Entrepreneurial Law Clinic

The Entrepreneurial Law Clinic (ELC) is one of the cornerstones of the Pacific Northwest innovation ecosystem. The clinic links law and business students with pro bono attorneys and corporate advisors to provide critical early stage legal and business counseling to technology entrepreneurs, small business owners, social entrepreneurs and non-profits and faculty researchers at the UW and the Institute of Translational Health Sciences.

Objectives

• Promote economic development by facilitating entrepreneurship in the Pacific Northwest
• Provide low or no cost critical early stage legal and business counseling to entrepreneurs and the non-profits that serve them
• Provide meaningful access to justice across a broad spectrum of needs
• Facilitate valuable transactional mentorship to law students
• Leverage research institutions as an engine for desirable high-tech economic development

Funding Priorities

• An endowment to provide stable funding to allow the ELC to operate year-round, enhance the clinic by increasing the number of services offered, expand the clinic’s outreach and enable clinic staff and students to travel to conferences
• An ELC Endowed Fellowship to provide funding for ELC Fellows
• Trainings and recognition events for pro bono supervising attorneys and business mentors, and mentoring and networking opportunities for students

The Program

The ELC is a collaboration between the UW School of Law’s Clinical Law Program and the UW Foster School of Business. It also taps the strong entrepreneurship-focused legal practitioner community in the Seattle area. The clinic is similar in structure and services of technology- and entrepreneurship-focused law firms that specialize in critical fields, such as intellectual property, corporate and securities law, commercial law and tax.

• The ELC assembles and supports teams comprised of law and MBA students, pro bono attorneys and business mentors that provide legal and business planning, such as audits, transactional services and counseling to low-income microenterprises, non-profit/social entrepreneurs, low- to middle-income tech entrepreneurs and UW technology spin-offs
• Each year, students serve as many as 40 clients
• Students undertake community outreach presentations and legal consultations under the supervision of attorneys

Faculty

Jennifer Fan, Managing Director