American Bar Association

Legal Education Police Practices Consortium

Est. 2020

Vision:

The Consortium works to advance the national effort to **address legal issues in policing and public safety,** including police conduct, police oversight, and the evolving nature of police work. We leverage the ABA's expertise and that of participating law schools to develop and spotlight projects that can lead to **more effective and civil and human rights-compliant police practice** throughout the United States.

The Consortium is an initiative of the ABA, wholly supported by dues-paying member law schools who are critical to the success of the Consortium and its programs.

LEPPC Fellowship Program

Beginning in Spring 2022, the LEPPC Fellowship program has brought together over 130 law school student fellows from across the country.

Historically, students have met virtually via Zoom to hear from a variety of subject matter experts on topics related to policing, public safety, and reform efforts to further inform their own understanding on these issues.

In addition, in consultation with a faculty advisor, students **research their local policing context** to determine if a **collaborative relationship** would be of interest and value to both their law school and the police department and/or civil rights organizations focused on policing issues.

The fellowship aims to ignite interest in the subject of police practices and encourage information sharing between students and law schools across the country.

Quotes from former fellows:

"The Consortium empowered me and gave me the opportunity to conduct meaningful research that will be beneficial to the District of Colombia. More importantly, though, the Consortium brought together a group of other law students from across the United States to share ideas and collaborate with. We were able to learn from each other just as much as we learned from the Consortium, all while contributing to the ABA's valuable data collection objectives." **– Jordan Mallory, Spring 2022 Fellow, Georgetown Law**

"I had the privilege of participating in the first cohort of fellows in the ABA LEEPC. As a fellow, I had the opportunity to research local police policies and understand the impact of Cleveland's Consent Decree on reforming the City of Cleveland's Police Department (CPD). I was surprised to learn that there were more than two dozen law enforcement agencies operating within the city's municipal boundaries and sharing jurisdiction with the CPD, including transit and public housing authorities that have been accused of excessive of fatal force against transit riders and residents. Without this opportunity, I would not have learned about the role of co-jurisdictional policing, its authorization under state law, and lack of oversight by the City of Cleveland because those are independently operating police bodies." **– Kartice Williams, Spring 2022 Fellow, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law**

Students have investigated issues of local relevance, such as co-responder models, citizen review boards / community-police review boards, and have collected publicly available data regarding their local and state police departments to create an aggregate repository of agency policies for comparative purposes.

Students at one member school have **developed a Know Your Rights briefing** that they hope to deliver to both law school students and local police officers to promote collaboration and connection between the communities.

The Law of the Police casebook

Authored by Rachel Harmon, The Law of the Police casebook further expands the field of "policing and the law." It is the first casebook to **survey how the law governs police encounters**.

The casebook serves as **a resource for scholars, lawyers, and law school classes** to guide understanding and evaluation of how American law governs police interactions with the public.

The Consortium commissioned Professor Harmon to tailor her seminal casebook to make it more fit for practice across the Consortium's network. Copies were distributed to each member school in the hopes of encouraging them to incorporate this material into new or existing courses.

The book materials are designed to help readers explore policing practices; the law that governs them; and the law's consequences for the costs, benefits, fairness, and accountability of policing.

Among other issues, the book encourages readers to consider the form and content of the law; how it might change; who is making it; and how the law affects policing.

https://aspenpublishing.com/products/harmon-policing2

The Law of the Police online course

Hosted by the University of Arizona College of Law and based on the casebook by Rachel Harmon, this seven and a half week course is **fully online, and asynchronous, and free to all, including members of the public.**

Each week is taught by a different subject matter expert and is designed to help students from all walks of life to better understand the laws that police are tasked with upholding, the case law that protects citizens and officers in their interactions with one another, and the laws that hold the profession of policing accountable.

The Law of the Police Online Course

Based on the Casebook by Rachel Harmon

Module One: Understanding Policing	⌄
Module Two: Investigative Policing	⌄
Module Three: Preventing Crime and Making Arrests	⌄
Module Four: Use of Force	⌄
Module Five: Policing Resistance and Federal Influence over Local Policing	⌄
Module Six: Stopping Traffic and Maintaining Order	⌄
Module Seven: Suing the Police for Damages and Reform	⌄

Offered first in October, this course enrolled over 400 students with active engagement in the weekly message boards. The next class begins in March 2025 with subsequent classes anticipated for Fall 2025.

https://law.arizona.edu/law-police-onilne-course

Police Law, Policy, and Practices course

Developed and taught by Associate Dean Melanie Reid at Lincoln Memorial University Law and former Consortium Director Jessalyn Walker. The syllabus is available through Professor Reid should other schools wish to offer and adapt the course as their own.

This two-credit course brings together **students and law enforcement** to discuss a variety of issues related to policing and the law in an **interactive** manner that **emphasizes respectful dialogue** and **bilateral information sharing**.

The Spring 2024 course was offered in collaboration with four other LEPPC member schools: Memphis, Penn State Dickinson, Quinnipiac, and Roger Williams. Fifty students enrolled and approximately forty law enforcement officers were scheduled to participate.

https://lmunet.edu/news/2024/02/LMULaw_ABA_Consortium

Consortium Member Schools

Thank you to our member schools, who, through their contributions, make LEPPC's work possible.

American University Washington College of Law – Brooklyn Law School – Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law – Cleveland-Marshall College of Law – Cornell Law School – Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law – Emory University School of Law – Florida International University College of Law – Georgetown Law – Golden Gate University School of Law – Indiana University Maurer School of Law – Lewis & Clark Law School – Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law – Louisiana State University Paul M. Herbert Law Center – Center – Loyola Law School, Los Angeles – Loyola University, New Orleans College of Law – Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University – Mercer University-Walker F. George School of Law – Michigan State University College of Law – Mitchell Hamline School of Law – New York Law School – Northern Illinois University College of Law – Northwestern Pritzker School of Law – Penn State Dickinson Law – Penn State Law – Quinnipiac University School of Law – Roger Williams University School of Law – Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University – Seattle University School of Law – Southern Methodist University (SMU) Dedman School of Law – Southern University Law Center – St. Mary's University School of Law – St. Thomas University College of Law – Suffolk University Law School – Syracuse University College of Law – Texas A&M University School of Law – University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law – University of Arkansas – University of Baltimore School of Law – University of Detroit Mercy School of Law – University of Hawai'i at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law – University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law – University of Miami School of Law – University of Mississippi School of Law – University of Missouri School of Law – University of Nebraska College of Law – University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law – University of Oklahoma College of Law – University of Pittsburgh School of Law – University of Richmond School of Law – University of South Carolina School of Law – University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law – Washington and Lee University School of Law – Washington University School of Law in St. Louis – Wayne State University Law School – Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School – Western New England School of Law – William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV

Interested in becoming a member school?

Contact us at abaleppc@gmail.com

To learn more about the Consortium and the upcoming 2025-2026 Fellowship, please visit abalegaledpoliceconsortium.org