



Case Examples

Small Businesses

Mesocano is an Austin-based CPG (consumer packaged goods) start-up specializing in the creation of artisan handcrafted Latin foods. Their products are focused on being preservative-free, authentic, and unique. ECDC students provided entity restructuring and trademark assistance to help Mesocano grow.

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 co-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 **Mellizoz Tacos** with its catering contract, intellectual property, and choice of entity. Other types of assistance provided to the Clinic's food truck clients include business formation, regulatory advice, and the revision of corporate documents.

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 create livelihood opportunities for refugees through both training and employment via their two social enterprises: Open Arms, a textile manufacturing business, and New Leaf, an urban farm. ECDC students gained experience in preparing customer contracts, revising corporate documents, and assisting with tax law compliance, 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 in creating the first Community Land Trust (CLT) program in the state of Texas.

Asociación de Residentes de North Lamar (ARNL) is a residents' association in a mobile home park community in North Austin. In 2020, working collaboratively with community organizations and city staff, ECDC students represented ARNL in the real estate and lending work necessary for the purchase of the mobile home park and helped them formalize as a resident-owned cooperative nonprofit corporation through forming a nonprofit corporation, drafting bylaws, facilitating strong corporate governance, and issue spotting on matters of property management.



Clinic students touring North Lamar Mobile Home Park with members of the newly formed Asociación de Residentes de North Lamar Corporation

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.

Community Organizations & Policy Projects

ECDC students represented residents in **Rancho Vista**, a low-income community just outside of Austin, to form a nonprofit association and help individual families clear title to their properties. Students also worked with community members 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 homeowners across the state.



Abandoned home in Dallas

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