

HOUSING RELATED CURRICULAR AND PROGRAMMING OFFERINGS

2018-2019

The City University of New York

CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

In the CEDC's Anti-Displacement Practice Area, students – working under the supervision of Professor John Whitlow – represent tenant associations in administrative proceedings and affirmative litigation, including Article 7A proceedings seeking court-appointed administrators and Housing Part actions to compel critical building repairs. Students have successfully represented tenants in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick and are currently working with a large tenant association in Flatbush. CEDC students have also partnered with grassroots tenant advocacy organizations on organizing and policy campaigns aimed at strengthening protections for low-income tenants and have facilitated tenant meetings and led community legal education workshops on issues related to tenants' rights.

HOUSING JUSTICE PRACTICUM

This course, taught by Professor John Whitlow, trains third-year students in the legal frameworks and skills related to the preservation of affordable housing and explores the context of the current housing crisis. The course is comprised of a weekly seminar and an externship with a housing legal services provider, which together facilitate the acquisition of concrete skills, knowledge, experience, and connections in a vital and rapidly growing area of public interest law.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAWYERING SEMINAR

The CED Lawyering Seminar, instructed by Professors Carmen Huertas-Noble and Missy Risser, teaches students core lawyering skills within the context of community economic development practice. Through simulation-based work and in-class exercises, students learn how to identify and resolve practical and ethical challenges, interview and counsel clients, and draft various legal documents. Students focus on key legal areas related to the practice of community economic development law, such as nonprofit corporation law, the formation and governance of worker-owned cooperatives, and affordable housing preservation.

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY LAWYERING SEMINAR

This seminar, taught by Professor Andrea McArdle, educates students on strategies for effective representation of the least-resourced stakeholders in rapidly gentrifying areas of New York City – the communities that lack equity in massive redevelopment projects. Students also learn about other housing-related topics, including gentrification, community activism, and affordable housing.

NEW YORK LANDLORD-TENANT LAW

In this course, students learn a comprehensive survey of New York residential landlord-tenant law from an eviction-prevention perspective. The course explores the residential landlord-tenant relationship, with an emphasis on rent-regulated tenancies in New York City, and is particularly suited for students anticipating careers in civil legal services.

HOUSING RIGHTS PROJECT

This student-run organization generates awareness of housing issues amongst students and staff, supports established community efforts, provides legal support where possible, and promotes effective, person-centered housing policies and systemic change. The Project's mission is advanced by two working groups: the Housing/Anti-Gentrification Project and the Homelessness Project.

LAUNCHPAD FOR JUSTICE

In this post-graduate program, CUNY Law Graduate Fellows provide limited representation in Brooklyn Housing Court, while awaiting their admission to the Bar. Fellows receive training and intensive supervision from Peggy Colleen '02 and Melissa Cook '91. Last year's group assisted in almost 850 non-payment cases. The program operates with the NYS Courts Access to Justice Program headed by Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson '88, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of New York Courts. Student internships are also available.

CITY COUNSELING PROGRAM

CUNY Law alumni are contracted to provide legal consultation to low-income communities in all five boroughs. Contractors provide legal advice, education, and referrals to assist New Yorkers in asserting their rights to habitable apartments and succession, and resisting harassment of tenants in rent-controlled apartments. In fall 2018, CUNY Law's Community Legal Resource Network will host a program for New York City Council members and their staffs on housing rights, enabling them to better serve their constituents. Contact Lisa.reiner@law.cuny.edu if you are interested in housing contract work.