

**HOUSING ADJUDICATION CLINIC**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS LEGAL CLINIC

Prof. David Romantz  
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**Course Number and Name:** Housing Adjudication Clinic (HAC)  
LAW 0501

**Credit Hours:** Four (4) hours of graded credits

**Enrollment:** The Housing Adjudication Clinic is limited to four (4) students.

**Prerequisites:** Professional Responsibility<sup>1</sup>

**Recommended:** Administrative Law and Evidence

**Course Description:**

A student in the University of Memphis' Housing Adjudication Clinic will have the unique opportunity to study law and lawyering from the standpoint of a judicial (administrative hearing) officer. Under the supervision of Prof. Romantz, HAC students work as agency hearing officers assigned to investigate, research, deliberate, and issue written decision letters involving the Memphis Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program, a federal housing subsidy program regulated and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Student-hearing officers conduct hearings and issue decision letters that determine whether Memphis Housing Authority had a sufficient factual and legal basis to terminate a participant's housing subsidy. The students' decision letters are binding on the Memphis Housing Authority unless appealed.

In the first few weeks of the semester, HAC students participate in a weekly classroom seminar designed to survey public housing law and to examine Memphis Housing Authority's and HUD's rules and regulations. Students are also trained in conducting hearings and writing decision letters. Following orientation,

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<sup>1</sup> Professional Responsibility may be taken concurrently with the clinic.

students meet weekly for case rounds at the law school and weekly hearings at the Memphis Housing Authority.

### **WHY ENROLL:**

Students in the Housing Adjudication Clinic will gain important exposure to administrative rules and adjudications as well as public housing law. Through concurrent service as hearing officers, HAC students further develop critical lawyering skills in research and writing, problem-solving, and decision-making that will prepare them to practice law. Students will also be encouraged to discuss and analyze the administrative state, the lawyer's ethical and professional responsibilities, the importance of justice and fairness in administrative adjudications, and the value of public interest lawyering. HAC students also gain critical cultural competences by working with individuals and families participating in a government-funded housing program.

### **TIME REQUIREMENTS:**

The Housing Adjudication Clinic will meet each week in the law school for 75 minutes. Given the limited enrollment for the course, there is some measure of flexibility in scheduling the weekly law school meetings. In addition, clinic students will sit in panels as hearing officers on **Wednesday afternoons** (1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) for ten weeks in the semester. **Due to COVID-19, all hearings will be remote using a web-conferencing platform.** Students who plan to enroll in the clinic should avoid class conflicts on Wednesday afternoons.

### **Relation to Bar Subjects:**

This course exposes students to aspects of Constitutional Law, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Property/Landlord-Tenant Law, and legal writing (administrative decision letters).

### **SERVICE PROJECT:**

HAC students develop and execute a service project that benefits the Memphis Housing Authority, housing-choice voucher families, or landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Please contact Prof. Romantz ([dromantz@memphis.edu](mailto:dromantz@memphis.edu)) if you have questions or comments about HAC.