

TOURO LAW CENTER'S

PORTALS TO PRACTICE



STUDY THE DOCTRINE | LEARN THE SKILLS | PRACTICE THE LAW



TOURO LAW CENTER'S five-year strategic plan, **Portals to Practice**, is a cutting-edge program that reconceives and restructures the law school experience for all Touro Law students. Portals to Practice expands the scope and quality of legal education by focusing on the development of legal professionals, from pre-law through post-graduation.

PORTAL 1 | PORTAL 2 | PORTAL 3 | PORTAL 4

PORTAL ONE:

INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LAWYERING

During the 1L year, Touro Law students learn foundational legal doctrine and are provided with enhanced and meaningful opportunities to engage in practice-related activities. Upon entering law school, students are quickly introduced to the professional values inherent in access to justice activities and to pro bono initiatives offered by the law school.



The First Portal Includes:

- o Intensive orientation prior to the first day of school
- o Infusing practical experiences into the foundation level courses
- o Professional Development Seminars
- o Faculty/Practitioner Partners Program
- o Court Observation Program
- o Informational/networking meetings with judges and practitioners
- o Student interaction with individuals in need of assistance
- o 1L Pro Bono Projects - Uncontested Divorce and Landlord-Tenant Proceedings
- o Summer Externship, Clerkship, Fellowship or Associate Positions

1L PRO BONO UNCONTESTED DIVORCE PROJECT

First year students interact with unrepresented litigants through the Pro Bono Uncontested Divorce Project. This program integrates experiential learning into the first year curriculum and provides a hands-on learning opportunity for first year students.

All first year students receive training in cultural competency, client interviewing, and professional responsibility as well as in court software and documents for uncontested divorces. Students participate in meetings with unrepresented litigants where, working in teams, they assist these litigants with the completion of forms required for an uncontested divorce in Suffolk County. Volunteer alumni attorneys supervise our students as they input the data obtained from the litigants.

"This project is helping our students understand how to navigate the legal system and interact with litigants from their earliest days of law school," said Myra Berman, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning. "Our students provide help to persons in need and persons who could not otherwise afford to obtain assistance."



PORTAL TWO:

DEVELOPING COMPETENCIES – INTEGRATING DOCTRINE & PRACTICE

Through the second portal, students continue to learn substantive law but focus equally on the development of other core competencies necessary to the practice of law. Touro Law offers 2L students opportunities for in-depth and focused studies through optional concentrations in specific fields of practice, complementing the offerings of our Institutes and Centers.

The Second Portal Includes:

- o Intermediate Skills Requirement
- o Externship Opportunities
- o Opportunities to Concentrate in
 - ▷ Aging and Longevity Law
 - ▷ Criminal Law
 - ▷ Land Use & Sustainable Development Law
 - ▷ Solo and Small Practice Law
- o Institutes and Centers including:
 - ▷ The Aging and Longevity Law Institute
 - ▷ The Institute for Land Use and Sustainable Development Law
 - ▷ The Institute for Business Law & Technology
 - ▷ The Jewish Law Institute
 - ▷ The Institute for Holocaust Law and International Human Rights
 - ▷ The International Justice Center for Post-Graduate Development

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

At Touro Law Center, students are not only encouraged to embrace the study and practice of law — but to excel at it by participating in one or more of our academic co-curricular programs.

1.

Touro Law Review

2.

Moot Court

3.

Trial Teams

4.

Touro Law Honors Program

5.

Journal of Race, Gender and Ethnicity

6.

Inns of Court



PORTAL THREE:

THE APPRENTICESHIP AND LICENSURE YEAR

The third portal encompasses an apprenticeship year — a two-semester period during which students focus on their entry into the profession by enrolling in clinics, legal externships and courses that prepare students for the bar exam.



The Third Portal Consists of:

- o Clinical “Live Client” Experience
- o Advanced Externship Programs
- o Pro Bono Projects through our Public Advocacy Center (PAC)
- o Pro Bono Scholars Program
- o Bar Programs
- o Preparation for Post J.D. Employment



CLINICAL *and* EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Clinics represent the capstone of the experiential learning programs.

We offer a wide range of clinics including:

- o Bankruptcy
- o Bankruptcy - Advanced
- o Criminal Defense
- o Criminal Prosecution
- o Disaster Relief
- o Elder Law
- o Family Law
- o Federal Prosecution
- o Immigration Law
- o Mortgage Foreclosure
- o Small Business and Not-for-Profit Law
- o Veterans’ and Servicemembers’ Rights

All students are required to enroll in at least one clinic where they work with actual clients under close faculty supervision. Students will provide a broad range of services to persons who could not otherwise afford legal representation. Before graduating from Touro Law, all students will have functioned as attorneys to real clients with real problems.

Externships are guaranteed to every student. Externships allow students to work in those fields of law in which they are interested. Externships may be with a private law firm, the court system or the law office of a public interest or government employers. All externship placements are supervised by an admitted attorney or judge and provide excellent hands-on opportunities.

PORTAL FOUR:

POST-GRADUATION EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Portals to Practice includes a commitment to recent Touro Law graduates. Alumni are offered continued support through the Career Services Office, ongoing professional development workshops, networking opportunities, Continuing Legal Education courses sponsored by Touro Law and an opportunity to learn how to open a law practice.

Touro Law alumni who seek to build a solo or small practice are provided with essential guidance and mentoring through Touro Law Center's recently-established Incubator – the Community Justice Center of Long Island. Additionally, the post-JD portal is open to U.S. and foreign law graduates who seek a Master of Laws degree.

This Portal Consists of:

- o Access to The Office of Career Services for recent graduates
- o Complimentary Continuing Legal Education Courses
- o LL.M. Programs
- o Opportunity to join the Community Justice Center of Long Island
- o Participation in a robust alumni network



THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER of LONG ISLAND (CJCLI)

In November 2013, Touro Law launched an incubator to assist more than a dozen Touro Law graduates in opening their own law practices. The attorneys benefit from collaborating with peers while being mentored in the skills necessary for starting a solo or small community-based firm. In addition, incubator lawyers are charged only minimal rent to help participants better manage start-up expenses. Ongoing Continuing Legal Education (CLE) classes geared to the needs of solo and small-firm practitioners are offered as well.

The mission of the CJCLI includes addressing the unmet legal needs of the community. CJCLI attorneys are committed to providing reasonably-priced legal services to low-middle income clients and thereby helping to bridge the "justice gap" on Long Island, NYC and the greater metropolitan area.

CJCLI brings together talented and entrepreneurial Touro Law alumni who are committed to starting their own practices and providing high-quality and affordable legal services to the community. While each participating attorney operates an independent practice, the CJCLI enables the attorneys to share resources and exchange ideas in an affordable and collegial practice setting. CJCLI attorneys are dedicated to providing services in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Estates and Trusts
- Small Business Advising
- Immigration Law
- Landlord/Tenant
- Bankruptcy
- Foreclosure
- Criminal Law





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