



DRAKE UNIVERSITY

ENTREPRENEURIAL & TRANSACTIONAL LAW CLINIC

The Entrepreneurial & Transactional Law Clinic (the ETC) at the Drake University Law School provides free organizational and transactional legal services to business startups, entrepreneurs, and community nonprofit organizations to help them establish successful for profit and nonprofit enterprises. The ETC targets entrepreneurs and innovators located in underserved Des Moines neighborhoods and Iowa rural communities who are not able to afford private legal counsel. Student attorneys, under the supervision of the ETC faculty, assist clients with business and nonprofit legal needs. The ETC is designed to support and promote urban neighborhood and rural community revitalization through economic development, small business growth and access to social services.

All legal services are provided without charge. Clients are responsible for out-of-pocket fees and other expenses associated with the representation (such as state filing or application fees).

In addition to representing clients, student attorneys may also provide free community education workshops on issues related to small business and nonprofit startups.

Legal Services and Practice Areas

The ETC provides assistance in most areas of organizational and transactional law, including:

- For-profit business formation and legal structure advice, including startup and sale/transition to workers' cooperatives
- Formation of nonprofit corporations
- Governance advice for business and nonprofit organizations
- Business and employer tax advice and guidance
- Review, drafting, and negotiation of co-owner agreements, commercial leases, loan agreements and other business agreements and documents
- Applications for 501(c)(3) tax exemption and advice regarding the continued maintenance of tax-exempt status
- Legal audits and organizational check-ups
- Community revitalization projects and transactions
- Assistance with qualification and submission requirements for federal, state and local economic development and assistance programs including pandemic relief programs

The ETC does not prepare tax returns, or provide assistance initiating or defending litigation.



Client Selection Criteria

ETC faculty members determine whether the requested services are appropriate for student attorney representation. Priority is given to potential clients that:

- do not have discretionary funds for legal advice;
- are owned/operated by women, minorities or members of traditionally underserved groups;
- have a written business or strategic plan or can otherwise demonstrate the capacity for ongoing operations;
- are located within an underserved neighborhood in the greater Des Moines area, or a rural community in Iowa and/or retiring from/selling business;
- provide good learning opportunities for the ETC's student attorneys.

Prospective clients can request legal assistance by submitting an *Application Requesting Legal Services*. To obtain this application or for more information, please contact the ETC by telephone at (515) 271-3851 or by email at etc@drake.edu ; or visit us online at:

<https://www.drake.edu/law/clinics-centers/clinic/transactional/>