



National Survey Report • Fall 2025

Building the Housing Justice Pipeline: Law Schools' Role in the Right to Counsel Movement

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Primary author: Erica Braudy

Contributing authors: Andrew Scherer, Thomas Honan, and Tuhfa Begum '23

Dear Colleagues,

Here's why we surveyed law schools to see the extent to which they are teaching the skills and doctrine needed to represent tenants, and why we issued this report.

Our homes couldn't be more critical to our fundamental well-being. A home is our place in the world, the place where we center our lives, our families, our work, our children's education, our friendships, our community. Evictions wrest people—often the most vulnerable—from their homes and have devastating consequences. They lead to homelessness with all its attendant short- and long-term negative effects. And even when evicted tenants avert homelessness, they suffer—families are torn apart, children lose valuable schooling, jobs are lost, and physical and mental health are harmed.

Evictions are among the harshest orders of our civil courts. They result from rapid-fire “summary proceedings” that involve complex substantive and procedural issues. They take place before overworked judges in overcrowded courtrooms. And while study after study shows that lawyers make a dispositive difference in outcome, keeping people in their homes, securing repairs, reducing court filings, most tenants face eviction without legal representation.

But change is happening. In one of the biggest steps forward for equal justice in a generation, New York City passed groundbreaking legislation in 2017 that provides a right to counsel for low-income tenants facing eviction. And the movement for the right to counsel for tenants has been spreading rapidly. Similar laws have been adopted or proposed in scores of additional jurisdictions, including states, counties, and cities. Thousands of eviction-defense jobs have already been created to implement these new laws and the need for talented, well-trained, committed lawyers to roll up their sleeves and do the work is growing exponentially.

Law schools, quite obviously, have a pivotal role to play in preparing students to enter this fast-expanding field of law. We are issuing this report to take stock of how the law school community is undertaking that role, and to encourage even greater effort. Happily, our survey shows that the law school community has been doing its part—over half of the schools that responded to the survey already have clinics and other instruction that prepares students for this important work, and much of this instruction was initiated in the years since NYC's groundbreaking law passed. This is cause for celebration, but we hope the main takeaway from this report will be the recognition that more can and must be done. Much more.

Many people had a hand in developing this report, but special thanks are due to Erica Braudy, Coordinator of the New York Law School Housing Right Clinic and Deputy Director of the Manhattan Legal Services Housing Unit. The report is a result of Erica's can-do attitude, enormous energy, and commitment to realizing the transformative potential of the right to counsel movement.



Andrew Scherer
Professor of Law
Policy Director of the Wilf Impact Center for Public Interest Law
New York Law School

Introduction

Law schools play a vital role in advancing access to justice through clinics and experiential learning. To understand their role—and how they can expand it—the Housing Justice Leadership Institute's Pipeline Project conducted a national survey of 81 law schools in 37 states and Washington, D.C. The findings capture the current landscape of housing law education and identify opportunities to sustain the pipeline of attorneys needed to support the expanding Right to Counsel movement.

In 2017, New York City became the first jurisdiction in the nation to guarantee tenants facing eviction the right to free legal representation. This groundbreaking legislation—achieved through years of organizing by the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition, with support from legal services groups and the legal academic community—including New York Law School—marked the beginning of a national Right to Counsel movement. In just a few years, this movement has achieved the largest expansion of civil access to justice in a generation. Today, 26 jurisdictions across the country and political spectrum—including five states, 19 cities, and two large counties—have enacted similar laws, recognizing both the devastating consequences of eviction and the critical role legal representation plays in preventing displacement.

By all accounts, the Right to Counsel has been highly successful in keeping tenants and families in their homes and preventing the violent, disruptive and long-lasting effects of eviction. Jurisdictions with Right to Counsel protections report fewer evictions and a range of positive human and economic outcomes—including reduced court filings, fewer lockouts, greater access to resources, and more tenants remaining in their homes for longer periods.¹

This rapid expansion of Right to Counsel laws has fueled demand for eviction defense and housing justice attorneys nationwide. Yet, legal services providers—tasked with fulfilling the mandate to represent tenants—continue to face significant challenges in recruiting, hiring, and retaining enough attorneys to meet this need.²

Law schools are uniquely positioned—and have both an institutional and civic responsibility—to expand access to justice. As centers committed to public service and the advancement of justice, they play a vital role in shaping the next generation of advocates. Strengthening the housing justice pipeline—from law school to practice—not only advances law schools' missions to promote justice, serve underserved communities, and prepare students for meaningful careers, but is also essential to the success of Right to Counsel laws. Expanding housing justice clinics and experiential learning opportunities provides a dual benefit: it equips students with practical litigation and advocacy skills while creating pathways to jobs in a growing field. By supporting this pipeline, law schools simultaneously strengthen the movement for access to justice and tenants' rights, expand career opportunities for their graduates, and deepen their impact in local communities.

¹ The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel lists the reported tenant outcomes in jurisdictions with the Right to Counsel. The reporting can be found here: https://civilrighttocounsel.org/resources/organizing_around_right_to_counsel/. For example, New York City reported a 49% decline in housing court filing and a 26% decline in court-ordered eviction (<https://www.ccsny.org/publications/entry/preventing-eviction-in-new-york-state-snapshot>); In Washington State, 56% of cases resulted in the tenants staying in their home (<https://civilrighttocounsel.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WA-State-FY24-RTC-achievements-OCLA.pdf>); In Detroit, 46% of tenants who received full representation were able to stay in their home, and nearly all tenants (94%) received time to relocate when needed. (<https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2025-03/2024%20Ordinance%20Report.pdf>); In Maryland, of the 87% of tenants who wanted to stay in their homes, 88% were able to do so (<https://www.mlsc.org/groundbreaking-access-to-counsel-in-evictions-program-ace-delivers-significant-impact-for-maryland-tenants/>).

² NYC Bar, Report: Taskforce on the Civil Right to Counsel Before the New York City Office of Civil Justice, Feb. 28, 2024, <https://www.nycbar.org/reports/testimony-on-the-right-to-counsel-program/> ("Despite stakeholders' efforts to right the ship after the tidal wave of eviction proceedings, New York City's Right to Counsel program is still struggling. Simply put, there are not enough attorneys available to meet the need, with the result that thousands of tenants are going unrepresented"); Washington State's Appointed Counsel Program: Baseline Report, Aug. 14, 2023, <https://ocla.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final-Report-on-Implementation-of-Tenant-Appointment-Counsel-Program-10-2023.pdf> (reporting "difficulty of simply finding sufficient number of attorneys to staff the program," leading tenants and attorneys to express frustration citing "staffing disruptions and the ongoing challenge of maintaining adequate staff capacity for appointed counsel cases."); MIE Journal Special Feature, *Implementing a Statewide Right to Counsel for Tenants: Learning from Washington, Maryland, and Connecticut*, Fall 2022, https://civilrighttocounsel.org/uploaded_files/297/ImplementingRTCWabekeetal.pdf (Connecticut reporting that the five legal aid providers participating in the Right to Counsel law have faced "numerous obstacles to recruitment.")

A brief, informal survey of housing providers in 16 of the 26 Right to Counsel jurisdictions estimates that more than 1,350 new housing justice jobs have been created since 2017—with that number projected to reach 1,425 by the end of 2025.³ This reflects a rapid expansion in a short time and has helped fuel the growth of this emerging area of law.

The survey aimed to identify which law schools offer housing justice clinics and how they are equipping students for careers in housing law and tenants' rights. The questions explore the availability of housing justice clinics, the clinical teaching and legal services models, other experiential and educational opportunities, and partnerships with legal services organizations. It asked about the barriers and supports that shape law students' entry into the housing justice field and includes creative, expansive suggestions for strengthening the Housing Justice Pipeline.

By sharing these insights, this report seeks to equip educators, advocates, tenant organizers, and policymakers with the information and tools to prepare students for careers in this rapidly expanding field and to build an enduring pipeline of attorneys committed to defending tenants, upholding housing justice, and strengthening the Right to Counsel movement.

"For the past 10 years, I've stood side by side with attorneys who fight daily to keep moms, dads, kids, and grandparents in their homes—to use creative litigation strategies to keep families together and help people access life-saving financial assistance as they face eviction and the unthinkable reality of losing everything. Housing attorneys change lives, and partnerships between housing justice clinics and legal services groups can be transformative. In my work coordinating and co-teaching a housing rights clinic, I see how the direct client experience, real-world exposure, and litigation training our students receive strengthen their confidence and professional skills and prepare them for careers in housing justice and beyond. These are the young, passionate attorneys we want to hire, those who can help ensure the Right to Counsel movement succeeds. The survey confirms that this work is underway. Law schools are recognizing the importance of investing in housing clinics, and their educators, to help students find meaningful jobs in this growing area of law and to advance their missions to expand access to justice."

**Erica Braudy, Housing Rights Clinic Coordinator and Adjunct Professor of Law, New York Law School;
Deputy Director, Housing Unit, Manhattan Legal Services**

³ The authors received responses with estimated hiring data from Connecticut, New York, Washington, Minnesota, Maryland, Kansas City, MO, Louisville, KY, Detroit, MI, Toledo, OH, Columbus, OH, Los Angeles, CA, San Francisco, CA, Philadelphia, PA, Denver, CO, Boulder, CO, and New Orleans, LA.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Since 2017, 26 jurisdictions—including five states, 19 cities, and two counties—now guarantee tenants free legal representation in eviction cases, marking a major expansion of access to justice that has reduced evictions and increased housing stability.

This rapid expansion has created a surge in demand for housing justice attorneys. Yet, legal services providers face challenges hiring and retaining sufficient staff. Law schools have a unique role, opportunity, and responsibility to meet this need by expanding housing justice clinics and experiential learning to prepare students for careers in this growing field.

The report's findings aim to support educators, advocates, organizers, tenants, and policymakers in growing the Right to Counsel movement, expanding access to justice, and building a sustainable pipeline of attorneys committed to housing justice.

Key Survey Findings

Majority of Surveyed Law Schools Have Housing Justice Clinics

- 63% of responding law schools have a dedicated housing justice or tenants' rights clinic.

A Surge of New Clinics Since 2017

- 60% of all reported clinics were founded between 2017 and 2024, following the first Right to Counsel law in the nation.
- In just 7 years, these law schools launched more housing justice clinics than in the previous 5 decades combined.

Law Students Are Representing Real Tenants in Need

- 70% of housing justice clinics operate as in-house clinics, where law students serve as the attorneys—representing real clients in active cases to help tenants and families fight eviction and prevent displacement while working hand-in-hand with their supervising attorneys.
- 63% of schools reported formal partnerships with housing justice organizations, including legal aid providers, housing policy organizations, and tenant advocacy groups.

Law Students Are Providing a Range of Legal Services

- 86% of clinics represent clients in housing justice issues, including fighting for affordable housing and humane living conditions, supporting tenant organizing, and combatting housing discrimination.
- 84% provide direct eviction defense.
- 64% handle affirmative housing litigation.
- 54% engage in policy advocacy.

The Right to Counsel Is Creating Jobs

- A brief, informal survey of just 16 Right to Counsel jurisdictions estimates that at least 1,350 new housing justice jobs have been created in those jurisdictions since 2017, with that number projected to rise to over 1,425 by the end of 2025.

Key Recommendations

Create and Expand Housing Justice Clinics

- Every law school should have a housing justice clinic—especially those in or near Right to Counsel jurisdictions.
- Law schools with existing housing clinics should strengthen and expand them through sustained investment in staffing, funding, and partnerships with legal services organizations.
- Each school without a housing justice clinic should work to create one focused on eviction defense, tenant advocacy, and/or housing policy.

Invest in Housing Justice Educators

- Law schools, funders, and policymakers should invest in full-time, tenure-track professors and clinicians to run housing justice clinics, ensuring depth of knowledge and continuity in clinical and experiential learning.

Cultivate and Strengthen Partnerships With Legal Services and Tenant Advocacy Groups

- Law schools should foster meaningful, mutually beneficial relationships with legal services providers, housing policy organizations, and tenants' rights groups to build the connections that support job opportunities for recent graduates and the full and expanded implementation of the Right to Counsel.

Support Students With Paid Internships and Fellowships

- Students should receive summer funding for internships and postgraduate fellowships with organizations engaged in housing justice and eviction defense.

Start Teaching Housing Justice Earlier in the Curriculum

- Housing justice laws and hypotheticals should be integrated into the first-year law school curriculum to help expose students to the field early on.
- Law schools should add and expand courses on housing justice law and policy, affordable housing, fair housing, and housing discrimination.

Ensure Equity and Retention

- Support students from communities disproportionately impacted by eviction to pursue housing justice careers.
- Law schools should encourage decision-makers and legal services groups to provide loan forgiveness, training, mentorship, job diversity, and caseload control to promote long-term retention.

Build Awareness and Shift Perceptions of Housing Justice Careers

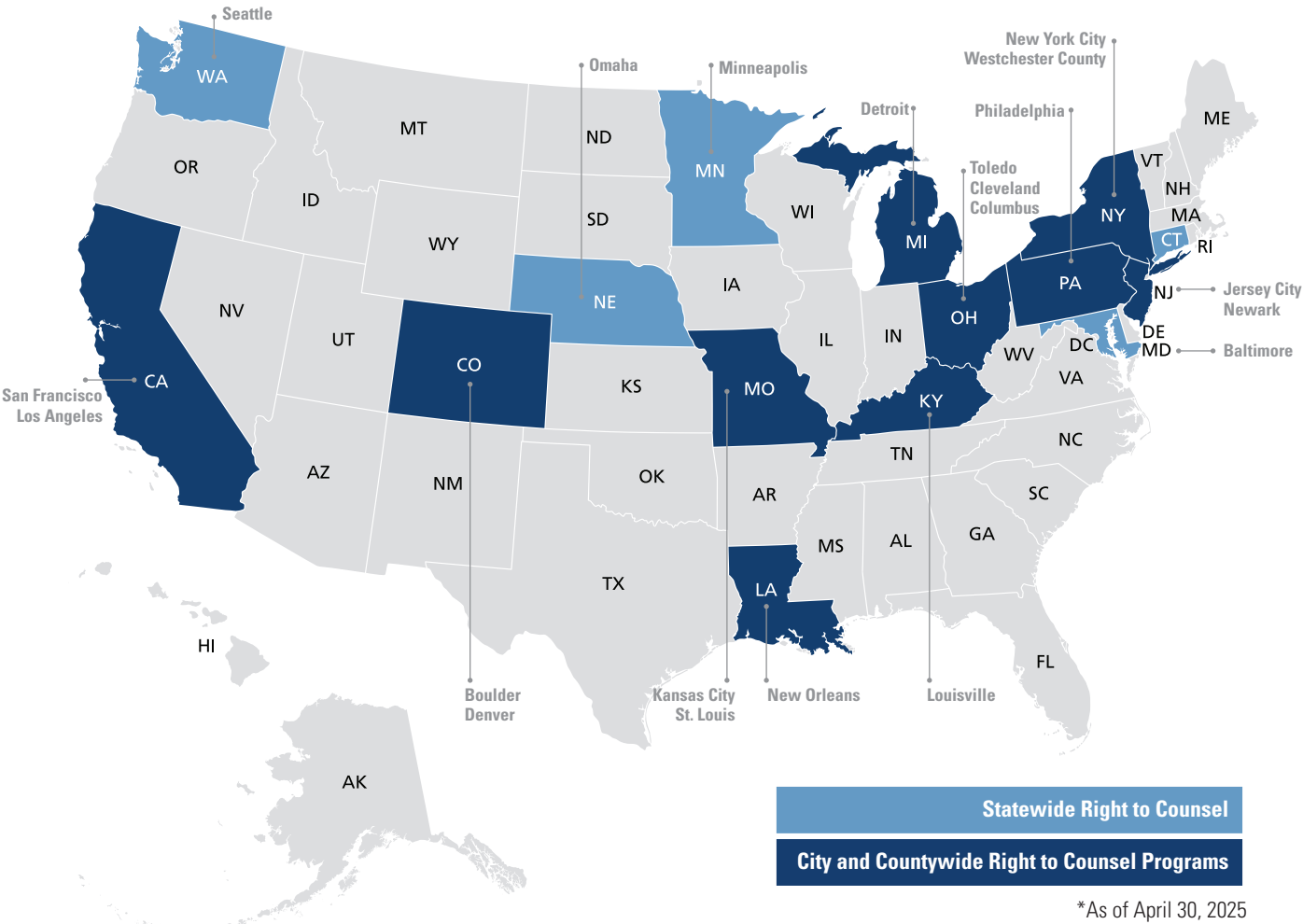
- Career services and law school advisors should promote housing justice as a viable, impactful career path—on par with public defense—and support students in pursuing these roles.

"I think the biggest barrier [of students working in housing justice is] the incredibly high cost of a legal education and the low pay for civil legal services attorneys. At the very least, we should pay entry-level housing attorneys on par with what we pay entry-level prosecutors and public defenders."

Kathryn Krause Wozer, Cornell Law School

Right to Counsel Map

Since 2017, these 26 jurisdictions have passed laws providing a Right to Counsel when people risk losing their homes.



Survey Methodology

The Housing Justice Pipeline Project survey was distributed via Google Forms and shared with clinical faculty, adjuncts, administrators, and other legal educators at all 199 ABA-approved law schools in the United States. Online invitations were sent beginning in October 2024, and responses were collected through April 30, 2025. The survey included a mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions and was designed to take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.

In total, the survey received responses from 81 different law schools, spanning 37 states and Washington, D.C., offering a broad snapshot of housing justice education nationwide. These responses provide valuable insights into the current role of legal education in housing justice and the Right to Counsel movement.

It is important to note that this report only presents a partial picture of the extent of housing rights education in law schools. Participation in the survey was voluntary. The responses reflect the submissions of those who chose to respond. They have not been independently verified, and no effort was made to assess the extent of housing rights education at schools that did not participate. It is reasonable to conclude that there is a significant amount of additional housing rights education that has not been captured in this report.

Primary Survey Questions

The survey was designed to capture a snapshot of housing justice education across law schools. Respondents were asked whether their law school offers a housing justice or tenants' rights clinic and, if so, to provide details about the clinic's model, the legal services provided, the year it was founded, and student enrollment levels. Additional questions explored whether clinics operate in jurisdictions with Right to Counsel laws. Schools without clinics were asked to reflect on barriers to offering housing clinics.

The survey also asked whether law schools provided relevant course offerings or otherwise prepared students for careers in housing justice, whether or not they have clinics. It included specific questions about law school partnerships with housing justice organizations that support the transition from clinic to practice. Finally, respondents were invited to share their perspectives and suggestions on what could help increase the number of law students pursuing careers in housing justice.

Appendix B lists every ABA-approved law school and notes whether each school responded to the survey and whether it is located in a Right to Counsel district. A full list of survey questions is included as Appendix C.

"Early engagement about careers in public interest [would encourage students to take housing justice jobs]. Most of the students are only presented with traditional firm/government careers by the law school and broader legal community during the early years of their education. There are a significant number of students who go to law school with a pro social goal but who shed that desire as the structural injustices are layered onto them and they begin to accept the status quo. We should engage their moral compass early to inspire those who actually do want to make the world a better place and present them with altruistic career paths."

Matilda Smith, University of Maryland School of Law

Survey Findings

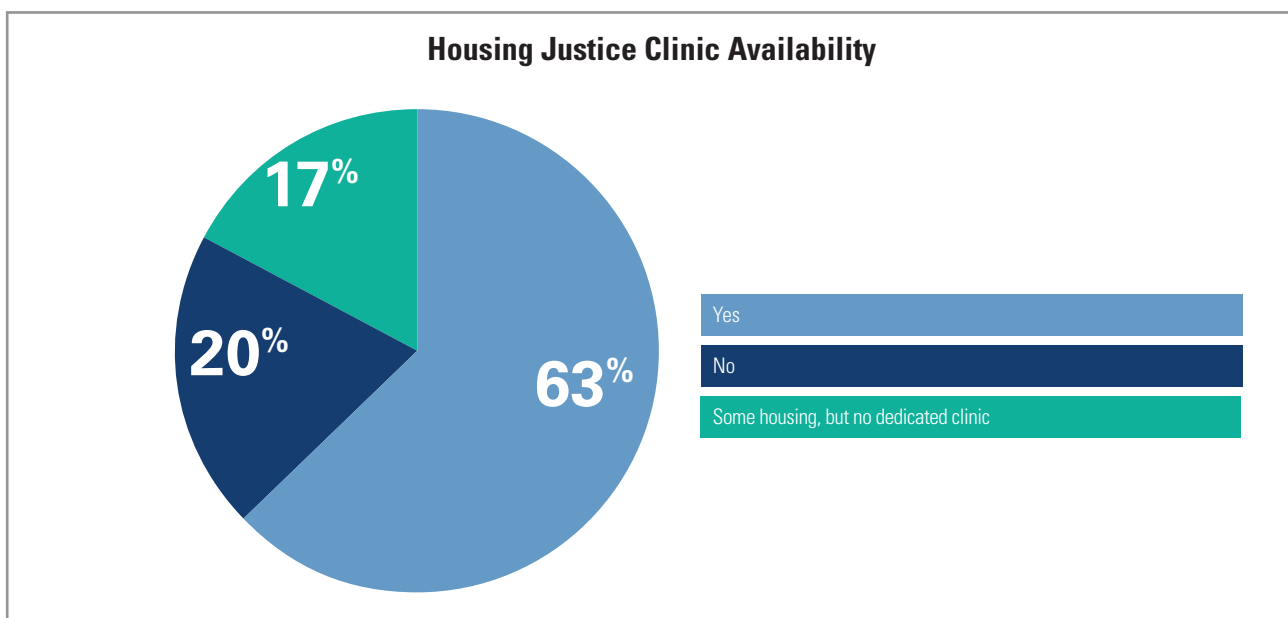
Availability of Housing Justice Clinics at Law Schools

The survey asked whether law schools “offer a clinic that does housing justice/tenants’ rights work.” Among the 81 respondents, the majority—51 schools (63%)—reported having a dedicated clinic in this area. Another 14 schools (17%) indicated that while they engage in some housing-related work, they do not have a dedicated housing justice clinic. The remaining 16 schools (20%) reported no housing justice clinic work at all.

This represents a positive development, especially given the rapid growth of housing clinics since the passage of the first Right to Counsel law in 2017. It reflects a growing recognition among law schools of the importance of preparing students for work in the housing justice field—and that the litigation and client skills gained through this work are foundational and transferable to other areas of civil practice.

Still, there remains plenty of room for continued growth. Many schools could deepen their investment by expanding existing clinics, incorporating more in-depth housing work into broader civil justice clinics, or launching new clinics altogether—particularly at schools located within or near Right to Counsel jurisdictions.

For a complete list of all schools’ responses and clinic names, see Appendix A.

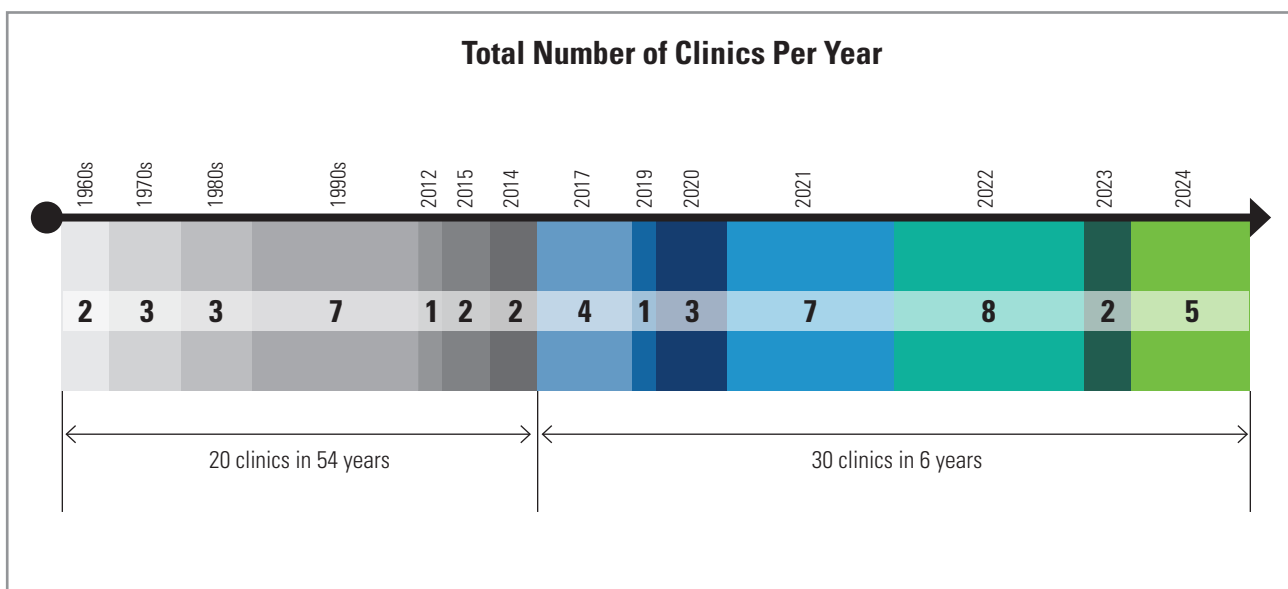


Timeline of Housing Justice Clinics

The survey next asked respondents what year their housing justice clinic was created. The data from the 50 responding schools show a significant increase in the number of clinics launched in recent years. While several were established between the 1960s and early 2010s, the pace of new clinic creation accelerated dramatically after the first Right to Counsel law in 2017.

Between 2017 and 2024, law schools launched 60% of the housing justice clinics represented in the survey. In the five decades prior—from the 1960s through 2016—schools started just 20 clinics, accounting for 40% of the total. Then, in just seven years, law schools launched 30 new housing clinics—coinciding with the rise of the nationwide Right to Counsel movement.

This trend shows that law schools are beginning to recognize and invest in housing justice clinics as the Right to Counsel creates new jobs in this expanding legal field. While more resources, institutional support, and funding are still needed to fulfill this access-to-justice mandate, the growth reflects a broader acknowledgment of the importance of giving students the training and experience they need to enter the field.



Types of Clinic Models

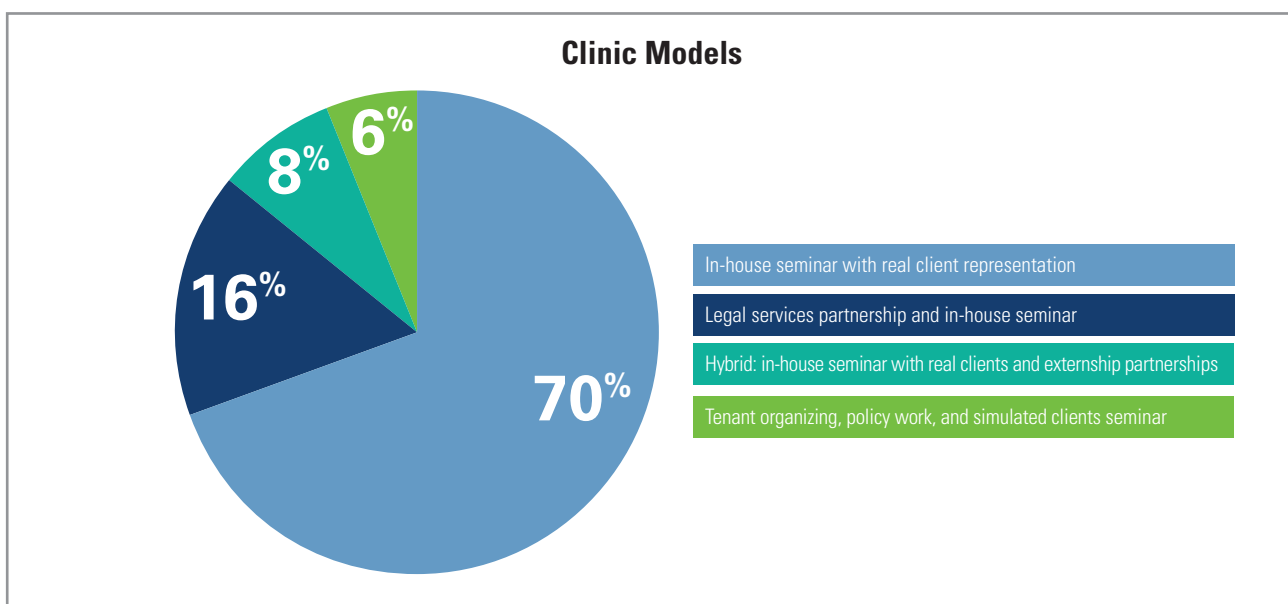
The survey asked respondents to identify their clinical model. Most respondents—34 law schools, or 70% of those reporting having clinics—said their clinic follows the “In-house learning seminar with real client representation” model, centering their approach on direct client litigation and advocacy.

The next most common structure, reported by 8 schools (16%), was the “Legal services partnership and in-house seminar” model, which blends supervision by practicing attorneys and clinical faculty with joint instruction in the seminar classroom.

Four schools described hybrid models that combine in-house seminars with real clients and externship partnerships—merging litigation training with field placements in legal services or community-based organizations.

A smaller group of three schools reported models that included policy work and tenant outreach, tenant organizing, or in-house seminars with simulated clients.

The vast majority of clinic models include a structure where students take on the role of attorney and represent real clients facing eviction or other housing-related proceedings. This type of training is invaluable to ensure students gain the hands-on experience needed to take on the new jobs created by the Right to Counsel movement.



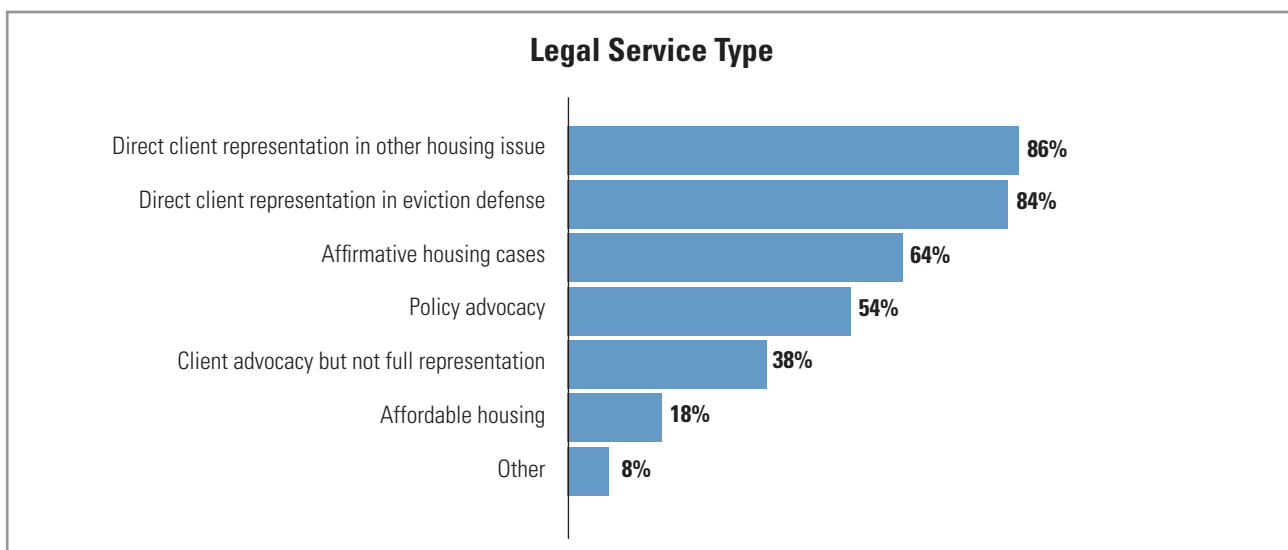
Legal Services Provided by Housing Clinics

The survey asked clinics to identify the types of legal services they offer, selecting all that applied from a list of common housing justice practices. Of the 50 schools that responded, 86% offer legal representation in housing-related matters such as repair conditions, rent overcharge, access to housing subsidies, housing discrimination, and other tenants' rights issues. Eighty-four percent reported providing direct client representation in eviction defense to protect individuals and families from losing their homes.

Sixty-four percent of clinics take on affirmative housing cases, while 54% engage in broader policy advocacy efforts. Just over a third (38%) indicated that their students engage in client advocacy short of full representation. Eighteen percent support legal work related to affordable housing development or preservation.

The vast majority of clinics focus on litigation, both in eviction defense and other housing-related proceedings. Yet the work of clinic students is highly varied. Schools reported that students work on estate planning, mediation and arbitration for housing disputes, community lawyering, source-of-income housing discrimination, disability accommodations, housing justice for survivors of gender-based violence, policy development, fair housing, public benefits, impact litigation in state and federal courts, and tenant organizing support.

These results underscore the wide range of legal services offered through housing justice clinics. While eviction defense and housing litigation remain central, many clinics also serve as training grounds for future lawyers engaged in systemic reform and policy change.



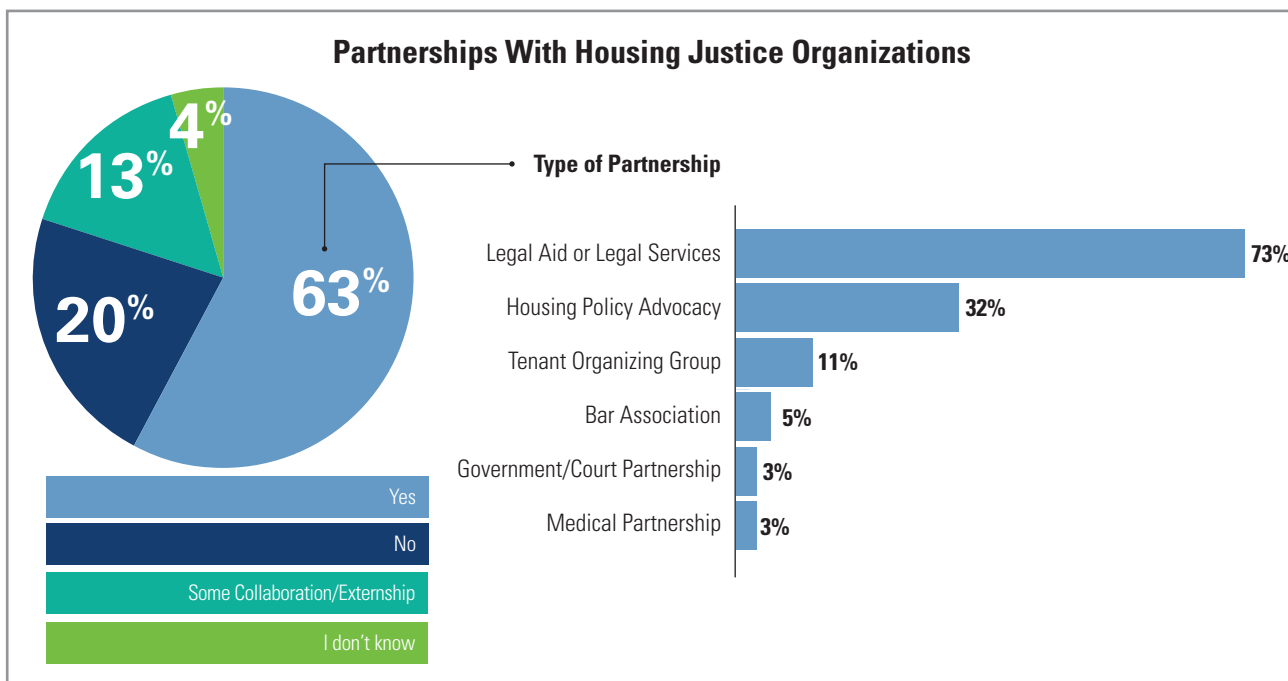
Law School Partnerships in Housing Justice

The survey asked two related questions: whether law schools partner with organizations engaged in housing justice or tenants' rights work, and if so, what is the nature of those partnerships. A majority of the 81 respondents—64% of schools—reported having such partnerships. An additional 13% indicated some level of collaboration, often informally or through externship placements. Twenty percent of schools reported having no partnerships, while a few respondents (4%) were unsure whether any collaboration exists with housing rights organizations.

Partnerships between law schools and legal services groups play a vital role in advancing the Right to Counsel and access to justice, building professional networks, creating pathways to internships and jobs, and preparing students for careers in housing justice. Partnerships with tenant organizing groups are a powerful way to help students understand the impact of their work on tenants and their communities. While the data shows that most schools are fostering these relationships, there remains significant room for growth—particularly in developing more formal and sustained partnerships.

In addition to asking whether schools had partnerships, the survey asked respondents to describe the type of collaboration. Many schools named multiple partners, reflecting a wide range of relationships that support housing justice education.

The following chart reflects the range and frequency of these partnerships as described by the survey respondents.



"Experiential learning opportunities are absolutely essential. Evictions and housing conditions cases provide an invaluable opportunity for students to gain trial experience in civil court while helping to fill the access to justice gap. The experience can be life changing: my own career path is inseparable from my experience in [my] Housing Clinic during law school."

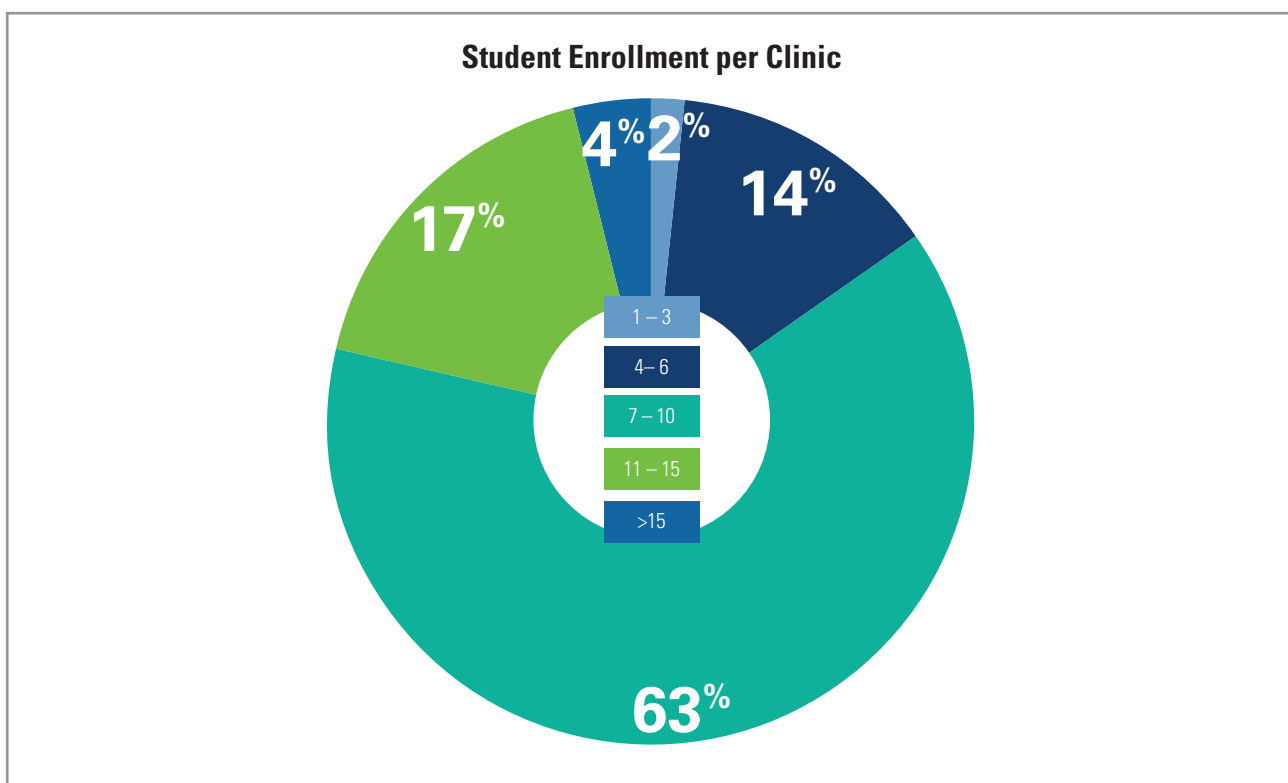
Shannon Price, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Student Enrollment in Housing Justice Clinics

Schools were asked approximately how many students typically enroll in their housing justice clinics each year. Respondents selected from a list of enrollment ranges, and 51 schools answered this question. While many noted that enrollment varies from year to year, the majority of clinics (63%) reported enrolling between 7 and 10 students annually.

Smaller numbers of clinics reported enrolling 11–15 students (17%) or 4–6 students (14%). Two clinics enrolled more than 15 students, and one clinic reported enrolling just 1–3 students.

The data reflects the varying capacities of housing justice clinics and the different ways schools structure their clinical programs across the country.

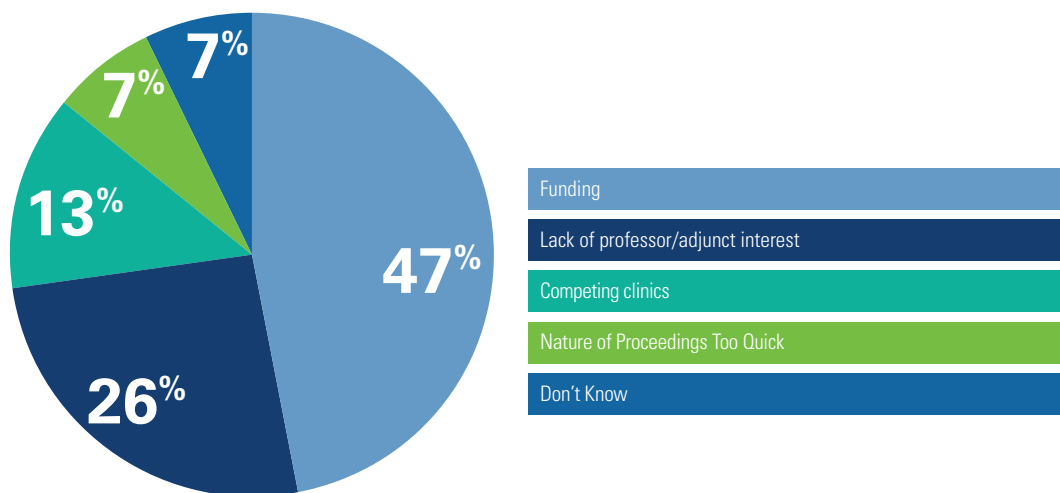


Barriers to Creating Housing Justice Clinics

Among respondents whose law schools do not currently offer a housing justice or tenants' rights clinic, we asked whether they were interested in having such a clinic and, if so, what barriers they faced in establishing one. The most frequently cited challenge was funding, followed by difficulty securing a professor or adjunct to lead the clinic. Other common barriers included competition from existing clinical offerings.

Some respondents also pointed to logistical obstacles, such as the fast pace of eviction proceedings and the difficulty of preparing students quickly enough to engage in live client representation. Ten schools responded to this question, providing a total of 15 responses. These responses offer a small but telling illustration of the structural and resource-based hurdles law schools face when trying to establish housing justice clinical programming.

Barriers to Creating Housing Justice Clinics



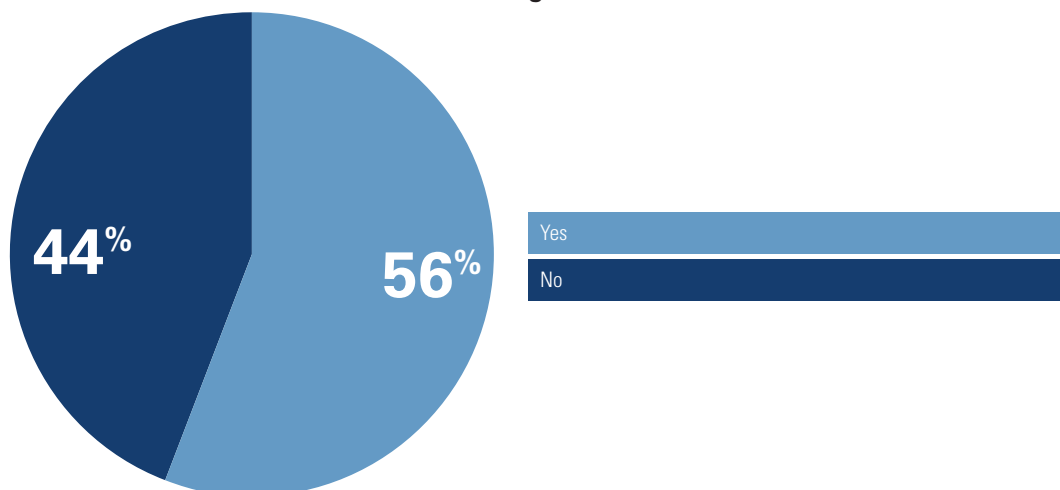
Courses on Housing Justice

The survey asked whether law schools offer courses on housing justice or landlord/tenant law. Of the 81 schools surveyed, 45 (56%) reported offering such courses, while 36 (44%) did not.

The most common offerings included housing policy, housing law, and property law. Many schools also offered courses on poverty law, housing discrimination, tenants' rights, fair housing, and affordable housing—all clearly oriented toward housing justice.

Five schools indicated that housing law is taught within a clinical seminar. While these may not be standalone courses, they are included here because respondents described them as course offerings. Some schools also listed general "property law" courses, and while it's not clear how much landlord/tenant content these classes include, they are still counted in this tally.

Offers Housing Class



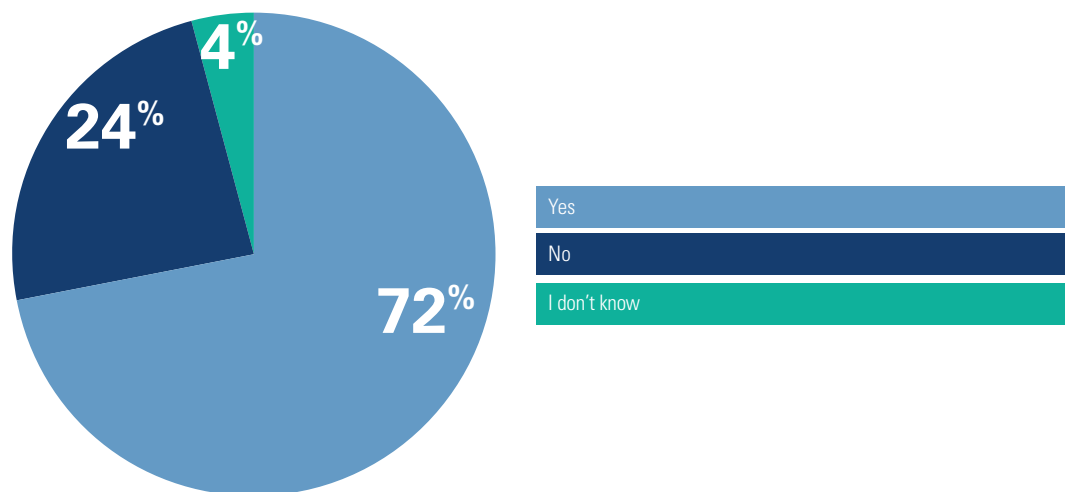
Experiential Training in Housing Justice

To better understand the broader scope of housing justice education beyond clinics, the survey asked whether law schools offer additional opportunities or experiences to prepare students for work in housing justice or tenants' rights. All 81 schools responded to this question. Of those, 58 schools (72%) reported offering additional opportunities outside of clinics and coursework. Twenty schools (24%) said they did not, and a small number were unsure.

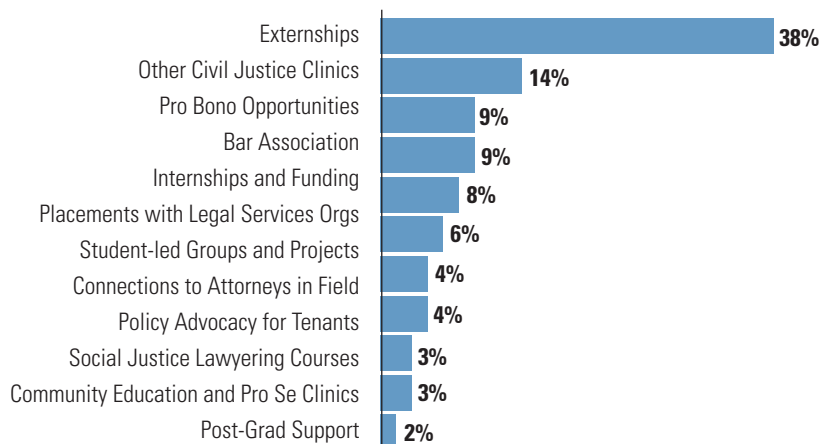
Respondents described a range of offerings, including externships with legal services organizations, the most mentioned opportunity (38%). Schools also described student-led projects, experiential training in other civil justice clinics, pro bono initiatives, and funded internships. Most responses emphasized experiential learning in the field and highlighted the importance of building relationships with legal services providers.

These responses illustrate the diverse—and often complementary—ways law schools engage students in housing justice work, helping to build skills, awareness, and professional connections that support their entry into the field.

Offers Other Experiential Training in Housing Justice



Types of Experiential Learning Offered (72% of Schools)



Suggestions to Strengthen the Housing Justice Pipeline

Nearly 90 educators from 78 law schools responded to this question, adding their expertise to the ultimate issue: how can we collectively strengthen the housing justice pipeline?

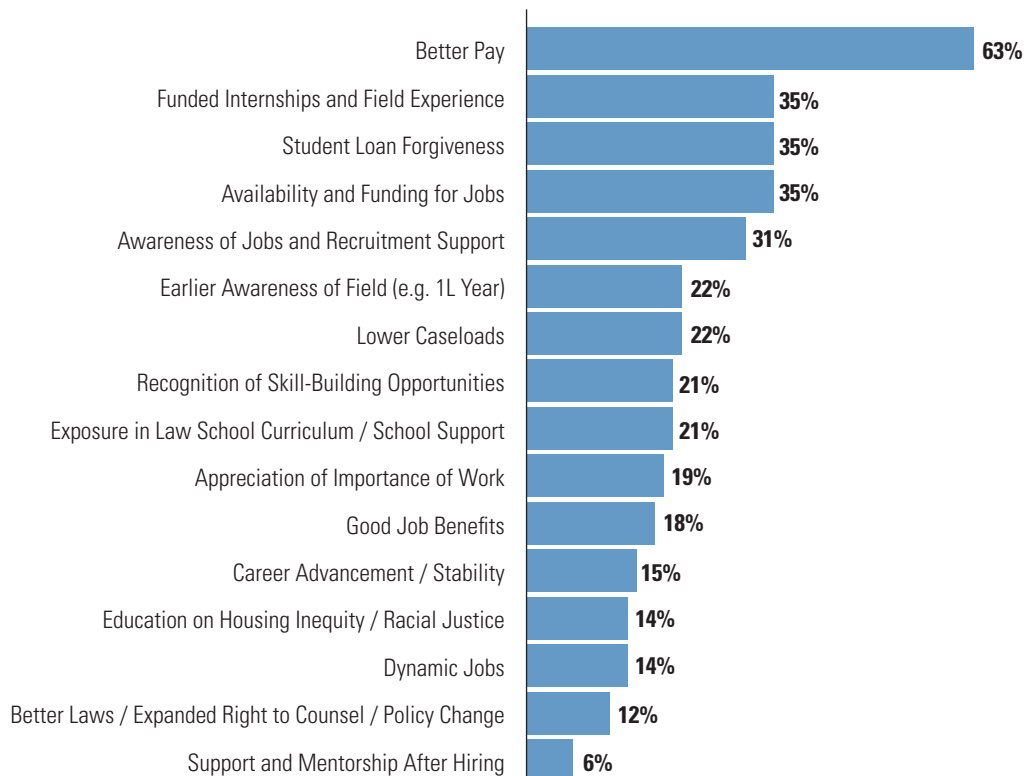
Their suggestions reflected both systemic challenges and practical needs that shape students' career decisions. The most common recommendation was to improve attorney compensation to make housing justice jobs more sustainable. Other frequent themes included increasing funding to ensure consistent and reliable job opportunities, expanding student loan forgiveness, and supporting funded internships and experiential learning before students enter practice.

Respondents also highlighted the importance of providing good employee benefits, reducing attorney caseloads, creating more dynamic roles that go beyond eviction defense, and providing recruitment support and visibility for law students interested in the field. Many emphasized the role of law schools in exposing students to housing justice through clinics, externships, and coursework—especially early in their legal education.

Some respondents further noted that students would be more drawn to the field if they better understood the importance of this work, its connections to racial justice and housing inequity, and the skill-building opportunities it offers.

Collectively, these suggestions reflect firsthand observations of what is needed to grow and strengthen the housing justice pipeline—helping to build a community of strong, diverse, and passionate attorneys committed to this work.

Suggestions to Strengthen the Housing Justice Pipeline



Conclusion

Law schools play a critical role in expanding access to justice and training students to defend tenants and families who face the violence of eviction every day across the country. This report highlights the efforts law schools are making to use their unique positions—and their commitments to advancing equity—to prepare students to enter the growing and vital field of housing justice law.

Strengthening the housing justice pipeline is essential to the long-term success of the Right to Counsel movement. The push to ensure representation for tenants facing eviction has been enormously successful, leading to rapid growth in housing justice jobs. Yet the future of this movement depends on a cadre of skilled and committed attorneys ready to enter and sustain this work—a goal in which law schools have a pivotal role to play.

Expanding the housing justice pipeline—and growing the national community of housing justice attorneys—will require continued and coordinated investment from law schools and other key stakeholders, including federal, state, and local governments, policymakers, legal services organizations, tenant organizers, and advocates. With deeper institutional investment in housing justice clinics, courses, and other experiential learning opportunities, students will be prepared to lead a movement that promotes justice and stability for all.

It has been an enormous pleasure to build the Housing Justice Leadership Institute's Pipeline Project alongside incredible educators from around the country. Thank you to all the clinicians and administrators who responded to the survey. A huge thank you to Andrew Scherer, a pillar of the housing justice community, for his indelible vision and support; to Dean Anthony Crowell for his leadership and support in making NYLS a national leader in housing justice education; to NYLS Clinical Dean Kim Hawkins; to my Manhattan Legal Services colleagues Thomas Honan and Tuhfa Begum '23; to John Pollock and Andrew Ashbrook of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel; to Barbara Finkelstein, Allie Dentinger, and Malika Conner of the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition, to Alessandra Lacorazza, Xiomar & Kairo, to the NYLS Office of Marketing and Communications for making this report so beautiful; and our foundation supporters for their generosity and trust.

**Erica Brady, Housing Rights Clinic Coordinator and Adjunct Professor of Law, New York Law School;
Deputy Director, Housing Unit, Manhattan Legal Services**

Appendix A: Availability of Housing Clinics and Names

School Name	Housing Clinic	Name of Clinic
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University	Yes	Bet Tzedek Civil Legal Services Housing Justice Field Clinic
Boston College Law School	Yes	Housing Justice Clinic
Brandeis School of Law	Yes	Eviction Defense Clinic
Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School	Yes	Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Brooklyn Law School	Yes	Housing Justice Clinic
Columbia Law School	Yes	Lawyering in the Digital Age Housing Justice: The Right to Counsel in Housing Court Externship
Cornell Law School	Yes	Tenants Advocacy Practicum
Duke University School of Law	Yes	Duke Civil Justice Clinic
Georgetown University Law Center	Yes	Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic
Harvard Law School	Yes	Legal Aid Bureau's Housing Practice The Housing Clinic at the Legal Services Center Tenant Advocacy Project
Howard University School of Law	Yes	Fair Housing Clinic
Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law	Yes	Health and Human Rights Clinic
Michigan State University College of Law	Yes	Housing Justice Clinic
New York Law School	Yes	Housing Rights Clinic
New York University School of Law	Yes	Eviction Defense and Tenant Protection Externship
Notre Dame Law School	Yes	Eviction Clinic
Rutgers Law School (Camden)	Yes	Housing Advocacy Clinic
Rutgers Law School (Newark)	Yes	Housing Justice and Tenant Solidarity Clinic
Seattle University Law School	Yes	Housing Justice Clinic
Seton Hall Law School	Yes	Civil Litigation Clinic Health Justice Clinic Housing Justice and Legal Design
Southwestern Law School	Yes	Eviction Defense Clinic
St. Mary's University School of Law	Yes	Consumer Protection Clinic
Suffolk University Law School	Yes	Accelerator Practice
Syracuse University College of Law	Yes	Housing Clinic
The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law	Yes	The Civil Clinic
Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center	Yes	Landlord and Tenant Mediation Clinic
University at Buffalo School of Law (State University of New York)	Yes	Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic
University of California, Berkeley School of Law	Yes	Housing Clinic
University of Illinois Chicago School of Law	Yes	Fair Housing Legal Clinic
University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law	Yes	Civil Litigation Clinic
University of Maine School of Law	Yes	General Practice Clinic
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law	Yes	Eviction Prevention Clinic
University of Michigan Law School	Yes	Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic
University of Minnesota Law School	Yes	Housing Law Clinic
University of Mississippi School of Law	Yes	Housing Clinic
University of Nebraska College of Law	Yes	Housing Justice Clinic

School Name	Housing Clinic	Name of Clinic
University of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law	Yes	Tenants' Rights Legal Residency
University of New Mexico School of Law	Yes	Economic Justice Clinic
University of North Carolina School of Law	Yes	Civil Legal Assistance Clinic
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School	Yes	Civil Practice Clinic
University of Richmond	Yes	Access to Justice Clinic
University of San Diego School of Law	Yes	Housing Rights Legal Clinic
University of Southern California Gould School of Law	Yes	USC Housing Law and Policy Clinic
University of Texas School of Law	Yes	Housing Clinic Housing Policy Clinic
University of Virginia School of Law	Yes	Housing Law and Litigation
University of Wisconsin Law School	Yes	Eviction Defense Clinic; Neighborhood Law Clinic
University of Wyoming College of Law	Yes	Civil Legal Services Clinic
Vanderbilt University Law School	Yes	Vanderbilt Housing Law Clinic
Wake Forest University School of Law	Yes	Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic
Widener University Commonwealth Law School	Yes	Central Pennsylvania Law Clinic
Yale Law School	Yes	Housing Clinic
Belmont University College of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Pop-up clinics with Legal Aid Society of Mid Tennessee
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Community Lawyering Clinic
Lewis & Clark Law School	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Commons Law Center
Loyola University Chicago	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	The Health Justice Project and Veterans Clinic
Quinnipiac University School of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Mediation Clinic and Civil Justice Clinic
Samford University Cumberland School of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Veteran's Clinic
UC Law San Francisco	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Mediation Clinic
University of Alabama School of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Civil Law Clinic
University of California, Irvine	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Community and Economic Clinic
University of Cincinnati College of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Help Center Access to Counsel Program
University of North Dakota School of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Housing Discrimination course with experiential credit
University of South Carolina School of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Medical-Legal Partnership and Veterans Clinic
University of Tennessee College of Law	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Advocacy Clinic
Western New England Law School	Some housing, but no dedicated clinic	Community Legal Aid Clinic
Albany Law School	No - in process of creating a housing clinic	
Chicago-Kent College of Law	No	
Drake University Law School	No	
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law	No	
Marquette University Law School	No	
New England Law Boston	No	
Pepperdine University Rick J. Caruso School of Law	No	
Southern Illinois University School of Law	No	
Texas A&M University School of Law	No	
Texas Tech University School of Law	No	
University of California, Davis School of Law	No	
University of Iowa School of Law	No	
University of Kansas School of Law	No	
University of Miami School of Law	No	
University of San Francisco School of Law	No	
Widener University Delaware Law School	No	

*As of April 30, 2025

Appendix B: All U.S. Law Schools – Survey Response Status and Right to Counsel Jurisdiction

State	Law School	Responded to Survey	Right to Counsel Jurisdiction
Alabama	Cumberland School of Law at Samford University	✓	
	Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University		
	University of Alabama School of Law	✓	
Arizona	Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law		
	University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law		
Arkansas	University of Arkansas School of Law		
	University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law		
California	California Western School of Law		
	Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law		
	Golden Gate University School of Law		✓
	Loyola Law School of Loyola Marymount University		✓
	Pepperdine University Rick J. Caruso School of Law	✓	
	Santa Clara University School of Law		
	Southwestern Law School	✓	✓
	Stanford Law School		
	University of California College of the Law, San Francisco	✓	✓
	University of California, Berkeley School of Law	✓	
	University of California, Irvine School of Law	✓	
	University of California, Davis School of Law	✓	
	University of California, Los Angeles School of Law		✓
	University of La Verne College of Law		
	University of San Diego School of Law	✓	
	University of San Francisco School of Law	✓	✓
	University of Southern California Gould School of Law	✓	✓
	University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law		
Connecticut	Quinnipiac University School of Law	✓	✓
	University of Connecticut School of Law		✓
	Yale Law School	✓	✓
Colorado	University of Colorado Law School		✓
	University of Denver Sturm College of Law		✓
Delaware	Delaware Law School	✓	
	Widener University Delaware Law School		
District of Columbia	American University Washington College of Law		
	Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law		
	Georgetown University Law Center	✓	
	George Washington University Law School		
	Howard University School of Law	✓	
	University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law		

State	Law School	Responded to Survey	Right to Counsel Jurisdiction
Florida	Ave Maria School of Law		
	Barry University School of Law		
	Florida A&M University College of Law		
	Florida International University College of Law		
	Florida State University College of Law		
	Jacksonville University College of Law		
	Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law		
	St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law		
	Stetson University College of Law		
	University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law		
	University of Miami School of Law	✓	
Georgia	Atlanta's John Marshall Law School		
	Emory University School of Law		
	Georgia State University College of Law		
	Mercer University School of Law		
	University of Georgia School of Law		
Hawaii	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law		
Idaho	University of Idaho College of Law		
Illinois	Chicago-Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology	✓	
	DePaul University College of Law		
	Loyola University Chicago School of Law	✓	
	Northern Illinois University College of Law		
	Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law		
	Southern Illinois University School of Law	✓	
	University of Chicago Law School		
	University of Illinois Chicago School of Law	✓	
	University of Illinois College of Law		
Indiana	Indiana University Maurer School of Law		
	Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law	✓	
	Notre Dame Law School	✓	
Iowa	University of Iowa College of Law	✓	
	Drake University Law School	✓	
Kansas	University of Kansas School of Law	✓	
	Washburn University School of Law		
Kentucky	University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law	✓	✓
	Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law		
	University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law	✓	
Louisiana	Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center		
	Loyola University New Orleans College of Law	✓	✓
	Southern University Law Center		
	Tulane University Law School		✓
Maine	University of Maine School of Law	✓	
Maryland	University of Baltimore School of Law		✓
	University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law	✓	✓

State	Law School	Responded to Survey	Right to Counsel Jurisdiction
Massachusetts	Boston College Law School	✓	
	Boston University School of Law		
	Harvard Law School	✓	
	New England Law	✓	
	Northeastern University School of Law		
	Suffolk University Law School	✓	
	University of Massachusetts School of Law – Dartmouth		
	Western New England University School of Law	✓	
Michigan	Michigan State University College of Law	✓	
	Thomas M. Cooley Law School		
	University of Detroit Mercy School of Law		✓
	University of Michigan Law School	✓	
	Wayne State University Law School		✓
Minnesota	University of Minnesota Law School	✓	✓
	Mitchell Hamline School of Law		✓
	University of St. Thomas School of Law		✓
Mississippi	Mississippi College School of Law		
Missouri	University of Mississippi School of Law	✓	
	Saint Louis University School of Law		✓
	University of Missouri School of Law		
	University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Law		✓
	Washington University School of Law		✓
Montana	University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law		
Nebraska	Creighton University School of Law		✓
	University of Nebraska College of Law	✓	✓
New Mexico	University of New Mexico School of Law	✓	
Nevada	University of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law	✓	
New Hampshire	University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law		
New Jersey	Rutgers Law School (Newark)	✓	✓
	Rutgers Law School (Camden)	✓	
	Seton Hall University School of Law	✓	✓
New York	Albany Law School	✓	
	Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University	✓	✓
	Brooklyn Law School	✓	✓
	City University of New York School of Law (CUNY School of Law)		✓
	Columbia Law School	✓	✓
	Cornell Law School	✓	
	Fordham University School of Law		✓
	Hofstra University Maurice A. Deane School of Law		
	New York Law School	✓	✓
	New York University School of Law	✓	✓
	Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law		✓
	St. John's University School of Law		✓
	Syracuse University College of Law	✓	
	Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center	✓	
	University at Buffalo School of Law, The State University of New York	✓	

State	Law School	Responded to Survey	Right to Counsel Jurisdiction
North Carolina	Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law		
	Duke University School of Law	✓	
	Elon University School of Law		
	North Carolina Central University School of Law		
	University of North Carolina School of Law	✓	
	Wake Forest University School of Law	✓	
North Dakota	University of North Dakota School of Law	✓	
Ohio	Capital University Law School		✓
	Case Western Reserve University School of Law		✓
	Cleveland State University College of Law		✓
	Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law		
	The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law	✓	✓
	University of Akron School of Law		
	University of Cincinnati College of Law	✓	
	University of Dayton School of Law		
	University of Toledo College of Law		✓
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City University School of Law		
	University of Oklahoma College of Law		
	University of Tulsa College of Law		
Oregon	Lewis & Clark Law School	✓	
	University of Oregon School of Law		
	Willamette University College of Law		
Pennsylvania	Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law	✓	✓
	Duquesne University Thomas R. Kline School of Law		
	Pennsylvania State University Penn State Law		
	Temple University Beasley School of Law		✓
	University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School	✓	✓
	University of Pittsburgh School of Law		
	Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law		
	Widener University Commonwealth Law School	✓	
South Carolina	Charleston School of Law		
	University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law	✓	
South Dakota	University of South Dakota School of Law		
Tennessee	Belmont University College of Law	✓	
	Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law		
	University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law		
	University of Tennessee College of Law	✓	
	Vanderbilt University Law School	✓	
Texas	Baylor University School of Law		
	South Texas College of Law Houston		
	Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law		
	St. Mary's University School of Law	✓	
	Texas A&M University School of Law	✓	
	Texas Tech University School of Law	✓	
	The University of Texas School of Law	✓	
	University of Houston Law Center		

State	Law School	Responded to Survey	Right to Counsel Jurisdiction
Utah	Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School	✓	
	University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law		
Vermont	Vermont Law and Graduate School		
Virginia	Appalachian School of Law		
	George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School		
	Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (U.S. Army)		
	Liberty University School of Law		
	Regent University School of Law		
	University of Richmond School of Law	✓	
	University of Virginia School of Law	✓	
	Washington and Lee University School of Law		
	William & Mary Law School		
Washington	Gonzaga University School of Law		✓
	Seattle University School of Law	✓	✓
	University of Washington School of Law		✓
West Virginia	West Virginia University College of Law		
Wisconsin	Marquette University Law School	✓	
	University of Wisconsin Law School	✓	
Wyoming	University of Wyoming College of Law	✓	

*As of April 30, 2025

Appendix C: Survey Questions

Does your Law School offer a clinic that does housing justice/tenants' rights work?

What is the name of the clinic?

What is the clinic model?

What type of legal services are provided in the clinic?

Approximately what year did the clinic begin?

On average, how many students enroll in the clinic per semester?

If your school is in a place with a "Right to Counsel" law, is the clinic funded to be a "Right to Counsel" provider of tenant representation?

Has there been interest in creating a housing justice/tenants' rights clinic?

If you are facing challenges, what are the challenges to offering this clinic?

Does the Law School offer a class that teaches housing justice or landlord/tenant law?

Does the Law School partner with any organizations doing housing justice/tenants' rights work?

Does the Law School offer other opportunities or experiences to prepare students to work in housing justice/tenants' rights?

What do you think would help increase the number of students taking jobs in the field of housing justice?
