

## **FAQs for Faculty and Administrators**

### **How will this program benefit my students?**

Students selected to participate in the Fair Housing Internship Program will:

- learn about fair housing and related civil rights issues from an experienced law professor
- intern at a fair housing agency or government office addressing fair housing issues
- meet with experts in the field and attend events sponsored by local fair housing agencies and organizations
- participate in a fair housing career event to explore career possibilities in fair housing
- enhance interpersonal and group presentation skills
- receive four (4) semester hours of academic credit from John Marshall Law School

### **Students in what academic departments would be most interested in and most likely to benefit from participation in this program?**

Although the program is not limited to specific majors, the topics covered and experiences provided in this program would seem most relevant to political science, sociology, social work, and pre-law students.

### **If one or more of my students is accepted, what will the “home” institution be asked to do?**

John Marshall will partner with home institutions to facilitate the transfer of up to four (4) semester hours of credit granted by the John Marshall Law School. The John Marshall Law School is accredited by the North Central Association. It is also accredited by the American Bar Association, but the credit issued in this program cannot be counted toward a law degree. It is up to the home institution to determine whether the course can be counted toward the student’s undergraduate major or minor or can only be counted as a general elective. The home institution will also be asked to identify an appropriate forum for the student to share comments and respond to questions about fair housing matters and his/her experience with other students, faculty, staff, and any additional guests the institution chooses to invite.

### **Who at John Marshall Law School manages this program?**

The executive director is Professor Michael P. Seng

- BA and JD, Notre Dame University
- Professor, John Marshall Law School
- Co-Executive Director, Fair Housing Legal Support Center and Legal Clinic
- Coordinator, Predatory Home Lending Project at John Marshall

The program manager is Daniel Bondavalli

- BS, Lewis University
- JD, John Marshall Law School
- Former clinical intern, Fair Housing Legal Support Center and Legal Clinic
- Practicing attorney

### **How is this program funded?**

Funding for the Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative Program is provided by a grant awarded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), and the Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP).

### **What topics will be covered in the fair housing class?**

- the importance of housing and the problem of discrimination
- the role and limits of the 14th Amendment in reaching housing discrimination
- the continuing significance of the 13th Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1866
- the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and the classes they protect
- standing, agency, covered properties, and exemptions under the Fair Housing Act
- theories of liability under the Fair Housing Act: disparate treatment and disparate impact
- the continuing problem of racial and national origin discrimination in housing advertising claims
- different approaches to protect persons with disabilities – reasonable accommodations, reasonable modifications, and accessibility
- other protected classes under the Fair Housing Act – religion, sex and familial status, and intimidation and retaliation claims
- additional classes protected under state and local laws and ordinances – marital status, veterans status, sexual orientation, domestic abuse, source of income, conviction of a criminal offense
- fair lending and predatory home lending practices
- testing for fair housing violations
- remedies for fair housing violations – damages, injunctions, attorneys fees
- judicial or administrative enforcement of the fair housing laws
- the future of open housing

### **What will students be required to read?**

The primary text for this course is *The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities* edited by Chester Hartman and Gregory D. Squires. Chester Hartman is director of research for the Poverty & Race Research Action Council. Gregory Squires, a professor of sociology and public policy and public administration at George Washington University, serves as a member of the John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center Advisory Board. The text, which includes writings by academic and professional experts from fields including law, education, public health, criminal justice sociology, and public policy, examines the policy, legal, and historical foundations of efforts to achieve more balanced living patterns in the U.S. Professor Michael P. Seng coauthored the chapter “Achieving Integration through Private Litigation.” Students will also learn about legal issues related to fair housing through review of cases selected by Professor Seng, executive director, and Daniel Bondavalli, program manager, for The John Marshall Fair Housing Internship Program.

### **Why does this program include an internship or service learning component?**

As part of the fair housing course students will have an opportunity to serve at one of several locations including The John Marshall Fair Housing Legal Clinic; Access Living, Center for Service, Advocacy and Social Change for People with Disabilities; Latin United Community

Housing Association; Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago; and the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

As the Illinois Board of Higher Education explains, “Service learning is a method by which students improve academic learning and develop personal skills through structured service projects that meet community needs... Educators facilitate learning by creating opportunities for students to understand and analyze their service experiences in the context of their coursework.” The internship will be supervised by a knowledgeable staff member on site and supported by the program manager.

### **What are the learning outcome objectives of this program?**

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- recognize historical, cultural, political, and economic underpinnings of fair housing discrimination
- understand basic legal concepts and terminology related to fair housing
- recognize the significance of the Constitution, the Civil Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act, as amended, in protecting against housing discrimination
- be familiar with federal, state, and local laws designed to address race, national origin, disability, religion, sex, familial and marital status, veterans status, sexual orientation, source of income, and criminal record discrimination in housing
- understand the concepts of reasonable accommodations, reasonable modifications, and accessibility as they relate to persons with disabilities
- recognize fair lending and predatory home lending practices
- know what judicial and administrative remedies can be applied in fair housing cases
- understand ethical responsibilities to clients and agencies in addressing fair housing concerns

Students will also be able to:

- examine and evaluate reports of fair housing discrimination
- apply knowledge from the class to real-world experiences in fair housing agencies
- utilize legal research and problem-solving skills to analyze fair housing cases
- work collegially with classmates and professionals in addressing fair housing issues
- function within the structure of organizations and service-delivery systems that seek to advance fair housing
- demonstrate communication/facilitation skills with people of diverse backgrounds
- write clear summaries and reports about fair housing issues
- give, accept, and respond to objective, constructive feedback
- describe fair housing issues, laws, programs and policies to others

### **How will learning outcomes of the program be assessed?**

Instructors and internship supervisors will assess student learning outcomes through:

- a comprehensive essay exam at the end of the fair housing course
- class participation, preparedness, and contributions to class discussions
- assessment of capstone presentation by each participant at their home institution
- a reflection paper integrating the students’ intern experience and what they learned in the fair housing course

**Who do I contact for further information about this program?**

Daniel M. Bondavalli, Project Manager

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