

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

2010-2011

What is the East Bay Community Law Center?

Founded by Boalt Hall students in 1988, the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is Berkeley Law's community-based teaching clinic providing high-quality training and supervision to law students and first-rate legal services to low-income clients in Alameda County. With a staff of 15 lawyers supervising over 100 upper-class law students each year, EBCLC is the largest provider of free legal services to the poor in the East Bay, assisting over 5,000 clients annually. In addition to direct legal services, each of EBCLC's clinics engages in collaborative, ground-up policy work through various strategies that include litigation, legislative advocacy and technical support for community education and organizing.

EBCLC's clinical placements (more details attached) include:

1. **Clean Slate Clinic** (Criminal)
2. **Health Law Clinic** (Multidisciplinary/Administrative)
 - a. **HIV/AIDS Law Project**
 - b. **Medical-Legal Partnership**
 - c. **Health Immigration Project**
3. **Housing Law Clinic** (Litigation)
4. **Income Support Clinic** (Administrative/Regulatory)
5. **Neighborhood Justice Clinic** (Litigation/Self-Help)
 - a. **Consumer Debt Project**
 - b. **Homeless Rights Project**

Why should I participate in EBCLC?

Gain Hands-on Lawyering Experience: EBCLC offers you the opportunity to put your classroom learning to work and gain a broad range of experience in a live law practice. You will have substantial responsibility for cases or projects, conduct client interviews, counsel clients, negotiate settlements, draft pleadings and represent clients in administrative hearings and court.

Receive Close, High-Quality Supervision: You choose a clinic and work with one of EBCLC's supervisors who provide extensive substantive law and skills training, day-to-day direction on casework and projects, meet weekly to review your work, and organize "case rounds" for all students within a clinic. You receive mid-semester and end-of-semester evaluations.

Fulfill Your Professional Responsibility Requirement: The seminar satisfies the Professional Responsibility requirement (and is not redundant with other courses).

Satisfy the Writing Requirement: With the addition of 1 or more units, papers prepared for the EBCLC seminar may satisfy the Writing Requirement.

Serve the Community: This is a very challenging time for the community as legal needs are great and resources to address them are increasingly scarce. Law students continue to make a substantial contribution to meeting these needs!

Build Your Resume: Non-profit employers and private law firms know that students at EBCLC receive first-rate training and supervision. The National Association of Law Placement reports that private-sector employers place a high value on the lawyering skills students learn in clinical settings such as EBCLC.

What is the time commitment at EBCLC?

EBCLC Seminar (Law 289): You must enroll in the 2-unit seminar. The class integrates reflection on important issues relating to legal services for low-income people with your own practice experiences. The first third of the semester is devoted primarily to substantive law and skills training. The remainder of the class focuses on materials written by practitioners and academics about many of the issues that face EBCLC clients and law students. The course and clinic provide you with the opportunity to learn first-hand about the professional responsibilities of representing clients, including instruction in the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. The seminar is graded pursuant to the academic rules.

EBCLC Clinic (Law 295.5z): You must enroll for a minimum of 4 clinical units (or 16 hours – each unit represents 4 hours per week worked at EBCLC). You may enroll for more than 16 hours per week (in 4 hour increments) and receive additional units, up to 9 (e.g., 20 hours/week = 5 units). Although workloads in any given week may vary due to the nature of a live client practice, you will not regularly be required to work more hours than the number of units for which you are enrolled. The clinical component is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis.

Flexibility: You choose your own office hours, consistent with your schedule and the demands of clients and casework.

How do I enroll?

1) Complete the on-line application on clinics homepage; and

2) Enroll in the EBCLC seminar (Law 289). *Preference is given to students who complete an application by the deadline AND enroll during Phase I of TeleBEARS.*

Questions? Contact Executive Director Tirien Steinbach (tsteinbach@ebclc.org).

EBCLC Clinics

2010-11

1. **Clean Slate Clinic**

Directed by Jessie Warner (Berkeley Law '05), with attorneys River Abeje (Santa Clara, '92), Eliza Hersh (Berkeley Law, '05), Jesse Hsieh (UCLA, '08) and Intake Specialist Serina Rankins, the **Clean Slate Clinic** provides assistance to people seeking to “expunge” (legally dismiss) prior convictions and reintegrate into the community. The goal of the clinic is to foster community reentry and reduce recidivism by helping clients overcome barriers to employment, housing, education and civic participation. Students staff weekly community clinics, manage their own client cases including representing clients in Superior Court and work on local, state and national policy efforts to foster community re-entry.

2. **Health Law Clinic**

Directed by Sheila Hall (Berkeley Law '84), the **Health Law Clinic** is an umbrella of three multidisciplinary practices addressing the complex health-related legal needs of low-income people:

a. **HIV/AIDS Law Project**

Directed by Liam Galbreth (Berkeley Law '99), the **HIV/AIDS Law Project** assists low-income people with HIV stabilize their access to income, housing and health care. Students represent clients before the Social Security Administration and other forums to secure critical benefits and assist clients in a wide range of legal matters including housing, estate planning, family law and debt relief.

b. **Medical-Legal Partnership**

Directed by Yvonne Troya (Berkeley Law '05), the **Medical-Legal Partnership** with Children’s Hospital Oakland improves health outcomes for children by providing legal care in an outpatient medical setting. Similar to the HIV/AIDS Law Project, MLP students assist low-income children and their families in a wide range of legal matters including housing, estate planning, family law and debt relief.

c. **Health Immigration Project**

Directed by Linda Tam (Berkeley Law '00), the **Health Immigration Project** helps immigrants regularize their legal status, come out of the shadows, and gain access to vital medical care and treatment. Students represent clients before the Immigration Court and Asylum Office and prepare a wide variety of immigration applications, including claims for political asylum, U visas, adjustment of status, naturalization and Violence Against Women Act petitions.

3. Housing Law Clinic

Directed by Laura Lane (Berkeley Law '96), with supervising attorneys Marc Janowitz (New College '80), Sharon Djemal (Columbia, '98), Jaimee Modica (UCD, '03) and Intake Specialist Gracie Jones, the **Housing Law Clinic**'s mission is to ensure safe, adequate and affordable housing. Students represent clients in civil eviction proceedings in Superior Court and administrative matters arising under the jurisdiction of local rent control ordinances. Students staff a self-help clinic, represent clients facing eviction, conduct outreach and education workshops for tenants and bring affirmative lawsuits to enforce housing laws. Current activities include education and representation of tenants facing eviction due to the foreclosure crisis, including systemic efforts to ensure that banks comply with local eviction ordinances.

4. Income Support Clinic

Directed by Ed Barnes (NYU '77), with supervising attorney Luan Huynh (UCLA, '05), the **Income Support Clinic** is an administrative law practice that seeks to ensure minimum income and basic support services for low-income individuals and families. Clinic students assist clients with legal needs related to welfare-to-work requirements, including representation at administrative hearings. In addition to assisting individual clients, students engage in local, statewide and policy efforts to support low-income and working-poor families. The current focuses of the clinic's direct service and policy work are preserving General Assistance, addressing time limits, and challenging the California "family cap" policy.

5. Neighborhood Justice Clinic

Directed by Elisa Della-Piana (Berkeley Law '03), with supervising attorneys Osha Neumann (New College '87), Megan Ryan (USF, '08), and Program Coordinator Owen Thompson, the **Neighborhood Justice Clinic** opened in 2007 to expand services to clients whose issues do not fit into areas where they can obtain assistance from other legal service providers. In pursuit of this goal, clinic students help clients file claims in small claims court and deal with DMV issues, restraining orders, illegal towing and other concerns. Within this framework, NJC has two major projects:

a. Consumer Debt Project

The **Consumer Debt Project** assists low-income clients facing lawsuits and harassment from creditors. Students staff a weekly courthouse clinic and the NJC clinics and assist clients in preparing answers, propounding discovery and completing other pleadings.

b. Homeless Rights Project

The NJC **Homeless Rights Project** reduces the impact of the criminalization of the homeless in our community. Students represent clients charged with "quality-of-life" infractions, defending them in court and working on local and regional policy responses.

For more information about EBCLC, visit EBCLC's website (www.ebclc.org) or contact EBCLC Executive Director, Tirien Steinbach (tsteinbach@ebclc.org):2921 Adeline Street, Berkeley, CA 94703 (510) 548-4040