



## Case Examples

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### Small Businesses

**Margarita's Tortilla Factory** is an Austin-area small business making fresh tamales and tortillas from all-natural ingredients. ECDC students gained valuable experience working with Margarita's to create an LLC, prepare an employee handbook, and counsel on co-manufacturing and distribution agreements with third parties.

**Articulture** is a unique design firm specializing in plant- and botanical-based interiors and event design in addition to providing gifts and home décor in their South Austin boutique. ECDC students witnessed this unique small business grow from an idea into a reality by assisting in its LLC formation, trademark application, service contract drafting, and real estate acquisition.

**Pets with Passports** provides pet relocation services with options such as long-distance drives, moves across state lines, and even international relocations. ECDC students assisted Pets with Passports on their vendor contracts, customer contracts, and intellectual property.



Angry Egg Roll food truck owner with ECDC student and director

ECDC students have been active supporters of Austin's robust food truck scene as both connoisseurs and legal counsel. Our students worked with **Angry Egg Roll** to trademark its name and counsel on employment law matters. Similarly, ECDC students helped **Mellizos Tacos** with its catering contract, intellectual property, and choice of entity. Other types of assistance provided to the Clinic's food truck clients were business formation, regulatory advice, and the revision of corporate documents.

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### Nonprofits

**Community and Family Historic Preservation Association (CFHPA)**, based in Jasper County, Texas, is focused on preserving the area's cultural heritage as a "freedom colony"—a place where African-Americans settled after Emancipation. ECDC students assisted CFHPA with federal tax law compliance, nonprofit formation, contracts, and applying for federal tax exemption status. Students also provided community education to area-residents on issues related to protecting the ownership of their land.

**Multicultural Refugee Coalition** is an Austin nonprofit working to resettle and create opportunities for refugees through both training and employment via their three social enterprises: Open Arms (which is IKEA's first US-based social enterprise partner), Shared Voices, and New Leaf. ECDC students gained experience in preparing customer contracts, revising corporate documents, and assisting with tax law compliancy and intellectual property.

**Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation (GNDC)** is an Austin-based nonprofit working to develop and preserve affordable housing in East Austin. ECDC students have prepared a wide variety of real estate documents for GNDC and assisted GNDC in creating the first Community Land Trust (CLT) program in the state of Texas. Students also drafted legislation and got to testify before the Texas Senate on ways to secure important property tax protections for CLT properties and homeowners.



Affordable home built by GNDC

**The Hispanic Alliance for the Performing Arts (HAPA)**

works to increase access to music education for Hispanic, low-income, and underserved children in our community. Clinic students helped HAPA form a nonprofit and obtain a tax exemption, along with bylaws and corporate governance matters.

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## Community Organizations & Policy Projects

ECDC students represented residents in **Rancho Vista**, a low-income community just outside of Austin, to remove barriers that prevented owners of mobile homes from qualifying for homestead exemptions. Students testified before the Texas Senate and drafted legislation that was enacted by the Legislature, which now provides property tax relief to thousands of mobile home owners across the state.

**Familias Unidas** is a community group working to improve living conditions in the Chamizal neighborhood of El Paso, a neighborhood challenged by multiple environmental hazards. ECDC students are working with community leaders to identify ways to limit truck traffic through the neighborhood.

ECDC students have worked to develop policy recommendations and legal tools for improving **housing conditions in distressed communities** in Dallas, Houston, and Austin. One of the Clinic's reports contributed to the Austin City Council's passage of a Repeat Offender Program targeting problem landlords operating dangerous properties.



Abandoned home in Dallas.