The Health Law Practice Clinic offers placements in a variety of settings, including local and national organizations that promote access to public and mental health services and reproductive rights, as well as government entities working in matters of medical malpractice and insurance fraud, and with national organizations promoting access to insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The practice clinic includes a weekly seminar that provides student-attorneys the opportunity to delve deeper into these issues through class presentations and practice of lawyering skills.

During Fall 2015, student-attorneys specializing in mental health legal issues worked with clients at the Mental Health Project of Nassau Suffolk Legal Services, the Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center, and with Mental Hygiene Legal Services. They represented individuals seeking SSI benefits and contesting their hospitalization or treatment regimes, developed empathetic communication skills while working with clients with mental health concerns, and practiced cross-examining experts regarding client treatment.

Through placements at the Reproductive Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union and Earth Justice, students learned the importance of community based lawyering in law reform efforts. At the Reproductive Rights Project students worked on effective impact litigation in the context of the right to reproductive freedom. At Earth Justice, they focused on cases in which adverse environmental situations had an impact on health, particularly in African American communities.

Those students interested in health care access, particularly through health insurance after the Affordable Care Act, took placements at the Office of New York Health Insurance Exchange Planning, where they practiced developing administrative regulations and comments to facilitate government supported health care access. At another health care access placement, the Community Service Society, students assisted individuals in acquiring health coverage and contesting insurance company denials. Students focused on the skills needed to engage in appeal processes to challenge insurance company refusals to cover needed health care.

In addition to civil society organizations, students work with government entities that enforce laws and standards to protect public health and programs, particularly in the areas of medical malpractice and insurance fraud. Last semester, students worked with the State Attorney Generals Office and at the Health Care Frauds Bureau of the Kings County D.A. on Medicaid fraud cases, focusing on enterprise corruption in Medicaid fraud.

Other students worked directly with a judge whose docket was primarily medical malpractice, and for the New York City Corporation Counsel and the Bureau of Professional Medical Misconduct. In these placements the students practiced effective negotiation and settlement skills, wrote judicial opinions, and engaged in significant motion practice.

The Health Law Practice Clinic will be on hiatus for the 2016-17 academic year.