

UC Hastings Community Partnerships

UC Hastings is an institutional anchor in the Tenderloin and Civic Center areas and provides substantial benefits in partnerships with the community. Attainment of this objective is not without challenges. The College has limited financial means and state funding has dramatically eroded over time, only 12 percent of Hastings' total operating revenue is provided by the State of California. As an independent law school affiliated with the University of California, but completely autonomous on a programmatic and financial basis, UC Hastings does not enjoy the economic benefits of integration with a larger institution with a substantial endowment. To maintain Hastings as a high quality provider of legal education, the College must become more self-reliant, proactively looking toward a future where state support is further diminished.

UC Hastings' location in the Tenderloin neighborhood is both an asset and a liability. The College's proximity to the courts and various government and nonprofit organizations provides unparalleled opportunities to enhance the educational program by fostering interaction between UC Hastings students and the broader community. However, many students do not feel safe in the area, particularly after dark. In the evening, the positive contribution to the community that would be expected from a student body of 900 is not evident. In the area where the College is located, only a few restaurants are open in the evening. There are even fewer coffee shops or entertainment venues available for after-hours socializing. It is hoped that UC Hastings' development efforts will encourage its students and campus visitors to take greater advantage of the College's facilities and the surrounding neighborhood.

Programs and services provided by the College, its students, and its faculty, contribute to the community in numerous ways. Outlined below is a description of the various elements that comprise the Hastings Community Partnership.

Institutional Programs

- After School Programs – UC Hastings provides stipends to students who tutor and mentor neighborhood children enrolled in TNDC's Tenderloin After School Program. This program was expanded to include tutoring children enrolled in a similar program operated by the DeMarillac Academy.

Experiential Programs

- Civil Justice Clinic (CJC) - The cornerstone of live-client clinical legal education at UC Hastings is the in-house Civil Justice Clinic. CJC gives students lead responsibility for handling real cases. Under faculty supervision, students represent clients in matters that principally affect low-income individuals and communities. Their cases involve matters such as Social Security disability hearings, tenant disputes, wage claims, and special education benefits for children with disabilities. Clinical staff also oversee:
 1. Community Economic Development Clinic – The clinic provides students with hands-on, community-based, transactional planning experiences. The clinic works closely

- with and provides counsel to residents, advocacy organizations, social service providers, and businesses in the Tenderloin.
2. Immigrants' Rights Clinic – This clinic provides students who are taking or have taken the substantive immigration law course with direct experience in representing clients facing removal by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, seeking U.S. political asylum, or applying for citizenship.
 3. Mediation Clinic – The clinic provides student mediators four days a week to the San Francisco Superior Court's Small Claims Division. There, students mediate a variety of claims brought by local citizens, such as landlord-tenant, purchase contracts, and neighborhood nuisances. The student mediators help the parties work through their differences and craft a mutually acceptable solution.

Student Organizations, Sponsored Activities and Other Community Support

- Associated Students of the University of California, Hastings (ASUCH) – Among other activities supporting neighborhood and community development, this organization annually organizes a Halloween trick-or-treat event for children of the Tenderloin at the student housing facility.
- Government Assistance Advocacy Program (GAAP) – Hastings students provide advocacy and legal support to low-income clients receiving General Assistance and food stamps.
- Hasting Public Interest Law Foundation (HPILF) – Raises funds annually to provide students with stipends that permit them to volunteer at nonprofit agencies over the summer.
- Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal – Staff of the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal organize an annual symposium on matters of interest to many in the Tenderloin community. The journal is committed to promoting and inspiring discourse in the legal community regarding issues of race, poverty, social justice and the law.
- UC Hastings faculty and staff volunteer their service on many community nonprofits including St. Anthony's Foundation, Tenderloin Neighborhood Improvement Corporation, North of Market Neighborhood Improvement Corporation, Hamilton Family Center and many others.
- Demonstration Gardens @ UC Hastings offers community-based environmental literacy and advocacy programming at 333 Golden Gate Ave
- UC Hastings serves as a location for community-based service meetings and symposia that provide educational and pipeline programs, legal services, financial literacy and health awareness information to underserved populations.

These opportunities and Hastings commitment to public service have led UC Hastings graduates to pursue careers in public interest at rates that exceed the national average. UC Hastings is committed to a positive vision for the Tenderloin/Civic Center neighborhood. The College and its students, faculty, staff, and alumni and welcomes your support in achieving a community that better serves the needs of all its residents and visitors.