

University of Ottawa – Queen's University INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW CLINIC

PRO-BONO LEGAL ADVICE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NGOs, SMEs



TradeLab

International rules on cross-border trade and investment are increasingly complex. There is the WTO, World Bank and UNCTAD, but also hundreds of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and free trade arrangements ranging from GSP, EU EPAs and COMESA to ASEAN, CAFTA and TPP. Each has its own negotiation, implementation and dispute settlement system. Everyone is affected but few have the time and resources to fully engage.

Who we are

TradeLab aims to empower countries and smaller stakeholders to reap the full development benefits of global trade and investment rules. Through pro bono legal clinics and practica, TradeLab connects students and experienced legal professionals to public officials especially in developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises and civil society to build lasting legal capacity. Through 'learning by doing' we want to train and promote the next generation of trade and investment lawyers. By providing information and support on negotiations, compliance and litigation, we strive to make WTO, preferential trade and bilateral investment treaties work for everyone.

How we can help

- Research and analysis for treaty negotiations
- Compliance assessment of domestic or foreign laws
- Assessment of legal claims or defence strategies
- Writing of party and third party submissions
- Preparation of amicus curiae briefs
- Legal and economic research on cutting edge trade or investment questions.

Students and supervisors can work in a variety of languages.

What are legal clinics

Legal clinics are composed of small groups of highly qualified and carefully selected students. Faculty and other professionals with longstanding experience in the field closely supervise the work. Clinics are win-win for all involved: beneficiaries get expert work done for free and build capacity; students learn by doing, obtain academic credits and expand their network; faculty and expert mentors share their knowledge on cutting-edge issues and are able to attract or hire top students with proven skills.

How it works

Clinic projects are selected on the basis of need, available resources and practical relevance. Two to four students are assigned to each project. Students are teamed up with expert mentors from law firms or other organizations and carefully prepped and supervised by Academic Supervisors and Teaching Assistants. Students benefit from skills and expert sessions, do detailed legal research and work on several drafts shared with supervisors, mentors and the beneficiary for comments and feedback. The Clinic culminates in a polished legal memorandum, brief, draft law or treaty text or other output tailored to the project's needs. Clinics deliver in three to four months. Work and output can be public or fully confidential, for example, when preparing legislative or treaty proposals or briefs in actual disputes.

How to submit your project

If you or your organization has a legal question or project or you simply want to learn more about the Clinic, please visit www.tradelab.org. All requests will be treated confidentially.

Examples of completed clinic projects

Established in 2008 at the Graduate Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, TradeLab legal clinics have completed 80 unique projects on international trade and investment law matters for a range of stakeholders including international and non-governmental organisations, Geneva-based missions, public institutions and SMEs.

Defining and Defending the Interest of Countries in WTO and Plurilateral Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies

An analysis and recommendations directed at defining the notions that are key to the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies.

Should Mexico join ICSID?

An assessment of the pros and cons of different arbitration fora, and how they play out for the specific case of Mexico.

Options for a WTO Member to retaliate after winning a WTO dispute

Can IP rights be suspended in retaliation? How to ensure equivalence between the violation and the retaliation? How to design an effective retaliation scheme in the copyright area?

SME land owner and possible expropriation rights

What redress options are available to a landowner whose land was expropriated by the government?

Other selected projects

- > Illicit trade and international economic law
- > An analysis of Export Restriction Rules and Proposals under the WTO
- > Services Trade under the East African Community Common Market Protocol
- > WTO consistency of green automotive policies (confidential)
- > Counterclaims in investor-state dispute settlement
- > Trade & investment treaty implications of the UK leaving the EU
- > WTO consistency of a proposed Carbon Tax bill (confidential)
- > Assisting African nations in the reform of investment treaties

The University of Ottawa's bijural, bilingual Faculty of Law, situated in Canada's capital, has one of the richest selections of international law courses in the world. We offer specialized LL.M.s in international trade and investment law, global sustainability and environmental law, international humanitarian and security law, technology law, and health law. We have student clinics with real clients in these fields and are home to the internationally renowned Human Rights Research and Education Centre.

Queen's University Faculty of Law provides students with a unique curriculum in international law. The International Law Programs at Herstmonceux Castle in Southern England offer summer courses in public international law and international business law. In their upper years, students can pursue further studies in a wide range of international law subjects, participate in moots on international trade law, public international law and commercial arbitration, and in the International Economic Law Clinic with the University of Ottawa.

Academic supervisors

- >> Debra Steger, Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law, University of Ottawa (debra.steger@uottawa.ca)
- >> Tony VanDuzer, Professor, University of Ottawa
- >> Wolfgang Alschner, Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa
- >> Nicolas Lamp, Assistant Professor, Queen's University (nicolas.lamp@queensu.ca)
- >> Valerie Hughes, Adjunct Professor, Queen's University

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TradeLab clinic network

- >> The Graduate Institute, Geneva
- >> Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.
- >> University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, Ottawa
- >> Queen's University, Faculty of Law, Kingston
- >> International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO), Barcelona
- >> Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), Arusha
- >> Jindal Global Law School, Haryana
- >> Qatar University, Doha

Timetable

May - December	Submission of possible projects; initial discussions with beneficiaries to identify legal questions; selection of projects for the semester
January - February	Selection of students; composition of teams; meeting between student group and beneficiary: expert and other skill sessions
February - April	Research, completion of draft report and feedback from beneficiary, experts and supervisors
April	Delivery of written report; oral presentation and discussion of the results

Disclaimer

All projects prepared and published by TradeLab law clinics are done on a pro bono basis by students for research purposes only. The projects are pedagogical exercises to train students in the practice of international economic and investment law, and they do not reflect the opinions of TradeLab and/or the academic institutions affiliated with TradeLab. The projects do not in any way constitute legal advice and do not, in any manner, create an attorney-client relationship. The projects do not, in any way, or at any time, bind, or lead to any form of liability or responsibility on the part of the clinic participants, participating academic institutions, or TradeLab.

> tradelab.org