FAQs For Faculty and Administrators:

How will this course benefit my students?

Students selected to participate in the Fair Housing/Fair Lending Course will:

- Learn about fair housing and related civil rights issues from an experienced law professor;
- Make a presentation at their home college or university or in the community about fair housing or fair lending issues;
- Meet with experts in the field and attend events sponsored by local fair housing agencies and organizations;
- Learn about careers in civil rights and fair housing;
- Learn how the law interacts with other social science disciplines;
- Experience how a law school course is conducted;
- Enhance interpersonal and group presentation skills;
- Receive three (3) semester hours of academic credit.

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

Although the course 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, urban planning, and or 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 three (3) 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 of the JMLS Fair Housing Legal Support Center and Legal Clinic
- Coordinator of the Predatory Home Lending Project at John Marshall

The Project Manager is Tiffany M. Hughes, Esq.
- Juris Doctor, John Marshall Law School
- BS, Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago
- BS, Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Former clinical intern at the JMLS Fair Housing Legal Support Center and Legal Clinic
- Practicing attorney

How is this program funded?

Funding for the Fair Housing/Fair Lending 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). The course is contingent upon a renewal of this funding.

What topics will be covered in the fair housing/fair lending class?

- The Importance of Housing and the Problem of Discrimination;
- The Role and Limits of the Fourteenth Amendment in Reaching Housing Discrimination;
- The Continuing Significance of the Thirteenth 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;
• Where Do We Go From Here? The Future of Open Housing;
• Careers in Civil Rights and Fair Housing.

What will students be required to read?

The primary text, a case book in Fair Housing & Fair Lending Law compiled by Professor Seng. Supplemental books for this course include The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities New York by Chester Hartman and Gregory D. Squires. Chester Hartman is Director of Research for the Poverty & Race Research Action Council. Gregory Squires, who is a Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University, serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center. The text includes writings by academic and professional experts from fields including law, education, public health, criminal justice sociology, and public policy examining the policy, legal and historical foundations of efforts to achieve more balanced living patterns in the United States. Professor Michael P. Seng, instructor for the Fair Housing course, 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 Michael Seng, Executive Director, and Tiffany M. Hughes, Esq., Project Manager for The John Marshall Fair Housing/Fair Lending Course.

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.” http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/service_learning/default.htm

What are the learning outcome objectives of this course?

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 and civil rights and Fair Housing Act, as amended, in protecting against housing discrimination;
• Be familiar with federal, state, and local laws designed to address racial, 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 be able to:
• Examine and evaluate reports of fair housing discrimination;
• Utilize legal research and problem solving skills to analyze fair housing cases;
• Work collegially with classmates and professionals in addressing fair housing issues;
• 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; and
• Describe fair housing issues, laws, programs and policies to others.

How will learning outcomes of the course be assessed?

Instructors 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 discussion;
• Assessment of “capstone” presentation by each participant at their home college or university or community center; and
• A reflection paper integrating the students’ intern experience and what they learned in the Fair Housing/Fair Lending course.

Important Deadlines

For consideration into the Fall 2018 class, all applications and application materials must be turned in by April 30, 2018.

Who do I contact for further information about this program?

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