

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

Prof. David Romantz
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COURSE NUMBER & NAME: Housing Adjudication Clinic (HAC)
LAW 0501

GRADED CREDIT HOURS: Four (4) hours of graded credits.

This course satisfies the upper-level skills requirement. To enroll, a student must have completed at least one-half of the legal studies (45 hours) required for graduation and be in good academic standing. The Housing Adjudication Clinic is limited to four (4) students in Spring 2018.

PREREQUISITES: Administrative Law and
Professional Responsibility

RECOMMENDED: Evidence and Constitutional Law

RELATION TO BAR EXAM SUBJECTS:

This course exposes students to aspects of Constitutional Law, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Property/Landlord-Tenant, Contracts, and the Multistate Performance Test (judicial opinion writing).

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 Professor David Romantz, HAC students work as agency adjudicators assigned to investigate, research, hear, deliberate, and issue written opinions involving the Memphis Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program. Student-adjudicators will issue decision letters that determine whether Memphis Housing Authority had a sufficient factual and legal basis to terminate a participant's housing voucher. The student-adjudicators' written opinions are binding on the Memphis Housing Authority. To complement their work as adjudicators, clinic students participate in a classroom seminar and case rounds session designed to

survey public housing law, to explore administrative law and procedure, to provide adjudication training, and to consider the factual circumstances, legal questions, and issues of ethics and professionalism that arise in the cases over which they will preside.

WHY ENROLL:

Students in the Housing Adjudication Clinic will gain important exposure to administrative practice and public housing law. Through concurrent service as hearing officers, Housing Adjudication Clinic 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, lawyers' ethical and professional responsibilities, the importance of justice and fair play in administrative adjudications, the value of public interest lawyering, and the demographic and cultural differences as manifested in the public housing context.

TIME REQUIREMENTS:

The Housing Adjudication Clinic will meet for up to 100 minutes of regularly scheduled classroom time each week, likely on **Monday afternoons**. In addition, clinic students will sit as hearing officers on **Wednesday afternoons** (1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) each week of the semester. Students who plan to enroll in the clinic ought to avoid class conflicts on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Orientation sessions will be scheduled during the first three weeks of classes to ensure proper introduction to the Housing Adjudication Clinic's work and training in hearing practices and procedures.

SERVICE PROJECT:

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

Please contact Prof. Romantz if you have questions or comments.