

The University of the West Indies International Economic Law Clinic

*Making WTO, Preferential Trade and Bilateral Investment
Treaties Work for Everyone*



TradeLab

International rules on cross-border trade and investment are increasingly complex. There is the WTO, World Bank and UNCTAD, but also hundreds of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and free trade arrangements ranging from GSP, EU EPAs and COMESA to ASEAN, CAFTA and TPP. Each has its own negotiation, implementation and dispute settlement system. Everyone is affected but few have the time and resources to fully engage.

Who we are

TradeLab aims to empower countries and smaller stakeholders to reap the full development benefits of global trade and investment rules. Through pro bono legal clinics and practica, TradeLab connects students and experienced legal professionals to public officials especially in developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises and civil society to build lasting legal capacity. Through 'learning by doing' we want to train and promote the next generation of trade and investment lawyers. By providing information and support on negotiations, compliance and litigation, we strive to make WTO, preferential trade and bilateral investment treaties work for everyone.

How we can help

- Research and analysis for treaty negotiations
- Compliance assessment of domestic or foreign laws
- Assessment of legal claims or defence strategies
- Writing of party and third party submissions
- Preparation of amicus curiae briefs
- Legal and economic research on cutting edge trade or investment questions.

Students and supervisors can work in a variety of languages.

What are legal clinics

Legal clinics are composed of small groups of highly qualified and carefully selected students. Faculty and other professionals with longstanding experience in the field closely supervise the work. Clinics are win-win for all involved: beneficiaries get expert work done for free and build capacity; students learn by doing, obtain academic credits and expand their network; faculty and expert mentors share their knowledge on cutting-edge issues and are able to attract or hire top students with proven skills.

How it works

Clinic projects are selected on the basis of need, available resources and practical relevance. Two to four students are assigned to each project. Students are teamed up with expert mentors from law firms or other organizations and carefully prepped and supervised by Academic Supervisors and Teaching Assistants. The Clinic culminates in a polished legal memorandum, brief, draft law or treaty text or other output tailored to the project's needs. Clinics deliver in three to four months. Work and output can be public or fully confidential, for example, when preparing legislative or treaty proposals or briefs in actual disputes.

The Shridath Ramphal Centre at The University of the West Indies, Barbados, will be running its first pilot clinic during the months of January to May 2019.

How to submit your project

If you or your organization has a legal question or project or you simply want to learn more about the Clinic, please visit www.tradelab.org. All requests will be treated confidentially.

≥ tradelab.org

Examples of completed projects

Established in 2008 at the Graduate Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, TradeLab legal clinics have completed over 80 unique projects on international trade and investment law matters for a range of stakeholders.

Drafting of an amicus curiae brief for environmental NGOs in a WTO subsidies dispute.

A study of the WTO Subsidies Agreement in relation to renewable energy and GATT environmental exceptions.

Should Mexico join ICSID?

An assessment of the pros and cons of different arbitration fora, and how they play out for the specific case of Mexico.

Gender and Trade

Identification and sharing of best practices for gender inclusive trade policies.

Options for a WTO Member to retaliate after winning a WTO dispute

Designing an effective retaliation scheme for copyrights and studying whether IP rights can be suspended during retaliation.

SME land owner and possible expropriation rights

Discussion of redressal options available to a landowner whose land was expropriated by the government.

The University of West Indies' Shridath Ramphal Centre is the UWI's Flagship Program, the Masters in International Trade Policy (MITP). The Centre will be running its pilot clinic during the months of January to May, 2019.

Academic supervisors

- Jan Yves Remy, Deputy Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, The University of the West Indies

TradeLab clinic network

- Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.
- Georgetown University in Qatar, Doha
- Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, D.C.
- International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO), Barcelona
- Jindal Global Law School, Haryana
- Qatar University, Doha
- Queen's University, Faculty of Law, Kingston
- The Graduate Institute, Geneva
- Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), Arusha
- University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, Ottawa

Projects by other clinics:

- Illicit trade and international economic law
- An analysis of Export Restriction Rules and Proposals under the WTO
- Services Trade under the EAC Common Market Protocol
- Counterclaims in investor-state dispute settlement
- Trade & investment treaty implications of BREXIT
- WTO consistency of a proposed Carbon Tax bill

Timetable

December	Submission of possible projects; initial discussions with beneficiaries to identify legal questions; selection of projects for the semester
January - February	Selection of students; composition of teams; meeting between student group and beneficiary: expert and other skill sessions
March - April	Research, completion of draft report and feedback from beneficiary, experts and supervisors
May	Delivery of written report; oral presentation and discussion of the results

Disclaimer

All projects prepared and published by TradeLab law clinics are done on a pro bono basis by students for research purposes only. The projects are pedagogical exercises to train students in the practice of international economic law, and they do not reflect the opinions of TradeLab and/or the academic institutions affiliated with TradeLab. The projects do not in any way constitute legal advice and do not, in any manner, create an attorney-client relationship. The projects do not, in any way, or at any time, bind, or lead to any form of liability or responsibility on the part of the clinic participants, participating academic institutions, or TradeLab.