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.)

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.

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 10–15 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.

For more information about the ITC, contact Professor Deborah Burand at Deborah.Burand@nyu.edu.
What ITC students and clients are saying about the ITC

Recent ITC students

“The ITC encouraged me to absorb a wealth of information about corporate work and impact investing, and to develop soft skills such as time management and client-centered professionalism. Working with international clients to catalyze social impact, develop guidance on innovative corporate structures, and draft key legal agreements is an invaluable experience to have as a law student. The ITC community has influenced my personal and professional growth and given me a head start in my legal career.”

Amanda Esteves ’21

“My 3L year in the ITC was a transformative experience. I come away from the ITC with a better understanding of what it means to act as an attorney and support my clients; a better eye when reviewing documents; a better ear for hearing interests, concerns and unspoken perspectives; and a better feel for myself as an attorney in novel situations with the confidence of an expanded toolbox and network supporting my growth.”

Elizabeth Damaskos ’20

“The ITC modeled what being a good lawyer looks like. I worked on grant agreement templates for an organization focused on supporting renewable energy to underserved populations, side letters for funding responsible finance institutions, and an operating agreement for a microfinance institution. I also formed lasting personal and professional relationships with clients and teammates, and I was able to get an “insider look” into organizations that I hope to continue to work with in the future.”

Julia Chen ’20

“The ITC gave me exactly what I was looking for in terms of gaining significant experience with cross-border transactional matters—drafting and annotating complex agreements and other deal documents, and communicating frequently with clients. Best of all, the projects involved working alongside supervising attorneys and fellow students who are passionate about international work. Both the ITC seminar and fieldwork were immensely useful for building fundamental knowledge and developing professional habits that I can draw on as I start my legal career.”

Jared Metzker ’21

“ITC helped me grow as a budding transactional attorney. For example, I had the opportunity to counsel a client in the process of extending a loan to generate more capital and services for small fishermen and farmers in the Philippines. We created structure charts to explore different transactions options, researched Philippine law, and provided suggestions on a back-to-back standby letter of credit structure and two hybrid structures.”

Sally Wu ’20

“As a LLM student with prior experience working as a transactional attorney in South Africa, the ITC gave me the opportunity to further develop and channel my legal skills. The ITC also connected me with fellow students, attorneys, and clients who share a common passion for utilizing transactions and other business activities to tackle some of the developing world’s most pressing problems.”

Julia Kaplan LLM ’20

Recent ITC clients

“The ITC students were professional, intelligent, and responsive, incorporating feedback and responding to questions in a timely and helpful manner. Their final work product was exactly what we needed and saved considerable time for Ashoka’s in-house legal team.”

Whitney Schneider-White, Global Compliance Counsel, Ashoka

“ITC team helped us to develop a practical approach for funding accessible energy solutions throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. The students’ dedication and initiative strengthened our ability to serve some of the world’s most vulnerable populations.”

Krysta C. Copeland, Associate General Counsel, The Rockefeller Foundation

ITC’s Core Values for 2019–20

RESPECT
Be kind to yourself and to others—be prepared, punctual, and patient.

SERVICE
Center clients’ needs and goals.

LEARNING
There is always learning to be done—including from other individuals and yourself.

COMMUNICATION
Communicate early and often, and communicate mindfully.

In 2019-20, ITC students provided over 4,000 hours of pro bono support to the ITC’s clients. Clients included:

Ashoka
Calvert Impact Capital, Inc.
CapPlus Exchange
Enveritas
Episcopal Relief & Development
FACTOR(e) Ventures
Global Communities
Global Innovation Fund
Jibu
MCE Social Capital
MicroVest Fund
Orbis
Purpose
ResponsAbility
The Rockefeller Foundation
SunFunder
Symbiotics