

## Charleston School of Law launches Public Policy Institute

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Charleston, S.C. -- Charleston School of Law has launched the Public Policy Institute (PPI), an innovative hub dedicated to advancing nonpartisan, evidence-based solutions to some of South Carolina's most pressing challenges.

The Institute's mission is to bridge academic inquiry and real-world impact through rigorous research, broad community collaboration, and meaningful student engagement. By grounding its work in data and fostering dialogue across diverse perspectives, PPI will develop policy initiatives designed to strengthen communities, promote justice, and uphold Charleston School of Law's longstanding commitment to public service.

"Public Service and civic leadership are at the center of Charleston School of Law's identity," said [Jennifer Wilkins, Director of the Institute](#). "The Public Policy Institute will empower our students to apply their legal education to real-world challenges while building bridges between communities and policymakers. By placing our emphasis on data, collaboration, and community engagement, we aim to create actionable policy solutions that make a tangible difference in people's lives."

"We are excited to launch the Public Policy Institute at Charleston School of Law," said [Charleston Law President Constance Anastopoulo](#). "The objectives of the Institute are consistent with and advance our values of community engagement and commitment to public service. This is an exciting time at our school, and we are thrilled to have Jennifer Wilkins as the Director of this new initiative."

The Public Policy Institute is now accepting research proposals from potential community partners. Selected partners will collaborate with law student teams over a 16-week research cycle to produce actionable policy solutions.

For more information about the Public Policy Institute and to find out how you can participate in the Institute as either a community partner or student researcher, contact Jennifer Wilkins at [jwilkins@charlestonlaw.edu](mailto:jwilkins@charlestonlaw.edu).

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### **Key Goals of the Public Policy Institute include:**

- *Building Strong and Diverse Community Partnerships:* The Public Policy Institute will connect students with governmental agencies, nonprofits, trade associations, elected officials, public managers, and other leaders to identify and address critical policy issues.

- *Producing Accessible, Data-Driven Research:* Teams of law students will work alongside community partners to research and develop actionable policy recommendations, culminating in public presentations and an annual report.
- *Engaging and Educating the Community:* The Institute will host public forums and workshops to gather input and foster dialogue on issues that matter most to residents and decision-makers.
- *Enhancing Transparency and Civic Trust:* A publicly accessible data hub will feature interactive dashboards to inform the public, track progress, and collect feedback.
- *Turning Research into Policy Action:* the PPI will monitor the adoption of its recommendations, track pilot initiatives, and refine proposals based on measurable outcomes.