participating students and faculty join forces with medical professionals and social workers to provide free legal, medical and social services to clients with limited resources from across the region. Clinical faculty and students address legal issues impeding good health, specifically assisting clients with accessing life-stabilizing public benefits such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and food stamps.

Foreclosure Mediation Clinic

This new clinical program is part of a community engagement project to address the residential foreclosure crisis in Kane County, Illinois. The clinic is a joint effort between NIU Law, the Kane County Courts, Resolution Systems Institute – a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening justice by enhancing court Alternative Dispute Resolution systems, Prairie State Legal Service – a provider of legal services to low-income families and groups, and several other community partners. Participating students and faculty work with homeowners facing foreclosure to advise them on their legal options, negotiate with lenders, identify possible mortgage modifications, and represent them during foreclosure mediation sessions.

Civil Justice Clinic

Students and clinical faculty represent vulnerable residents of Winnebago County, Illinois. The clinic prioritizes the needs of low-income senior citizens and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Students develop transactional experience by drafting estate planning documents and litigation experience by representing clients in civil matters involving orders of protection, domestic violence related family law, small claims, and probate issues.

Criminal Defense Clinic

Students in the Criminal Defense Clinic represent adults charged with criminal offenses. The offenses will typically be misdemeanor offenses or major traffic offenses. In addition, the clinic represents individuals in petitioning for removal from the sex offender registry as a result of juvenile sex offense adjudications. The clinic provides a holistic approach to representation in addressing underlying causes of criminal behavior such as mental health or substance abuse issues.

Grants & Support

NIU Law received a $1.5 million, three-year grant from the Illinois Attorney General’s Office – shared in partnership with Resolution Systems Institute – to develop and operate the new Foreclosure Mediation Clinic.

Post Graduate Fellowship

NIU Law is one of only three Illinois law schools chosen to participate in a new postgraduate fellowship funded by the Illinois Bar Foundation. The fellow, who works at NIU College of Law’s Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic in Rockford, receives training and mentoring, and develops professional and legal experience, while increasing access to justice through the provision of pro bono legal services in civil matters.