The Institute for Justice’s Legal Intensive
The Premier One-Day Public Interest Law Program
Harvard Faculty Club at Harvard Law School
November 5th

Friday, November 4th
5:00 – 7:00 pm Welcome Reception & Opening Remarks
Students are invited to join us for a casual cocktail reception to meet fellow attendees and our IJ speakers and clients. IJ attorney Renée Flaherty will give opening remarks.

Saturday, November 5th
8:30 – 9:00 am Arrival and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:35 am Speaker Introductions & History of Public Interest Law
This Intensive is going to have a lot of time for discussion and collaboration, so we’ll start off with some introductions and get to know each other. Then, IJ attorney Josh Windham will trace the history and evolution of public interest litigation and how IJ has advanced liberty through our work.

9:35 – 9:40 am Break

9:40 – 11:00 am IJ’s Principles and Pillars
In this session, IJ attorneys Sam Gedge and Josh Windham will walk you through IJ’s primary areas of litigation and how our public interest strategy has changed the law in important areas like property rights, free speech, economic liberty, educational choice, and immunity and accountability.

11:00 – 11:15 am Break

11:15 – 12:00 pm Deep Dive: Civil Forfeiture
IJ aims to curtail, and ultimately, abolish civil forfeiture, one of the gravest abuses of power in the country today. In this session, Sam will walk you through the strides that IJ has made in this area and our litigation strategies to stop the government from taking property from people never charged with a crime. This session will form the basis for our discussions later in the day.

12:00 – 12:50 pm Lunch
Do you have any burning questions about IJ or constitutional legal issues? Ask away! Our team is here to share their war stories and insights as we sit for a casual lunch together.

1:00 – 1:30 pm Making Your Case in the Court of Public Opinion
IJ’s Director of Media Relations, Andrew Wimer, will share how we litigate cases in the court of public opinion.

1:30 – 1:40 pm Break
Public Interest Law: Advancing a Legal Strategy in the Real World
Now that you have the foundation down, Sam, Josh, and Andrew will teach you what it takes to change the law—from putting together your first case to strategically developing a string of cases to create a circuit split and hopefully convincing the Supreme Court to accept review. You will learn how to find cases and clients, advance cutting-edge legal doctrines, and how—whether or not we win in court—we can achieve real-world results that help everyday Americans enjoy more freedom.

Break

Your Turn: Crafting an IJ Case in Real Time
In this session, you will take what you learned and apply it to a potential civil forfeiture case. Josh will lead an IJ “litigation discussion” just like the ones IJ attorneys have each month to vet potential cases. We will provide you with a mock case memo to review a week prior to the event which will lay out the facts of the case. We will then vet the case together as a group.

Break

Practitioner Break Out Sessions:
Your Turn: Crafting a Discovery Strategy
In this session, you will work with Sam and Josh to develop a discovery strategy for the case we discussed in the earlier session.

Your Turn: Crafting a Media Strategy
In this session, you will work with Andrew to craft a media strategy for the case we discussed in the earlier session.

Break

Client Panel
To wrap up the day, we’ll hear directly from IJ clients Rebecca Brown, Tyson Timbs, and Susette Kelo.