

# CLINICAL PROGRAMS

## The Community & Economic Development Clinic

(CEDC) prepares student-attorneys to provide excellent legal representation to community-based, organizational clients on a wide range of matters.

Currently, the Clinic's work is divided into four project areas: the Worker Cooperative Law Project, the Non-Profit Legal Support Project, the Worker Rights Project and the Tenant Law and Organizing Project. Student-attorneys primarily focus on one of the project areas listed above, but also have opportunities to work across project areas and clinical programs when there is student interest and/or docket overlap.

Student-attorneys in the Worker Cooperative Law and Non-Profit Legal Support Projects represent

these organizations, assisting them in designing governance structures, applying for tax exempt status, and complying with non-profit, employment, and tax laws. Recently CEDC students and alumni helped form the NYC Worker Cooperative Coalitions, of which the clinic remains an active and essential member. CEDC students and alum helped secure \$3.3 million (\$1.2 million in 2014 and \$2.1 million in 2015) from the NYC Council to fund worker owned cooperative expansion and create a system to support this growth.

In the Tenant Law and Organizing Project, student attorneys represent low-income and marginalized communities against housing evictions and work to bring affirmative litigation on behalf of tenant associations that are fighting to preserve decent, safe and affordable housing. Last semester as part of a housing project with Queens Legal Services, students represented

tenants in a variety of cases including NYCHA succession rights, rent overcharge cases, violations of the warranty of habitability, and preservation of rent stabilized apartments.

In collaboration with the Economic Justice Project (EJP), the clinic offers the Workers Rights Project in which student attorneys represent clients by bringing affirmative litigation in federal court on behalf of groups that are fighting to prevent and end wage theft and other forms of exploitation against vulnerable and marginalized workers. This marks the fifth year that the labor docket is in CEDC and the second year that it is offered as a cross-clinical program with EJP. For further updates, see the EJP section on page 9.

**Every CEDC student-attorney hones key, transferable legal skills**



L-R Back: David Muller, Thomas Power, Thomas Popejoy, Trent Santer, Prof. Joe Rosenberg, Visnja Vujica, Westri Stalder, Seth York, Andrea Sun-Mee Jones. L-R Front: Marc Vainrib, Hoda Mitwally, Ethan Morley, Prof. Carmen Huertas-Noble, Irene Byhovsky, Alanna Sakovits, Solmaz Mahali, Sofya Janashvili, Jackelyn Mariano '16), and Support Staff Ayesha Yasmin