

## Summer Refugee Protection Law Clinic

### ABOUT JUSTICE CENTRE HONG KONG

Justice Centre Hong Kong is a non-profit organisation that provides support to refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants in Hong Kong SAR. We work to support the vision of Hong Kong SAR as a welcoming and inclusive society.

We help forced migrants **access social welfare and psychological support, as well as legal assistance** with their protection claims under Hong Kong law and within the Hong Kong Government-designed administrative and appeal procedures.

Our team provides **tailored support** to women, children, LGBTIQ+ individuals, racial and ethnic minorities and stateless persons and other at risk migrant groups.

Through our initiatives, Justice Centre's team supports **community voices** and helps the communities we work with to participate in Hong Kong society.

We help forced migrants **access social welfare and psychological support, as well as legal assistance** with their protection claims under Hong Kong law and within the Hong Kong Government-designed administrative and appeal procedures.

Justice Centre has assisted over

**1 in 3**

of all those whose claims for protection have been accepted in Hong Kong

We are a founding member of the **Refugee Concern Network**, and have made three appearances before the United Nations



For more details of our work, please see [our website](#).

### REFUGEE PROTECTION LAW CLINIC

The Summer Refugee Protection Law Clinic (the Clinic) is a three-week programme which offers university students a unique opportunity to engage in our work. We have more than a decade of experience in delivering clinical legal education programmes, and our alumni have gone on to become refugee and public interest lawyers.

**Hands-on experience of real cases**

- **Work directly on claims** for protection in Hong Kong.
- **Develop skills** required to become a lawyer.
- Supervision by our **experienced and passionate team**

**Projects which make a long-term impact**

- Learn how to take a **community led approach** to legal work and cultivate a long-term commitment to public service.
- Engage with complex **legal/ factual research**

**Programme developed for University of Cambridge, HKU and CUHK**

- Summer clinical legal education programme **run annually** with a range of **international universities**.
- Programme **developed in 2009** with top tier local law schools.
- Adapted to include a **remote programme** in 2020 to facilitate ongoing engagement with our international education partners.

## ABOUT THE CLINIC

The Clinic is offered to all law students based in Hong Kong. This three-week intensive Clinic allows students to:

- Engage with the **theory and practice of non-refoulement law** in Hong Kong and internationally.
- Develop **professional skills and judgement** in a real legal practice setting, by diligently and ethically **directly assisting claimants**.
- **Critically analyse** the law and systems to **identify challenges** and propose **creative strategies** and solutions.
- Engage with **complex legal/ factual research and analysis** to support awareness-raising initiatives and legal cases.
- Engage with our commercial **law firm pro-bono partners**.<sup>1</sup>
- Learn how to take a **community led approach** to legal work and cultivate a long-term commitment to public service.



*Justice Centre's Clinic is an immensely rewarding experience that provides great exposure to the practical workings of non-refoulement law in Hong Kong. Not only does JCHK provide well-structured, in-depth training to prepare us for substantive, meaningful tasks, we also had invaluable opportunities to talk to clients and understand how the work we do are actually positively impacting on their lives. As a result, I was able to hone both legal and non-legal skills through assisting in client meetings, legal research and drafting. The Clinic is an eye-opening experience that allows you to truly appreciate the value of pro bono practice, as well as be more aware of the injustice that exists in society today. I would highly recommend students to take up the opportunity to work with Justice Centre Hong Kong.*

– Ally, 2021 Summer Clinic

*The Clinic Programme is the most rewarding internship I have ever participated in. I have been able to obtain deep knowledge in the field of non-refoulement protection law through extensive training provided by Justice Centre; I have also been able to put this knowledge into practice: as a participant, I was not being tasked with repetitive administrative work, but actual meaningful work that created impact to non-refoulement protection claimants. However, what was most impressive about the Programme, is that Justice Centre is very welcoming of new ideas, even if these new ideas come from a clinic participant. As such during the Clinic Programme, I was able to make proposals to Justice Centre on schemes to better serve Non-refoulement protection claimants; and Justice Centre was very eager to support me beyond the clinic Programme to make the proposal a reality. Therefore, the Clinic Programme is the most rewarding internship I have ever participated in; I strongly urge all law students who have creative ideas and who want to learn about how their legal knowledge can be used to better society to join the programme.*

– Ben, 2020 Summer Clinic

<sup>1</sup> Davis Polk & Wardwell, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Linklaters, King & Wood Mallesons, Kirkland & Ellis, Latham & Watkins.

## CLINIC STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The Clinic is **run within our in-house legal team**, under the supervision of Jennifer Nugent, who is responsible for our legal education programmes.

The work undertaken during the Clinic will vary, depending on the needs of Justice Centre and our clients. We will also take into account students' objectives and interests when allocating tasks. Here are some **examples of the type of work** students may be involved with:

Training outline	Legal services tasks	Past projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will be provided an <b>online resource manual</b> to review before the start of the Clinic.</li> <li>The following <b>training</b> will be delivered at the start of the Clinic:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the relevant international and domestic human rights laws that protect refugees, victims of torture and other serious human rights violations.</li> <li>The process of claiming protection in Hong Kong and the procedures involved.</li> <li>The use of evidence in claims for protection.</li> <li>Legal and factual research to support claims for protection.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist with conducting screening interviews and assessments of protection claimants.</li> <li>Undertake country of origin research and producing packages of information to support refugee and torture claims.</li> <li>Conduct legal research into complex areas of international refugee law.</li> <li>Identify experts, write letters of instruction and review reports.</li> <li>Review decisions of the courts and identify legal arguments to challenge them.</li> <li>Research and present successful campaigns supporting asylum seekers and refugees.</li> <li>Quantitative research tasks to support our ongoing research projects.</li> <li>Literature reviews and background research for advocacy reports and briefings.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro Bono Partner Training           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create clear, accessible training materials for our Pro Bono Partner Training delivering through online (website content).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Unlawful detention           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a toolkit to equip those in immigration detention with information about how to enforce their rights.</li> </ul> </li> <li>COVID-19 Special Measures in Courts &amp; Tribunals           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the current international policies and procedures for processing protection claims in light of COVID-19 across jurisdictions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Group Information Sessions           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and deliver an information session for claimants to understand changes to children's claims for non-refoulement protection.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Supervision and feedback		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear <b>plan</b> will be set at the start of the Clinic to identify students' goals and agree objectives.</li> <li><b>Weekly supervision</b> sessions will provide the opportunity for students to receive feedback.</li> <li><b>Team collaboration</b> sessions will allow students to connect and review their progress.</li> </ul>		

## WHO CAN APPLY?

The Clinic is open to undergraduate or postgraduate law students at any university, who are based in Hong Kong over the summer.

It is aimed at students **interested in a career in law, politics, public policy, or NGO management**. Applicants will be required to demonstrate enthusiasm for public law, refugee rights and/or social policy.

This is a competitive programme and a **maximum of 6 students** will be selected to participate.

### Essential skills and attributes

- Currently studying an undergraduate or postgraduate law degree at any university.
- Valid visa for Hong Kong throughout the period of the Clinic.
- An interest in asylum and forced migration law and policy.
- Excellent organisational skills and time-management.
- Good written and verbal communication skills – communicate with a range of individuals (including highly vulnerable people) and agencies, in a professional and respectful manner.
- Multicultural sensitivity and ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds and across varying language barriers.
- Ability to work independently whilst being a good team-player.
- Willingness to learn and develop new skills.
- Demonstrated literacy in Microsoft Office, basic data entry and Outlook.
- Fluency in verbal and written English.

### Desirable skills and attributes

- Direct personal experience and/or a detailed understanding of the immigration system.
- Experience of working with vulnerable people in a professional setting.
- Fluency in Cantonese.
- Fluency in another language, such as French, Arabic, Somali, Urdu, Sinhala or Bangla.

## COST

The total cost of the Clinic is **HK\$5,000 per student**.

Your contribution will allow us to dedicate staff time and resources to run the Clinic. Any further proceeds will contribute towards our vital services for people seeking protection.

We are happy to offer any necessary assistance if you wish to apply for a grant, bursary, or scholarship from your university. Alternatively, we may consider requests for an extension of time to pay the fees in instalments if you would like to fundraise to cover the cost of your Clinic place.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

The Clinic will run for **4 weeks** from 1 – 26 August.

To apply, please send your **CV and a cover letter** of no more than one page to Jennifer Nugent at [jennifer@justicecentre.org.hk](mailto:jennifer@justicecentre.org.hk). Your cover letter should explain **why you would like to participate** in the Clinic and how you have developed the **skills and attributes** required.

Applications will be **considered on a rolling basis**; we strongly recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible due to the high level of interest and limited spaces available.

The key dates in the application process are:

13 June:	Deadline to submit applications
15 June:	Applicants contacted to arrange an interview
20 - 30 June:	Interviews
4 July:	Successful applicants will be offered the roles
11 July:	Transfer of non-refundable deposit
1 – 26 August:	Clinic

