If your organization would like to participate in the LSSC program, please complete the LSSC project application, which can be found at northeastern.edu/law/lssc-partners. The application should include a proposal consisting of a single project or a set of small, related projects that can be completed in an academic year. Successful project proposals have a clearly defined goal and desired outcome and include both legal and investigative field research components. Applications are due by April 15, 2021. Organizations will be notified by July 2021 if their proposals have been accepted. The partner organization is an important part of the learning experience for Northeastern Law students. Partner organizations assist in this pedagogical endeavor by helping to fashion the appropriate scale and scope of the project, meeting with the students (in-person or virtually) at various points throughout the academic year and responding to questions from the team as needed. The projects culminate in a multi-media oral presentation to the partner organization, law school community and interested stakeholders, held in early April.

QUESTIONS?
For more detailed information, please visit our website at northeastern.edu/law/lssc or contact Professor Stephanie Hartung at s.hartung@northeastern.edu.

Criminal Law
Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services
An LSSC student team conducted multi-jurisdictional research on the feasibility of replicating, in other states, the Rapid Response to Brutality Project, responsible for a substantial drop in Massachusetts guard-on-prisoner assaults. Research included examination of laws allowing legal professionals access to prisoners, federal and state laws supporting a right to photograph clients; and international human rights laws relating to prison brutality. The final product included a report providing a state-by-state strategic analysis and rationale of jurisdictions that may accept such a program.

Immigration
Vera Institute of Justice
The Vera Institute of Justice project investigated the extent to which non-English speaking parties to immigration court proceedings have a right to be provided with translations of “vital documents” under federal law and the US Constitution. An LSSC student team conducted a survey of state agencies and departments to determine a number of innovative and low-cost strategies that could be implemented in immigration court proceedings to increase access for parties with limited English proficiency. The report concluded with recommendations for the Executive Office of Immigration Review on ways to increase access to the service population with limited English proficiency while respecting the procedural and substantive due process rights of these respondents facing removal.
As part of Northeastern Law’s commitment to experiential learning and community partnerships, students in the LSSC program employ their analytical research and writing skills to address social justice challenges identified by a wide range of partner organizations and agencies. Through the partnership, organizations can contribute to the legal education of future lawyers by participating in a team-lawyering effort and introducing students to the spirit and practice of public interest lawyering.

LSSC can benefit your organization by pursuing aspects of your social justice agenda that you might otherwise have to forego due to staffing or resource constraints. The program will provide your organization with a free and closely supervised lawyer think-tank composed of a team of first-year law students. Throughout the course of an academic year, the team will engage in extensive legal and field research on your organization’s behalf to analyze possible avenues of systemic reform.

The work products produced by the students are wide-ranging and can serve your organization in a variety of ways. Students have drafted research white papers, used by organizations to inform community members as well as key decision makers; model legislation; practice guides; Know Your Rights materials; sample litigation documents; and training manuals.

Since its inception, LSSC has partnered with more than 300 organizations seeking to implement broad changes to laws, policies and practices across a wide array of legal areas, including civil rights, criminal law, education, housing, immigration and poverty law. Included in this brochure is a brief sampling of the projects undertaken by LSSC students. A complete list of partner organizations may be found at northeastern.edu/law/lssc.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with your organization and to assist you in addressing critical issues faced by your organization and individuals in your community. Your project will be our students’ first experience of real lawyering for social justice. Thank you.