

1. Clean Slate – Criminal Justice

Students in the Clean Slate practice provide direct assistance to help people clean up criminal records and overcome barriers to stable employment, housing, educational opportunities and civic participation. Clean Slate students:

- Interview clients, conduct legal research, investigate facts, and prepare for and conduct hearings related to all California criminal record remedies
- Make presentations to the staff of community based organizations, potential client groups, and community forums, on topics related to criminal records remedies and a range of other legal issues at the intersection of poverty and criminal law
- Work on common client problems – through policy advocacy or litigation – seeking to influence administrative policies, regulations and legislation at local, state and national level.

2. Economic Justice – Project & Group Representation

Students in the Economic Justice practice provide legal assistance to community groups and coalitions working toward long-term, innovative solutions to poverty in the East Bay. Building on previous efforts such as the development of the People's Credit Union and construction sector apprenticeship and living wage efforts, the CEJ practice supports grassroots economic justice campaigns through the provision of technical assistance, legal research, policy and media advocacy, popular education, community outreach, coalition support, and litigation. Examples of current economic justice efforts include:

- Affordable housing impact litigation in Oakland's Chinatown
- Community coalition organized for community benefits of affordable housing and other equitable development needs from a large-scale housing development in West Oakland

3. HIV & Health – Multidisciplinary

Students in the Health & HIV practice focus on providing holistic legal services to low-income HIV-positive clients, as well as low-income children with health problems. Students carry a varied caseload that may include:

- ?? Appeals of disability benefit denials, including representation at hearings
- ?? Pre-litigation landlord-tenant issues
- ?? Simple wills and durable powers of attorney
- ?? Special education, guardianship, and family law issues
- ?? Public benefits issues
- ?? HIV confidentiality issues
- ?? Local policy initiatives regarding services to the HIV community
- ?? Outreach and community education

4. HIV Immigration – Administrative with some litigation

Students in the HIV Immigration practice provide legal services to low-income immigrants living with HIV. Students carry their own caseload of immigration cases, but are exposed to a broad range of HIV-related issues by conducting intake and participating in case rounds with the general HIV practice. A large number of clients come from Spanish-speaking countries. Student work may include:

- Consulting with undocumented clients to explore avenues for obtaining legal status
- Preparing affirmative applications for asylum, green cards, citizenship and HIV waivers; and self-petitions for battered spouses under the Violence against Women Act
- Representing clients before the Asylum Office, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, and Immigration Court
- Drafting educational materials, making presentations, and developing outreach strategies
- Participating in national advocacy efforts against limits on HIV-positive immigrants

5. Housing Law – Litigation

Students in the Housing Law practice represent clients facing eviction or other housing problems. Students work at the Alameda County Courthouse Low Income Eviction Project assisting tenants who are representing themselves in eviction matters by helping prepare responsive pleadings and other legal documents. Students also handle eviction defense cases or affirmative lawsuits against landlords for unlawful evictions and/or habitability issues. Caseloads are varied, but some examples of typical cases include:

- Representing tenants who are being evicted, including preparation of legal pleadings, propounding and responding to discovery, law and motion work, settlement conferences, and trials
- Representing public housing tenants at administrative hearings to preserve housing subsidies
- Representing tenants at administrative Rent Board hearings to challenge illegal rent increases and to address habitability problems
- Advocating on behalf of tenants to landlords and negotiating settlements without litigation

6. Income Support – Administrative/Regulatory

Students in the Income Support practice provide legal advocacy and support to families facing problems with their CalWORKs (welfare) assistance. The problems include work requirement sanctions, which are reductions in the cash grant due to purported failure to comply with employment-related requirements. They also include loss of assistance because the adults have purportedly used up their 60-month lifetime limit on aid. In addition, Income Support students help families get all of the support services available through the CalWORKs program, such as child care, education, job training, transportation, etc. Students also seek to restore benefits to children excluded from assistance because they were born after the family went on aid.