

# IJ CLINIC

ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**1L LUNCH AND LEARN TALK**

THE IJ CLINIC TEAM

# WHAT DOES THE IJ CLINIC DO?

- ***Assist Low Income Entrepreneurs***
  - Provide high quality pro bono legal representation.
- ***Educate UChicago Law Students***
  - Train and inspire you to be excellent transactional attorneys and advisors, as well as advocates.
- ***Advocate for Economic Liberty***
  - Support low-income entrepreneurs with the information and connections they need.
  - Advance policy reforms to make entrepreneurship accessible and fair.



# WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?

- Local businesses with low-income entrepreneurial founders
  - Many have social justice and community building as part of their missions



Clifton Muhammed and Connie Lynn Anderson  
of **The Record Track**

# IMPACT OF STUDENT WORK

Students support clients and amplify their efforts to:

- create jobs
- bring services to their communities
- fill vacant storefronts
- uplift underserved communities

Students further policy reform that makes entrepreneurship accessible for many!

- Example: Former IJ Clinic Students wrote amendments that make more home-based businesses legal



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# OUR CLIENTS

– [HTTPS://IJ.ORG/IJ-CLINIC-ON-ENTREPRENEURSHIP/WHO-WE-ARE/CLIENT-PROFILES/](https://ij.org/ij-clinic-on-entrepreneurship/who-we-are/client-profiles/)

- **Boxville**, Bronzeville (Shipping Container Marketplace)
- **Contemporary Farmer, Inc.**, Chicago (Urban Regenerative Gardening)
- **Healthy Substance Kitchen, LLC**, Southwest Chicago (Vegan Mexican Food Manufacturer and Restaurant)
- **Hemp Heals Body Shop Inc.**, Hyde Park and Online (Personal Care Products)
- **Legacy Barber College Inc.**, Rogers Park (Barber School)
- **Jumping Jack Taxes**, Online and Downtown Loop (Tax and Business Counseling Services)
- **The RecordTrack, LLC**, South Chicago (Vinyl and Live Music Experiences)
- **YJLacour, LLC**, Hyde Park and Online (Designer Leather Goods)
  - **Note:** Meet owners of **YJLacour, LLC** and **Legacy Barber College** at the 5/11 Lunch Talk



# TRANSACTIONAL LEGAL WORK. HOW DO WE DO IT?

- We advise on:
  - Entity selection and business structuring
  - Contracts of all kinds
    - Employment, supply, real estate, services
  - Intellectual property
    - Copyrights & Trademark protection
  - Basic tax counseling
  - Guidance on compliance
    - Licensing, permits, and zoning
    - Regulatory requirements



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT THE IJ CLINIC

- “Test-drive” your legal career
- Explore transactional work and legal advising
- Serve as outside general counsel to clients
  - Strategize legal work in context of business goals
  - Become a trusted problem solver
- Experience challenging work on complex issues such as:
  - Negotiating tense relationships
  - Designing finance strategy and agreements
  - Developing expertise on regulatory areas, like hemp labeling
  - Structuring ownership of worker-owned businesses
- Identify policy issues, study history and available solutions
- Develop reform strategies, draft legislation, negotiate with legislators





# OUR ADVOCACY

- We are a watchdog for entrepreneurs with limited resources and advocate for eliminating exclusionary legal requirements through activism, lobbying and legislation.





# WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS AN IJ CLINIC STUDENT?

- Assignment to a client team with another law student – non-hierarchical
- Mentorship of supervisors - Beth or Cathy
- Non-Friday Seminar component with all students
  - 4x per quarter for about 1.5 hours
  - Rest of the time dedicated to client service
  - Alumni speakers
- Regular client meetings
- Weekly team meetings
- Feedback on work product, counseling, strategy



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AT THE IJ CLINIC....

- Develop keener issue spotting skills
- Practice contract review and drafting
- Research and construe statutory law
- Manage a project, deadlines and deliverables
- Learn:
  - how to interact with your colleagues/teammates, supervisors
  - how to navigate multiple legal issues
  - about ethical issues around representing early-stage companies
  - how to use your knowledge as advice for the client
- Gain a broader perspective:
  - Meet clients from many different walks of life
  - Encounter life-altering legal struggles
  - Your work makes an impact for clients



**Note: Earn pro bono service hours for NY bar (50-hour requirement)**

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# STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

- *“One of the best things about the IJ Clinic is how closely and often we work directly with our clients. We’re talking with our clients at least once a week and sometimes even more.”*
- *"The IJ Clinic at the Law School is a rare opportunity to work directly with clients on more legal issues than you could imagine and receive I-on-I feedback from a professor/practicing lawyer."*



# OUR BROADER OUTREACH

- Workshops
- Pitch Perfect
- South Side Pitch
- Coordination with the broader pro bono and entrepreneurial community
- Growing and sharing resources
  - Online and on the road



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**TRANSACTIONAL LEGAL WORK +  
PRO BONO LEGAL INTEREST +  
COMMUNITY = IJ CLINIC**

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