



ROBERT H. MCKINNEY SCHOOL OF LAW

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

The Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law launched a Health and Human Rights Clinic in Fall Semester, 2011. The clinic is based on a medical-legal partnership model, representing the legal needs of patients from the low-income ethnically diverse community served by the Wishard Westside Community Health Center.

The Health and Human Rights Clinic works with our partner healthcare providers to identify and address the legal and social issues which negatively impact health, including:

- Access to safe and affordable housing
- Access to public benefits, including medical coverage
- Protection from domestic violence
- Consumer matters
- Children's access to special education services

Training the Next Generation of Lawyers. Law students in the Health and Human Rights Clinic directly represent, under faculty supervision, low-income clients who are patients of our healthcare partner. Classroom and applied training is provided to students in legal practice skills, including interviewing, counseling, legal drafting and fact investigation. The classroom component of the Clinic also includes an introduction to health justice issues, the social determinants of health, and the substantive law impacting the lives of low-income families.

Preventive Lawyering. One of the key advantages to this community-based partnership is the opportunity to connect with families before their legal problems reach crisis stage. In many cases, the Health and Human Rights Clinic is able to engage in "preventive lawyering," an impactful and cost-effective form of legal intervention that helps prevent homelessness, hunger, and health emergencies.

Local and International Impact. The Health and Human Rights Clinic uses the lessons provided by individual client advocacy to provide community education and public policy advocacy on health justice issues domestically, and has a close working relationship with Legal Aid Centre of Eldoret (LACE), a Kenya-based medical-legal partnership with IU School of Medicine's AMPATH program.

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