

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

Fall 2026 – Spring 2027

Professor Joseph McKay

The Community Economic Development Clinic (CEDC) is a transactional (non-litigation) clinic that partners with communities in the Denver metropolitan area and beyond by providing free legal services to nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and other community-based enterprises. The Clinic focuses on community economic development by supporting projects that are initiated, led, and sustained by community members seeking to improve their economic and social conditions.

The CEDC advances these efforts by counseling and advising organizational clients and small business owners on business law and community development issues. Students work closely with clients while developing core transactional practice skills that are transferable across a wide range of legal settings, including client counseling and communication, legal drafting and document review, research and planning, project management, advocacy, collaboration, and understanding group dynamics in community-based work.

Client work may include drafting corporate formation documents; assisting nonprofit organizations with applications for recognition of tax-exempt status and ongoing compliance requirements; drafting and reviewing contracts; serving as general counsel to nonprofit organizations and small businesses; working with federal, state, and local government agencies; and supporting community-based revitalization and economic development initiatives. In addition, students may research public policy issues affecting clinic clients and lead community education workshops on substantive areas of law.

Please note: For the 2026–2027 academic year, the Clinic is exploring whether to operate as a year-long clinic or as a one-semester clinic, offered in both fall and spring. The final clinic structure will be announced prior to the application period.

Prerequisites

Although it is not required, it is highly recommended to take Legal Profession either before or concurrently with the clinic. To participate in a Student Law Office Clinic, students must complete 30 credit hours by the start of the clinic and have a GPA of 2.3 or higher.

Class Requirements

Class attendance is required. In prior years, classes have met on Tuesdays from 4:30–7:00 p.m., with the location to be determined. Students must also attend orientation held during the week prior to the start of the semester. **Attendance of orientation is mandatory.**

Credits

Students typically enroll for the full academic year earning a **total of 12 credits** (6 credits per semester). 6 credits are earned through participation in the clinic seminar, and the remaining 6 credits come from clinic-related work outside of class. For the 2026–2027 academic year, the Clinic may instead be offered as a one-semester clinic offered in both fall and spring semesters. Credit allocation and enrollment expectations will depend on the final structure and will be clearly communicated to students before applications are due. Students are expected to participate in both classroom instruction and client work throughout both fall and spring semesters.

Time Commitment

The Community Economic Development Clinic requires a substantial time commitment. Students should plan to spend an average of 20 hours per week participating in the class seminar and working on client matters with the expectation that some client work will require attendance at meetings that occur in the evening or during the weekend. Given the intensive time commitment of clinic courses as well as the potential for ethical conflicts of interest, **students are not allowed to simultaneously participate in a clinic in the Student Law Office and an externship through the Legal Externship Program or any other experiential course in the law school that involves client work.** Please consult our website [FAQs](#) to review the SLO policy on paid and volunteer work.

Apply

Applications open **Monday, March 3rd, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and close Sunday, March 8th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** on the [Clinical Programs Webpage](#). Applications submissions for the **Community Economic Defense Clinic** must include the following:

- *An updated law school resume (pdf)*

Students may apply up to two clinics. Late applications will not be accepted.

Learn More

- [Clinical Programs Webpage FAQs](#) (QR code)
- Instagram [@denver_law_clinical_programs](#)
- LinkedIn [@student-law-office-at-du](#)

