

Housing Justice Pipeline:

Harnessing Housing Clinics *to* Transform
the Right *to* Counsel Movement

By Erica Braudy, Tom Honan & Tuhfa Begum

NEW YORK
LAW SCHOOL

Housing Justice Pipeline *Illustrated*

NYLS Housing Rights Clinic
Client Story



Ms. Fraser & Family

Rent Stabilized tenants displaced 2 years by fire



Emelia & Matt

NYLS Housing Clinic Student Attorneys

Why It Matters: Eviction crisis is well-documented



Eviction Crisis - *One Remedy*

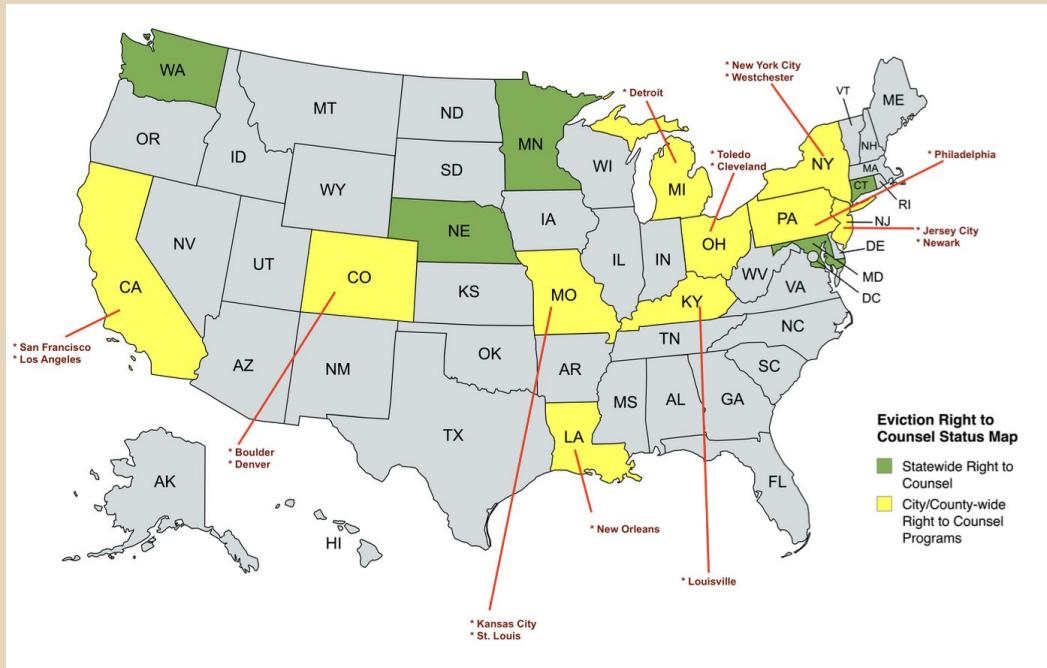
Right to
Counsel
New York City
2017

1st place to provide
no-cost attorney
to tenants
facing eviction



Transforming Tenants Rights

24 Places Pass Right to Counsel in 7 years



**24 Jurisdictions
2017 - 2024**

5 States

17 Cities

2 Counties

“ Simply put, there are not enough attorneys available to meet the need, with the result that thousands of tenants are going unrepresented.

-Testimony of NYC City Bar Assoc., Task Force on the Civil Right to Counsel, Feb. 2024

Problem & Unmet Need

- **Justice delayed.** Tenants can't get attorneys even though its their right.
- **Opportunity lost.** New jobs created by Right to Counsel going unfilled.
- **Unfinished Mandate.** Legal services groups face difficulty recruiting, hiring & retaining housing attorneys.



Housing Justice Pipeline



- Partnership between law school housing clinics & legal services groups
- Law students receive comprehensive, hands-on training & experience with tenants facing eviction
- Create new generation of driven & passionate housing attorneys
- Fill jobs in expanded market created by the Right to Counsel movement

Housing Justice Pipeline

Benefits

Training

Hands-on client
& litigation skills

Experience

Students get
exposure to housing
as a meaningful
career

Connection

Internships & Jobs with
Legal Services orgs.
Experienced attorneys
lend expertise to clinic
educators

Advocacy

Attorneys & law
schools demand
more tenant
protections, funding
for jobs & expanding
Right to Counsel

Legal Services Partnership *Benefits*



Hiring

- Less steep learning curve.
- Students have legal & practical knowledge for role.



Retention

- Less burnout.
- Students with direct experience understand demands of housing practice.



Development

- Gain supervision skills working with students .
- Increase professional network & opportunities.

Funding to Law Schools

- Create or expand Housing Clinics
- Fund Adjuncts from Legal Services orgs to supervise students
- Litigation funds
- Social media & press



Partnership Grants

Funding to Legal Services

- Fellowships for recent grads
- Paid internships & externships
- Pay stipend to senior attorneys to supervise & mentor law students
- Consult to provide materials and assistance to law students & clinic educators
- Increased pay

National Survey *Housing Clinics*



Goal

Collect & analyze data on Housing Clinics nationwide.



Prevalence

What schools have housing clinics?

Which schools don't & what are their challenges?



Clinic Models

What clinic models are law schools employing?

What can we learn & share about these models?



Partnerships

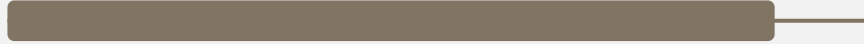
How are law schools partnering with legal services orgs?

What do these partnerships look like?

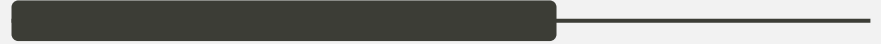
Preliminary Survey Findings

42 Law Schools responded to Survey

90% of clinic students directly represent tenants



65% of law schools partner with Legal Services groups



66% of clinics train students in seminar classes



69% of clinics started in 2017 or later



81% believe better pay for housing jobs is necessary



56% teach classes covering housing justice



QR CODE

Take our survey



THANK YOU!

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

NCCRC
National Coalition for a
Civil Right to Counsel



Survey



Association of
American Law Schools



Special thanks to:

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