

Being a good intellectual property lawyer requires adaptability in a dynamic field and an understanding of the realities of producing intellectual works.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property law tries to balance the incentive to create with society's interest in spreading the benefits of innovation.

Virginia's IP program combines a broad array of courses, hands-on clinics and professors focused on the real-world applications of their scholarship, offering students a unique foundation for exploring these challenges.

Students and UVA Law professor Dotan Oliar, right, an intellectual property expert, visit the Wix global headquarters in Israel as part of the January Term class Israeli Business Law and Innovation.

PATENT AND LICENSING CLINICS

Run in conjunction with the University of Virginia Patent Foundation, two patent and licensing clinics offer hands-on experience as students learn how and when to file patents and draft licensing agreements, deal with clients in the science and technology fields, and research and write about cutting-edge patent topics.

The first clinic focuses on practical training in patent drafting as well as the negotiation and drafting of patent and software license agreements.

Clinic participants may:

- evaluate inventions and computer software for patentability and commercial value
- counsel UVA faculty inventors on patentability, inventorship and the patenting process
- deal with patent examiners and research current issues in IP and technology transfer
- prepare, file and prosecute provisional U.S. patent applications

In the advanced clinic, students work exclusively with patent attorneys drafting, filing and prosecuting patent applications; alternatively, they may work exclusively with licensing agents to draft license agreements, negotiate terms and conditions, and prepare confidentiality agreements and marketing documents.

Recent projects include:

- applying for a patent for a class of metals capable of recovering their original shape and thickness after impact or crushing
- converting a provisional patent application on a technology designed by a pharmacology professor that may halt the spread of cancerous cells
- reviewing prior art, market research and a marketing plan for a neuro-stimulation technique for the treatment of epilepsy
- creating a brief on pharmaceutical patents in developing countries

Specialized Faculty in Intellectual Property Law

» Edmund W. Kitch is the author of “The Nature and Function of the Patent System,” which has been recognized in academic literature as one of the most important and famous modern articles on patent law.

» In addition to her groundbreaking work on cyberstalking and intimate privacy, Danielle K. Citron has been a leading thinker on how the laws governing social media, including copyright law, affect privacy rights.

» In the field of intellectual property, Professor John F. Duffy has been identified as one of the 25 most influential people in the nation by The American Lawyer and one of the 50 most influential people in the world by the U.K. publication Managing Intellectual Property.



» Thomas B. Nachbar, a leading scholar on the constitutional basis for intellectual property rights, also researches the nature of regulation, including the regulation of telecommunications, internet governance and antitrust law.

» An internationally recognized legal theorist, Lawrence B. Solum has worked on problems of law and technology, including artificial intelligence, internet governance, copyright policy and patent law.

» Professor Elizabeth A. Rowe is an internationally renowned expert in intellectual property and trade secrets. Four of Rowe’s articles have been named by Thomson Reuters Intellectual Property Review as among the best intellectual property articles of the year.



COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Antitrust in the Digital Economy
- Art Law
- Biotechnology and the Law
- Communications Law
- Computational Text Analysis for Legal Practice
- Computer Crime Law
- Copyright Law
- Cultural Property
- Emerging Growth Companies and Venture Capital Financing: Principles and Practice
- Intellectual Property Law Policy
- Internet Law
- Israeli Business Law and Innovation
- Law and Artificial Intelligence
- Law and Technology Colloquium
- Legal Practice and the Startup Company: An Inside Look
- Music Law: Analytical and Client Management Skills
- Patent Law
- Survey of Patent, Copyright, Trademark
- Trade Secret Law
- Trademark Law

CLINICS

- Advanced Patent and Licensing Clinic
- Entrepreneurial Law Clinic
- Patent and Licensing Clinic

These courses represent the 2020-23 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Law, Innovation, Security & Technology

LIST events focus on the novel legal, policy and business problems in emerging technologies, including international cybersecurity issues.

Virginia Journal of Law & Technology

VJOLT provides a forum for students, professors and practitioners to discuss emerging issues at the intersection of law and technology.

Virginia Law Emerging Companies and Venture Capital Club

ECVC is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurial initiatives across Grounds, connecting law students with students from other schools, and serving as a hub for those interested in entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial law.



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