

IJ CLINIC

ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1L LUNCH AND LEARN TALK

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**

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/)

- ***Beverage Art II, LLC (dba Wild Blossom Meadery)***, Beverly Hills (Meadery and Winery)
- ***Contemporary Farmer, Inc.***, Chicago (Urban Regenerative Gardening)
- ***Haire's Gulf Shrimp Incorporated***, Auburn Gresham and South Loop (Family-Run Southern Restaurant)
- ***Kuleta Inc.***, Hyde Park (Cross-border African e-commerce)
- ***Wellayhimmek LLC (dba Nabala Café)***, Uptown (Palestinian Café and Community Hub)
- ***South Side Food Co-Op, Inc.***, Auburn Gresham (Co-Op Grocery Store in the Making)
- ***RGTree LLC***, Southwest Chicago (Father and Son Tree Cutting Business)
- ***TrnscndWellness LLC***, Bronzeville (Sensory Friendly Toothpaste)
- ***Teas for Tots LLC***, Hyde Park (Tea and Herbal Solutions for Children)
- ***Tati's Floral LLC***, Auburn Gresham (Black Female Owned Floral Business)
- ***The Record Track, LLC***, South Chicago (Vinyl and Live Music Experiences)

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



TRANSACTIONAL LEGAL WORK. WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- 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
 - 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.



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



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



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
 - how to address 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
 - Learn a business inside and out
 - Encounter life-altering legal struggles
 - Your work makes an impact for clients



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."*

TRANSACTIONAL LEGAL WORK +

PRO BONO WORK +

COMMUNITY = IJ CLINIC

ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP