

Social Justice Advocacy Certificate (for JD candidates graduating Spring 2027 or thereafter)

Seattle U ID: _____

Student Name: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Before the end of the third week of classes in the semester of your expected graduation, students should complete and submit this form to the Critical Justice Initiative Co-Director Steven Bender (benders@seattleu.edu), who will review the submitted information in collaboration with the Registrar's office. Upon verification that all requirements have been met, the application will be approved, and the certificate will be awarded to the student during the graduation ceremony. The certificate will also be noted on the student's transcript and diploma.

Seattle U Law has an ABA 303(c) Law and Systemic Inequity requirement that requires students take at least **one course** designed to fulfill the 303 aims. In contrast, this Social Justice Advocacy certificate is optional for students interested in acquiring a deeper skillset for transformative social change.

There is no minimum credit hour requirement specified for this Certificate. It is strongly suggested that this application form also be used for course planning purposes.

LIST OF ADVOCACY KVSAs (KNOWLEDGES, VALUES, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES):

Build **structural competency** in understanding interconnected systems of subordination on the basis of identity and using complex advocacy actions to advance just outcomes (KVSA 1)

Emphasize **research methods** for working with subordinated groups to obtain and build strategies drawing on bottom-up knowledge (KVSA 2)

Teach how to **build organized group power and/or map power**—the ability to obtain desired outcomes (KVSA 3)

Teach **organizing strategies in advocacy** (KVSA 4)

Teach the benefits of **coalition-building and coalitional solidarity** (KVSA 5)

Expose and engage with the **origins, history, and ongoing operations of the rule of law as a system designed to fail** to deliver equal justice (KVSA 6)

Rely on lessons from the **schools of critical legal theory and/or one of the critical approaches to advocacy** (KVSA 7)

Introduce **the salience of social and political identities**, such as race or gender or sexuality or economic class, to legal outcomes and problem-solving (KVSA 8)

Emphasize the advocacy skill of **critical collective and individual reflection** to improve analysis and advocacy (KVSA 9)

Address the importance of governance and how to use economic and political **democracy and the rule of law** to help change systemic outcomes (KVSA 10)

Teach systemic advocacy strategies to confront systemic injustice within a specific social problem **context** such as mass incarceration, immigration, climate change, human rights, or housing (KVSA 11)

Emphasize a **social movement(s)** and its tools and strategies or that expose injustice in social movement(s) (KVSA 12)

Expose injustice in **public law** (KVSA 13)

Teach how to shift **group consciousness and/or societal culture** to better support transformative social change (KVSA 14)

Deploy the framing of **law and political economy** (KVSA 15)

Emphasize **material measures of in/justice** in contrast to formal legal equality (KVSA 16)

Bring **critical comparative perspectives** to social problems (KVSA 17)

Emphasize **collaborative professionalism—teamwork—to strengthen systemic advocacy** (KVSA 18)

Apply **interdisciplinary insights** beyond law to social problems (KVSA 19)

Show how to run or contribute to the running of an **issue campaign**¹ connected to transformative social change (KVSA 20)

Show how to run or contribute to the running of a **community development project**² connected to transformative social change (KVSA 21)

1. GROUP 1 COURSES

Take at least FIVE of the following courses that emphasize ONE or MORE of the above KVSAs:

Put an X on the line beside any of the following courses you have completed or are currently completing. Also specify any additional KVSAs by number to those (if any) listed below and they will count if verified by the instructor for that semester

___ **Abolition Vision and Praxis** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **American Indian Tribal Law** (KVSA 17) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Climate Change** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Climate Migration** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Criminal Procedure Investigative** Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Disability Law** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence: Law, Advocacy and Policy** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Elder Law** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Employment Discrimination** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

¹ Issue campaigns are coordinated activities, both legal and extralegal, aimed to result in a change in policy or practice concerning a persistent social problem. FRANCISCO VALDES, STEVEN W. BENDER, AND JENNIFER J. HILL, CRITICAL JUSTICE: SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY IN LAW AND SOCIETY ch. 12 (2021).

² Community development projects tend to be centered on material progress—economic development or opportunity—and often involve setting up an institution such as a nonprofit or worker cooperative to carry out ongoing efforts to generate housing, jobs, and business opportunities. *See id.*

___ **Environmental Justice** (KVSAs 8, 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Family Law** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Gender, Sexuality and Law** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Housing, Homelessness, and Social Justice** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Immigration Law** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Indigenous Peoples, Law, and the U.S.** (KVSAs 8, 13) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **International Criminal Law** (KVSA 17) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **International Environmental Law** (KVSA 17) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **International Law of Human Rights** (KVSAs 11, 17) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Jurisprudence of Genocide** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Labor Law** (KVSA 3) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Latinos and the Law** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Law and Colonialism** (KVSAs 6, 7, 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Law and the Holocaust** (KVSA 9) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Law and Mental Health** (KVSA 8) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Law and Political Economy** (KVSA 15) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Law and Politics of Deportation Seminar** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Lawyering for Social Change** Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Lawyers, Media, and Social Change** (KVSA 14) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Legislature and the Legislative Process** (KVSA 10) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Natural Resources Law** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Police and Prison Abolition** (KVSAs 6, 11, 13) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Poverty Law** (KVSAs 11, 16) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Public International Law** (KVSA 7) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Queer and Trans Resistance: Law and Social Movements** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Race and Law** (KVSA 8) [course name changed to Racial Capitalism and Law 2025-26] Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Racial Capitalism and Law** (KVSAs 8, 16) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Reproductive Justice: Law and Policy** (KVSAs 8, 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Social Impact Advocacy** (KVSAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Transforming Legal Education** (KVSAs 6, 7, 8, 9, 15) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Transitional Law: Lessons from Morocco and the US** (KVSAs 17, 19) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **US Races and the Justice System** Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Voting Rights and Election Law** (KVSA 10) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

___ **Water Law** (KVSA 11) Any additional KVSAs: _____ Instructor last name: _____

2. GROUP 2 EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

Take at least ONE of the following experiential courses that robustly implement/practice SOME or ALL of the above KVSAs:

Put an X on the line beside any of the following courses you have completed or are currently completing.

Clinics and Practicums

- ___ Applied Domestic Violence Practicum
- ___ Applied Family Law Practicum
- ___ Business and Human Rights Practicum
- ___ Civil Rights Clinic
- ___ Defender Clinic
- ___ Estate and Disability Planning Clinic
- ___ Health Policy Advocacy Clinic
- ___ Homeless Rights Advocacy Clinic
- ___ Homeless Rights Advocacy Practicum
- ___ Housing Justice Clinic
- ___ Immigrant Justice Clinic
- ___ International Human Rights Clinic
- ___ Not for Profit Organization Clinic
- ___ Regulatory Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
- ___ Transforming Public Safety Clinic
- ___ Tribal Court Practice
- ___ Tribal Law Clinic

- Voting Rights Clinic
- Workers' Rights Clinic

Specify KVSAs by number that were implemented/practiced in the above clinic or practicum you completed or are currently completing: _____

Externships

- Criminal Externship Seminar
- Civil Externship Seminar
- Government Attorney Externship Seminar
- In-House Counsel Externship Seminar
- Judicial Externship Seminar
- Legislative Externship Seminar—Spring Only
- International Externship Seminar

and

Externship Sites (Any site can qualify if at least two KVSAs are practiced)

List externship site(s) here and specify by number at least two social justice advocacy KVSAs that you implemented/practiced:

Site: _____

Specify KVSAs by number: _____

Any additional site: _____

Specify KVSAs by number: _____

3. LIST AT LEAST FIVE KVSAs COVERED IN YOUR COMPLETED (OR CURRENTLY COMPLETING) GROUP 1 AND 2 COURSES

Specify KVSAs by number from the courses you have completed or are currently completing:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Any additional KVSAs you have completed or are currently completing in Group 1 and 2 courses: _____

4. COMPLETE THE PRO BONO PLEDGE

Finally, to receive the Social Justice Advocacy Certificate, complete the Pro Bono Pledge Goals for legal pro bono and community volunteer work before graduation:

<https://law.seattleu.edu/centers-and-institutes/access-to-justice-institute/pro-bono-programs/pro-bono-pledge-program/>.

I certify I have or will have completed the Pledge Goals before graduation.

