



School of Law
Office of the Registrar

University of San Francisco School of Law

Fall 2026 & Spring 2027 Graduates Only

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CERTIFICATE

Priority Deadline: Monday, September 14, 2026 (December grads must submit by this date)

For Spring/Summer grads, submission by the priority deadline allows for a certificate-eligibility audit prior to registration for spring.

Last Day to Submit Applications: Monday, February 1, 2027.

I expect to graduate and am applying to receive the Public Interest Law Certificate. I have read and understand the Program requirements found on the law school's website at: [Public Interest Certificate Information Page](#) and further understand and acknowledge that award of the Certificate is conditional upon meeting those requirements.

Name:

USF ID:

Signature:

Date:

COURSES & PROCEDURE:

COURSES: To earn a Public Interest Law Certificate, a student must complete:

- 1) at least 9 units of coursework selected from the approved elective courses below.
- 2) an Upper-Level Writing Requirement analyzing an issue related to public interest law.
- 3) the practicum & community service requirements as indicated on page 3 of this form.

All course work for the certificate must be taken for a letter grade except for any approved elective course in which credit/no credit grading is mandatory. For any course in which a letter grade is not provided, a "credit" must be achieved in order for the course to be applied to meet the certificate requirements. Students must achieve a grade of C+ or higher in each letter-graded course applied to the certificate and achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.70 or higher for all courses applied to the certificate. A student achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher for all courses applied to meet the requirements of the certificate is awarded the certificate with honors.

Note: the curriculum is subject to change and not all courses are offered every year.

Elective Courses										
Term	Grade	Units	Reg	PIL Course		Term	Grade	Units	Reg	PIL Course
				Administrative Law						Health Law & Policy
				Animal Law						Housing Justice w/ Practicum
				Animal Law: Contemp Issues						Immigration Law
				Animals & Justice Seminar						Information Privacy
				CA Land Use Practice						International Human Rights Law
				Contemp Issues of Race & Law						Int'l Human Rights Law Sem
				Criminal Procedure II						Internet Law
				Crimmigration in Imm Practice						Interrogation & Confessions
				Death Penalty Seminar						Labor Law
				Democracy & Authoritarianism						Legislative Drafting
				Domestic Violence Law & Lit						Policing & Use of Force
				Education Law						Poverty Law
				Election Law						Racism & Justice Seminar
				Employee Benefits (ERISA)						Restorative Justice
				Employment Discrimination						Sexuality Law
				Employment Law						Social Impact of Emerging Tech
				Energy Law						State Constitutional Law Sem
				Environmental Law						Trial Practice: Criminal Law
				Equality & Religious Freedom						U.S. Asylum Law Seminar
				Family Law						Water Law
				Federal Courts Seminar						Wrongful Convictions
				First Amendment Seminar						

Name: _____

USF ID Number: _____

PROCEDURE: Indicate the letter grade and units received in the courses (below) that you wish to apply to the Certificate. Indicate “in progress” by marking “IP” for courses being taken during the current semester. (If you indicate more than the required units of coursework, the Registrar’s Office will choose courses with the highest grades to count toward the certificate.)

The below clinics satisfy PIL Certificate Practicum Requirements if taken for at least 4 units										
Term	Grade	Units	Reg	PIL Course		Term	Grade	Units	Reg	PIL Course
				CREATE Clinic						Immigration Policy Clinic
				International Human Rights Clinic						Racial Justice Clinic
				Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic						
*These clinics do not count towards elective units										

UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT FOR THE *PUBLIC INTEREST LAW* CERTIFICATE

To earn the certificate, a student must complete a substantial research paper analyzing an issue relevant to public interest law. The paper must demonstrate the ability to identify, describe and analyze the subject matter and should, where possible, propose a resolution.

The paper must meet the standards for an Upper-Level Research and Writing Requirement project and also satisfies this graduation requirement. It may also satisfy the requirements of a course taken (sort by “Certificate” and “Writing Req’t” on the course schedule for acceptable courses) or a Directed Research (*see Registrar’s Office*).

Title: _____

Supervising Professor: _____

Semester Completed: _____

TO APPLY FOR THE CERTIFICATE, YOU MUST:

- Submit this completed application to the Law Registrar’s Office by your second to last semester.
- Submit a writing requirement enrollment form by the last day to add classes for the semester the writing requirement is being completed. *The “Certificate” box on the form must be checked.*

Law Registrar Staff Only

First Audit Date: _____ Writ Req Status: _____ Final Audit Date: _____

Grades Verified: _____ Units: _____ IP as of: _____ GPA: _____ Units: _____

On Track: _____ Date Notified: _____ Practicum Verified: _____ Receiving Cert: _____ Honors: _____

Name: _____

USF ID Number: _____

PRACTICUM: A minimum of 150 hours of supervised legal work in a public interest organization, qualifying government agency, or court. Students may fulfill this requirement through a paid position, clinical experience, externship, or a volunteer opportunity. Please note that in-house law school clinics may count towards the practicum hours (but not towards course requirements).

Organization:		Dates:
Email Address:		Total # Hours:
Address:		
Supervisor:	Title:	Phone:
Type of Assignments Received:		
Organization:		Dates:
Email Address:		Total # Hours:
Address:		
Supervisor:	Title:	Phone:
Type of Assignments Received:		
Organization:		Dates:
Email Address:		Total # Hours:
Address:		
Supervisor:	Title:	Phone:
Type of Assignments Received:		

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Students must complete a minimum of 50 volunteer hours with organizations on projects that benefit the public. Community service hours may be completed with legal or non-legal organizations. Projects may include work that you perform through USF's Pro Bono Program, individually, or as part of a student group with an organization in the community. *Copy this sheet if additional pages are necessary.*

Organization:	Dates:	Total # Hours:
Supervisor/Title:	Email:	Phone:
Organization:	Dates:	Total # Hours:
Supervisor/Title:	Email:	Phone:
Organization:	Dates:	Total # Hours:
Supervisor/Title:	Email:	Phone:
Organization:	Dates:	Total # Hours:
Supervisor/Title:	Email:	Phone:

Please return this form to the Law Registrar's Office (Kendrick 220) by the deadline listed on the first page of this application.
 Community Service/Practicum Questions? Contact the Office of Career Services at (415) 422-6757 or Law Student Affairs Office at (415) 422-6304.

Office Use Only
Verified Practicum: _____ Verified Community Service: _____
Law School Staff Initials/Date _____ Law School Staff Initials/Date _____