

Community & Economic Development

The [Community & Economic Development \(CED\) Clinic](#) addresses economic inequality in marginalized communities in New York City through litigation, transactional representation, grassroots community advocacy, and policy reform.

Clinic interns provide legal advice and assistance to community based organizational clients that are creating vibrant neighborhood institutions and organizing for social and economic justice in their workplaces and in their homes.



CED clinic interns meet with Bedford Stuyvesant tenants to discuss their upcoming receivership trial, February 2015

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting Community-Run, Worker-Owned Businesses: CED clinic interns are assisting members of Make the Road New York, an immigrants' rights membership organization, on creating worker owned co-ops. Clinic interns advise and counsel the organization members on how to set up a cooperative business entity, create democratic governance structures and guide them through the process.

Fighting for Tenants' Rights: Clinic interns in the Tenant Law and Organizing Project are helping tenants in a Bedford-Stuyvesant apartment building assert their right to a safe and healthy home. This March the residents are taking their absentee landlord to trial to be replaced, because of the landlord's negligence in upkeep of the building.



CED Clinic students, Melissa Risser and Chris Michael and alums co-organized the first annual NYC Worker Cooperative Conference, "Economic Democracy and Economic Justice: A Tale of Two Cities."

CED IN THE NEWS

Carmen Huertas-Noble and the CED clinic are mentioned in a [Forbes](#) article on the benefits of worker cooperatives.

Carmen Huertas-Noble has been invited to consult and work with the Catholic Scholars for Worker's Justice. She will participate in writing an encyclical that will call for worker cooperatives being officially endorsed by papal and Catholic social teaching. She has been invited to participate in next year's conference in Rome "On Labor Unions and Green Worker's Cooperatives" where the encyclical will be presented to Pope Francis.

The CED Clinic is partners with Mondragon-USA. Mondragon is one of the largest networks of worker owned cooperatives in the world.

SPOTLIGHT

Chris Adams Class of 2014, CED Fellow: As the CED Fellow I work in pursuit of an economy that equitably rewards individuals for the value they create through their labor and anchors that wealth to the communities in which they reside. Toward that end, I conduct research, draft transactional documents and advise clients on issues related to creating and sustaining worker-owned cooperatives.

CED Alums have obtained transactional employment at Acacias, Inc., the Urban Justice Center and ICA Group; housing employment at Legal Services, Legal Aid and the Real Estate Finance Bureau of the Attorney General's Office; and policy employment at the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the New York State Senate.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Worker Cooperative Law Project: Clinic interns provide legal support to organizations that are creating worker owned cooperatives.

Non-Profit Legal Support Project: Clinic interns assist community based organizations incorporate as non-profits and obtain tax exempt status.

Tenant Law and Organizing Project: Clinic interns provide legal advice and counsel for tenant organizations organizing for improved living conditions for low income residents in gentrifying neighborhoods.

Partners: Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, The Urban Justice Center, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Make the Road New York, Green Worker Cooperative, and Mondragon USA.