Gimme Shelter: Law School's Affordable Housing Clinic Helps Create Homes for Elderly, Disabled, Working Poor

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Law School Report

Gimme Shelter

Law School's Affordable Housing Clinic helps create homes for elderly, disabled, working poor

Joe and June Adams play cards in the community room at the Trinity Apartments in East Aurora

The Law School at the University at Buffalo is rapidly earning a national reputation for its program in affordable-housing and community development law.

"Since 1987, our faculty and students have been instrumental in partnering $75 million in public and private funds with agencies and developers who build or rehab housing for the elderly, the disabled and working poor families," said George M. Hezel, clinical professor and director of the Law School's Affordable Housing Clinic.

The clinic's faculty and students use legal tools at their disposal to link funding sources and private and public agencies.

As a result of their efforts, which are primarily oriented to learning and teaching law, at least 1,000 housing units exist today in the community that otherwise would not have been available. And more are in the planning stages.

"Attractive apartment complexes, townhouses, row houses and single-family dwellings have either been built or carved out from our-
“Students begin with the design and analysis of feasibility studies that identify the type and location for housing needed most, do a cost analysis, write the proposal, apply for funding and oversee the finished proposal through operation and sale.” Clinical Professor George M. Hezel