

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Eviction Defense Clinic

Students in the Eviction Defense Clinic build foundational lawyering skills as they effectively advocate for housing law clients under the guidance and supervision of attorneys from the Inner City Law Center.

The Eviction Defense Clinic is a five-unit course in which law students represent low-income tenants being evicted or at risk of being evicted from their homes. In general, students will attend a classroom component and engage in legal work on eviction cases under the supervision of Adjunct Professors and ICLC attorneys Kaimipono (Kaimi) Wenger and Matt Nussbaum. Clients reside in Los Angeles County and most court appearances take place at downtown (Stanley Mosk) Courthouse; some also take place in Pasadena, Norwalk or Compton Courthouses. For more information about ICLC visit innercitylawcenter.org.

What types of cases do students work on?

EDC students participate in every aspect of eviction cases from initial response filings, to discovery and motion practice, court appearances, settlement negotiations, and trial. Students work directly with ICLC attorneys and clients, helping counsel clients, gather evidence, draft discovery and motions, and observe and participate in hearings.



I loved my time in the Eviction Defense Clinic, and it helped me discover an area of law that became a career that I am passionate about. The staff at ICLC were incredibly supportive, and instrumental in helping me learn about avenues for justice in housing law.

- Jeff Martin '22



Class Meets:

Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m.



Weekly Hours Required:

17.5 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

Good academic standing
Complete first year of study



How will the Eviction Defense Clinic benefit my education and career?

The Eviction Defense Clinic teaches students the complicated area of unlawful detainers and tenant defense. Students will complete the clinic with an understanding of the summary proceedings used in unlawful detainers as well as civil litigation components such as preparing pleadings, motion practice, discovery, and trial preparation. Students also learn trauma-informed and client-centered lawyering. This field is in demand! Los Angeles has adopted “Right to Counsel” for eviction cases, and many former EDC clinic students now practice as attorneys in this field.



Did you know?

In closing arguments for a jury trial involving uninhabitable conditions, Professor Wenger stated that the landlord's argument "does not pass the smell test" and obtained a favorable verdict for an ICLC client at risk of eviction.



Did you know?

Professor Nussbaum once defended a client in jury trial, showing a photo of rodents in the property. The tenant testified, “That’s a rat.” The landlord attorney shouted, “Objection, that’s not a rat, it’s a mouse.” That did NOT help the landlord’s case.



Interested in applying?

Fill out the application form on the Southwestern Legal Clinics portal page at swlaw.sharepoint.com/sites/clinic or by scanning the QR code.

For more information about the Eviction Defense Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/evictiondefenseclinic.

