

A background image showing several black graduation caps with yellow tassels arranged on a teal surface. The caps are scattered across the top half of the page, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background.

Law Clerk Program Report

Hiring & Law Student Outreach
Developing Skills
Client Impact
Summer Program
Spotlight on Current Law Clerks
Featured DLC Law Clerk Alumna

Fiscal Year 2025

Hiring & Law Student Outreach

The Disability Law Center strives to maintain close relationships with the local law schools and make students aware of the work we do as a P&A as well as the opportunities for students to be involved as interns and law clerks. For the first time ever, the DLC dedicated a webpage to our Law Clerk Program which helped interested students find out more information and reach out to the DLC directly.

In addition to posting job opportunities on the internal job boards for the University of Utah S.J. Quinney School of Law and Brigham Young University School of Law, the DLC cultivates the connections with schools and students through attendance at a variety of events including:

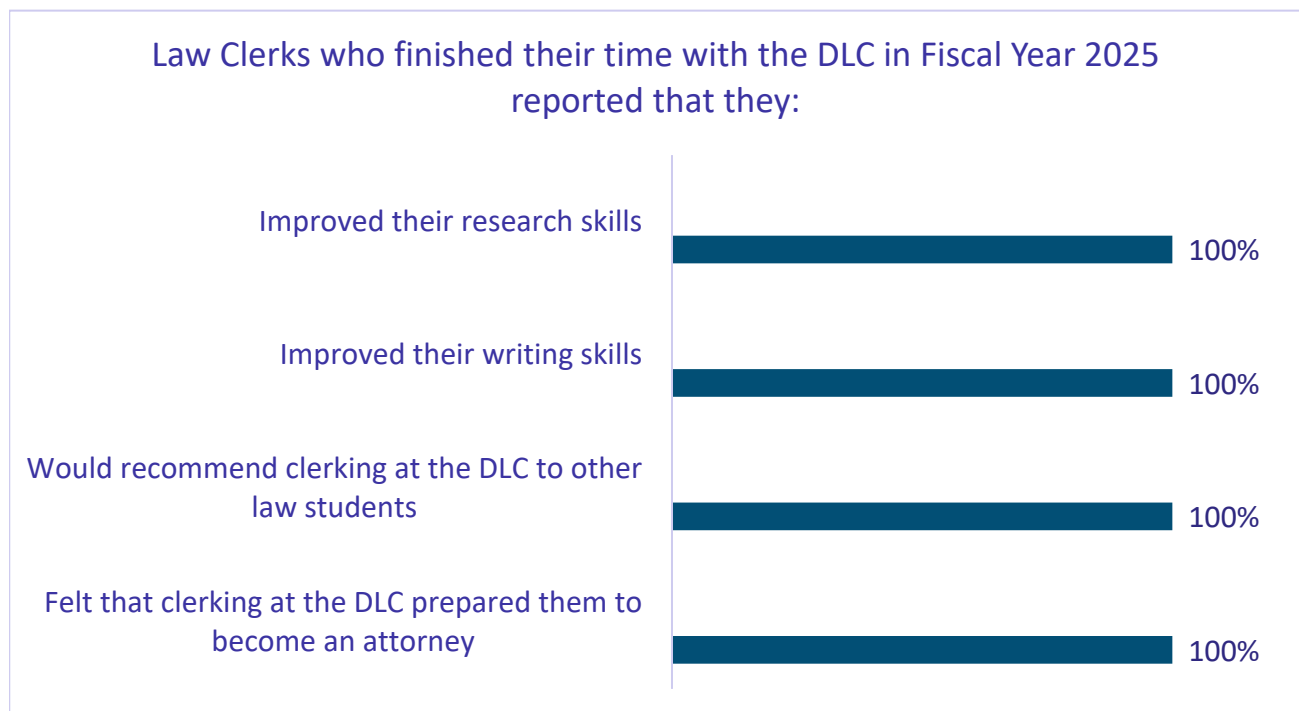
- Utah Center for Legal Inclusion (UCLI) - LGBTQ+ Law Student Social
- University of Utah SJ Quinney School of Law - Legal Career Options Day
- University of Utah SJ Quinney School of Law - On Campus Interviews
- Brigham Young University School of Law - 2025 Annual Winter Networking Fair
- Brigham Young University School of Law - Public Service Lunch & Fair
- Brigham Young University School of Law - On Campus Interviews
- The Northwest Consortium of Law Schools - 2025 NW Public Service Career Fair

I learned a lot and gained many valuable and practical skills. It was an honor to be able to further this important work and assist individuals with disabilities.

Lauren Cunningham, 2025 Law Clerk

Developing Skills

The DLC recognizes that our law clerks are first and foremost students—emerging advocates who come to our organization to learn, explore, and develop their professional identities. We see clerkship as a formative stage where curiosity is encouraged, questions are welcomed, and learning is woven into their work. Through hands-on practice and exposure to the full range of the DLC’s work, clerks are nurtured in an environment that fosters growth, builds confidence, and equips them with the skills and knowledge necessary to emerge as skilled, knowledgeable, client-centered professionals.



I learned so much from being able to help with the clinics, especially if the attorney I was working with would do a huddle afterwards to explain their thinking. It really helped me understand the process more.

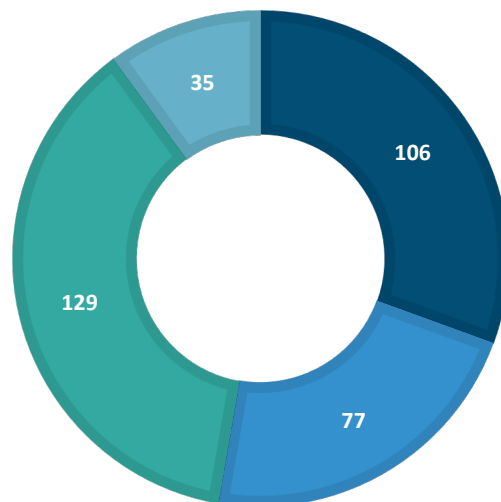
Jade Matkin, 2025 Law Clerk

Client Impact

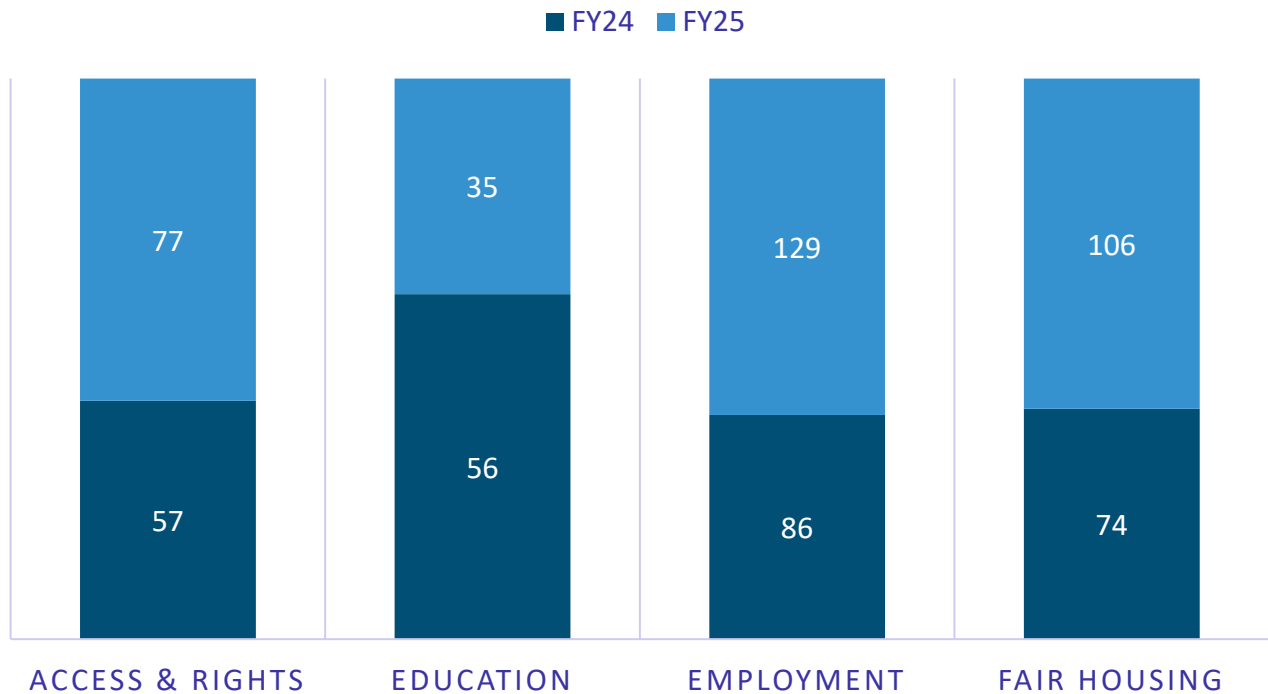
Our law clerks work primarily with four legal teams: Access & Rights, Education, Employment, and Fair Housing. These teams have a high caseload of individual clients. Law clerks assist on the case from inception to resolution. They support our attorneys by handling scheduling, managing client contact and communication, and assisting with document review. Law clerks draft research memoranda, write letters, and draft administrative complaints on a regular basis. Our clerks also assist with pleadings and research on matters in litigation.

LAW CLERKS ASSISTED DLC ATTORNEYS ON OVER 345 CASES IN FY25

■ Fair Housing ■ Access & Rights ■ Employment ■ Education



LAW CLERKS ASSISTED DLC ATTORNEYS IN 30% MORE CASES IN FY25 THAN FY24



Getting to interact with actual clients was one of the most valuable experiences of my law school career so far. Also, learning from the attorneys how to simplify the law to explain it to clients is both a great skill to learn and helped me learn the law quickly as well.

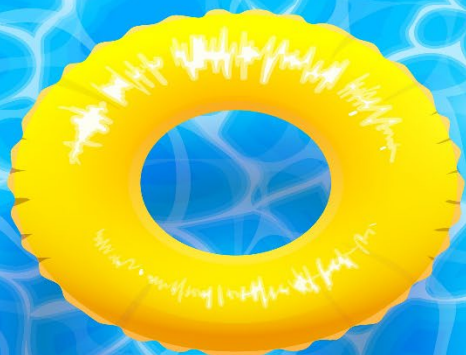
Renee Farmer, 2025 Law Clerk

Summer Program

May - August

The DLC's summer law clerk program is a ten-week opportunity for students to get hands-on experience in public interest legal practice. Law clerks engage deeply with substantive law by sitting in on subject-area team meetings with our Fair Housing Team and Employment Discrimination Team, where they contribute to strategic decision-making and witness first-hand the factors that our DLC attorneys consider at each step of the case. Clerks conduct targeted legal research to support the systemic work of subject-area teams, such as the Education Team. The program also includes specialized informational panels and professional development sessions, providing richer, more in-depth exposure than typical academic-year placements. This program equips emerging advocates with the skills, insight, and professional judgment necessary to launch their careers in impactful public interest work.

Law Clerk Gracie Messier measures the height of an Accessible Parking Space sign to ensure compliance with ADA Architectural Guidelines during August, as part of her summer experience at the DLC



Summer Program Educational Panels and Presentations

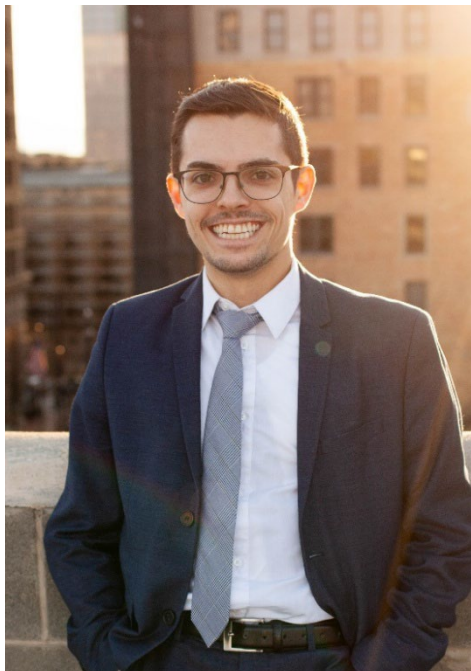
DLC Staff Attorney Angel Tirado (Access & Rights, Employment) presented to our clerks about **public interest law careers**. Angel drew on his experiences at Northeast New Jersey Legal Services where he handled public benefits work including appeals of social security denials. The law clerks gained a deeper understanding of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and the Protection and Advocacy Agencies (P&A) frameworks differ. LSC agencies are restricted to offering their services based on income-eligibility criteria and cannot engage in class action litigation, whereas P&As like the DLC use protected class membership as eligibility criteria and are able to bring class action lawsuits.



DLC Short Term Assistance Team (STAT) Advocate Rene Gilfillan presented to the clerks about **client communication**. Rene is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and brings a full toolkit of communication techniques to every interaction with individuals seeking assistance from the DLC. Rene may need to coax specific information forward to determine if a situation meets DLC criteria or diffuse high emotions from individuals in critical situations. Rene brought a compassion-forward approach

to the clerks, along with concrete strategies for handling communication challenges.





DLC Staff Attorneys Madison Morrisette (Community Integration) and Mitchell Roundy (Abuse & Neglect, Education) presented to our law clerks twice during the summer. At their first presentation, they talked about **entering the legal profession**. As our most recently barred attorneys in 2024 and 2023, Mitchell and Madison were able to relate to the law school experiences of the clerks, give insights into the way that the practice of law is different from the classroom experiences, and provide tips and tricks for optimizing law school classes and extra-curricular activities.

At their second presentation, Mitchell and Madison talked to our law clerks about **legal research methods**. Mitchell's experience as a clerk for Associate Chief Justice John A. Pearce honed his legal research skills, making him a whiz at quickly locating, analyzing, and synthesizing case law. Madison's passion for in-depth critical review of legal issues made them an obvious candidate to mentor our law clerks on this issue.



Spotlight on our Current Law Clerks



Gracie Messier

Growing up with a chronic illness, I learned early what it means to navigate systems and advocate for myself. That experience sparked my interest in law and continues to shape how I approach advocacy today.

Karley Viczian

My time at the Disability Law Center has been transformative in every sense, both personally and professionally. As the first in my family to pursue a career in law, this role is an entirely new experience—one that challenges me to grow and helps me begin to see myself as a future lawyer. Each day offers something different, whether it is learning from the talented attorneys and staff I work alongside or navigating the unique issues raised by each client's story.



Sam Lemons

As a student pursuing a degree in both the law and public policy, the DLC provides the perfect space for me to better understand the role of attorneys in identifying emerging gaps in public policies and the laws designed to enforce them.

Kacee Call

During my time at the DLC, I have had the opportunity to directly work with people who have nowhere else to go. Whether that has been writing a demand letter, drafting a memo to the Utah Antidiscrimination and Labor Division (UALD), or just listening to someone's story, I feel extremely honored to have been a small part in fighting for equality and justice to those more vulnerable in our society.



Featured DLC Law Clerk Alumna

Sara Williams

Sara Williams was a law clerk with the DLC during her 3L year of law school in fiscal year 2025. During her time as a law clerk, Sara honed her legal research and writing skills. Sara benefitted from the additional mentorship of Legal Director Laura Henrie, resulting in Sara's project proposal being selected by renowned public interest agency Equal Justice Works. Sara is now an Equal Justice Works Fellow placed at the DLC, where her work focuses on bringing equal opportunity and



actively inclusive education to Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Sara joins staff attorneys Maya Anderson (Education, Employment), Katie Cox (Utah Medical Legal Partnership), and Legal Director Laura Henrie in the ranks of former DLC law clerks who now serve as attorneys here.

I loved working with a variety of attorneys and seeing how they would handle cases and clients differently. I loved feeling like a valued partner in the process with attorneys—all were very inclusive throughout, patient, and great mentors. I really think DLC has some of the best.

Sara Williams, FY25 Law Clerk