

Mission Statement: Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice

The Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice works to establish fair and equal access to a marketplace free from fraud and predation. Through research, advocacy, and teaching, the Center seeks to move closer to a society where economic security and opportunity are available to all.

Committed to advancing the field of consumer law – the vast complex of rules shaping the goods and services we purchase, rent and borrow, and the information we provide and use – the Center fosters the development of innovative scholarship, curriculum, and community. The Center hosts the Consumer Law Scholars Conference, the Law School Consumer Clinics Conference, and ongoing academic workshops and meetings. It serves as a repository for consumer law research, a laboratory for consumer policy ideas, and a training ground for law students and attorneys.

Advocacy for economic justice lies at the heart of the Center’s mission. When a family living in poverty finds its last dollars going to pay off predatory loans, when an older American living on a fixed income is deceived into signing a contract for services she does not need at a price that will cause her to lose her home, when an immigrant discovers her dreams have been shattered by a vocational school that promised a job but delivered only debt – when these injustices occur, our entire society suffers. The Center works to change the law by filing amicus briefs in consumer law cases at the state and national level, by developing consumer protection policy for legislative and regulatory change, and by helping to defend innovative laws around the country. It acts to bridge the academic-practitioner divide by convening lawyers, government officials, activists, scholars, and students to exchange ideas and collaborate on projects to advance consumer rights and economic justice.

Students are integrally involved in all aspects of the Center’s work. The Center offers a wide variety of courses; provides students with opportunities for hands-on research and advocacy; offers career guidance and maintains an alumni mentoring network; and supports students in bringing new energy and perspectives to the field.

In developing and propagating new ideas and approaches, the Center seeks to advance consumer law and economic justice – for all.