

Take the Next Step

Toward Starting a Relationship with
BELAW at The John Marshall Law School

Renee Hatcher is the Director of the Business Enterprise Law Clinic at The John Marshall Law School. Before joining John Marshall, Hatcher taught in the Community Development Clinic at the University of Baltimore School of Law and served a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Texas–Austin’s Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis. Previously, Director Hatcher served as a Staff Attorney and Project Director for the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc. (CLC), where she directed the Initiative for Northwest Indiana, a community development law project providing legal services to entrepreneurs, community-based organizations, and individuals interested in expunging their criminal history. During her time at CLC, Hatcher also served as lead counsel on community benefit agreement campaigns and matters of regional equity, and represented individuals in matters of employment discrimination and prisoners’ rights in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.



Hatcher currently serves as a National Co-Chair for the U.S. Human Rights Network Working Group on Equality and Non-Discrimination. She has volunteered with a number of local organizations, including the Illinois Torture Injury Relief Commission, Future Founders, and the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. She is a member of the Clinical Legal Education Association, the National Lawyers’ Guild, and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. Hatcher also participates in the Federal Reserve Board Community Leaders Forum.

Hatcher was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. She received her law degree from New York University School of Law and her BA in political science from Indiana University–Bloomington. Her current research focuses on new legal strategies to build power and create equitable development practices in communities of color.

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for Businesses and
Tax-Exempt, Not-for-Profit
Organizations


THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LAW CLINIC

315 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604



Business Enterprise Law Clinic



What **Legal Challenges** Do You Face?

How do you decide which form of business organization best meets your goals and objectives?

Is there a business relationship you want to establish, but just don't know how to get started?

Are you unsure of which regulations apply to your business or organization?

Are you so busy running the day-to-day operations of your business that planning for the future has been put on a back burner?

Are there routine forms and documents that you have been using, not because they meet your needs, but because you found them in a book or on the Internet?

BELAW Can Help

Under the supervision of Director Renee Hatcher, John Marshall Law School students enrolled in the Business Enterprise Law Clinic (BELAW) provide *pro bono* legal services to the Chicagoland business community. BELAW's mission is to support not-for-profit organizations and businesses in underserved communities with limited financial resources, by providing access to quality business and transactional legal representation.

Legal questions arise in many different contexts and come in all shapes, sizes, and levels of complexity. The key to good lawyering is the ability not only to identify problems, but also, after a thorough assessment, come up with solutions. And by solutions, we mean those that meet a client's goals and objectives. Even that is not enough. After consulting with our client and identifying a solution, we work with the client to develop strategies and tactics to achieve the desired result.

Examples of Our **Legal Services**

- The choice of entity for your business cooperative or not-for-profit organization, including tax and non-tax consequences
- The structure of the entity, focusing on three areas: ownership, control, and financing
- Regulatory compliance, which involves interpreting the law that regulates the operation of your business
- Employment issues, including contracts with key employees and independent contractors
- The use of form documents and the implications of contractual terms and provisions
- The structure of contractual and other relationships with suppliers and customers
- Regular, routine business transactions that arise in the day-to-day operation of a business or not-for-profit organization
- Advising tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations seeking to establish for-profit subsidiaries or affiliated entities that can provide additional revenues while complementing and maintaining their tax-exempt status

For more information about **BELAW**, please visit www.jmls.edu/belaw.