

International Transactions Clinic

Crossing Borders to Make a Better World

What is the ITC?

The International Transactions Clinic (ITC) is a clinic offering law students (JD and LLM candidates) the opportunity to provide pro bono legal services to internationally focused clients that are intent on making the world a better place. The ITC is part of the Grunin Center for Law and Social Entrepreneurship, which aims to accelerate the effective participation of lawyers and legal institutions engaged in social entrepreneurship and impact investing.

What kinds of clients does the ITC support?

The range is diverse. Some are organized as for-profit organizations; others are nonprofits. Some are impact investors; others are social enterprises. Some are based in the United States; others are located in different countries. Together, the ITC's students and clients are doing deals around the globe to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges, such as poverty, unclean water, food insecurity, and the adverse effects of climate change. (See the indicative client list on the next page.)

How big a time commitment is the ITC?

Fieldwork: Students participating in the ITC should expect to work on transaction matters for clients for an average of 10 to 15 hours a week, in addition to seminar time.

Seminar: Students meet twice a week in a seminar setting to build the requisite foundational knowledge and skills necessary to serve ITC clients.

Where does the ITC work?

The ITC operates globally, although the students are physically based in New York. The clinic has supported transactions taking place in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.

What skills will students learn by participating in the ITC?

The ITC concentrates on teaching students skills that are critically important to their professional development as they enter into practice areas that involve international transactions. Students participating in the clinic will learn drafting and negotiation skills as applied to cross-border transactions, build skills at structuring and documenting investments in enterprises that work primarily in emerging markets, analyze ethical issues that can arise in international business, and gain exposure to the types of disputes that can occur in the international context. Students also learn how to give legal advice and support clients that work in challenging business and legal environments.



Photo Credit: Root Capital

Case study of an ITC client

With over twenty-five years of experience in impact investing, Root Capital supports underserved agricultural enterprises by delivering critical credit and capacity-building services. Root Capital believes that with the right support, these enterprises can serve as engines of impact for their local communities.

Among other things, Root Capital works with its clients to combat the adverse impacts of climate change. In the Fall of 2024, Root Capital engaged the ITC to draft a term sheet for a newly designed climate adaptation loan for smallholder farmers to finance their climate-resilient investments.

ITC students brainstormed how this new loan product could best integrate with existing working capital loans from Root Capital to the same borrowers. Over the course of the year, the ITC produced a comprehensive template that allowed for customization based on the type of climate-resilient investment and borrower jurisdiction, as well as producing annotations for loan officers that detailed additional guidance for their negotiations with potential borrowers of this new loan product.

What ITC students, clients and supervisors are saying about the ITC

Recent ITC students

“The ITC provided an invaluable opportunity to work on real cross-border transactions in the impact investing space. It deepened my legal skills and shaped how I think about the kind of lawyer I aspire to become.”

JD
LLM '25

“My experience in the ITC was truly transformative, allowing me to grow meaningfully as both a legal thinker and a team leader in an environment deeply rooted in trust, adaptability, and purpose. Working directly with cross-border clients sharpened my communication skills and elevated my approach to strategic team management. The experience not only strengthened my transactional lawyering and legal analysis but also gave me a clearer vision of my aspirations for a career at the intersection of corporate and international law.”

JD
JD '26

“The ITC goes further than providing insight into the typical work of a transaction lawyer. It gives students a strong understanding of the most integral aspect of cross-border transactions.”

JD
JD '26

“Participating in the International Transactions Clinic has been one of the most impactful learning experiences I've had in law school—it deepened my substantive legal skills and also helped me envision a career that is both professionally fulfilling and values driven.”

JD
JD '26

“In the ITC, I learned about so many facets of international transactional work: intercreditor agreements,

blended finance, capital vehicle structuring, and more. I then had the chance to apply that knowledge across a wide range of client matters. I feel far more prepared now to begin firm life and am grateful to have found a real community in the world of impact investing.”

JD
JD '26

Recent ITC clients

“Working with the students at the ITC clinic is both invigorating and humbling. The students possess a passion for the work that matches that of the organizations they serve and also grasp surprisingly quickly the nuances of legal issues that would take many lawyers years to master. The students' creativity, their attention to detail, and, above all, their thirst for learning make the ITC program a joy for a practicing lawyer.”

Alice Burke, General Counsel,
Root Capital

“We at Symbiotics were thrilled to work with the ITC again this year. The students and their attorney supervisor, Mary Rose Brusewitz, produced a complex template agreement and a quality policy that we will use for years to come. It was fun for us to see the evolution of the students' understanding of our business and take real pride in their work. I look forward to continued collaboration with the clinic.”

Amy Bergstraesser, Chief Legal Officer,
Symbiotics Group

Recent ITC supervisor

“Working as a supervising attorney with the ITC is my favorite pro bono engagement. I have had a chance to volunteer throughout the history of the clinic, and each year the projects are interesting, the clients are engaging, and the students are amazing.”

David Surbeck, Shareholder,
Polsinelli PC

ITC's Core Values for 2024–25

CREATIVITY

We are driven to explore uncharted territory to uncover innovative solutions to our clients' problems.

TEAMWORK

We will prioritize clear communication, foster a supportive environment built on trust, share responsibilities, and integrate our clients as partners to collaboratively define success for all.

HUMILITY

We are committed to carefully balancing our own strengths and limitations while recognizing the strengths of our peers and clients in order to achieve our goals.

INVESTED

We are dedicated to our work and our clients' goals. We care about our clients' missions and their future success.

ADAPTABILITY

We embrace adaptability by swiftly adjusting our perspective and approach in response to new information, feedback, or changing circumstances while confidently exploring innovative solutions and remaining open to different viewpoints.

In 2024–25, ITC students provided over 2,300 hours of pro bono support to the ITC's clients. Clients included:

Builders Vision
Crossboundary
Elevor Equity
Habitat for Humanity
International Finance Corporation
International Fund for Public Interest Media
Jibu, Inc.
MCE Social Capital
Root Capital
Symbiotics Group
World Council of Credit Unions