The faculty of the University of Maryland School of Law have expertise in a range of legal fields. Together with students and staff, they serve as a resource for people throughout the state of Maryland, including the Eastern Shore. Projects on the Eastern Shore have included:

**Tax Assistance:** The School’s Low Income Tax-payer Clinic provides free legal services to low income Marylanders who have tax disputes with both the Internal Revenue Service and the State. The Clinic handles collections, audits and exam-related cases and represents clients before the U.S. and Maryland Tax Courts. Most of the cases handled involve the Earned Income Tax Credit, misclassified self-employment income, innocent spouse relief claims and collection related settlement negotiations. The Clinic has seen a rising trend in the number of tax-related identity theft cases. The Clinic has represented clients in Dorchester, Queen Anne’s, and Somerset counties.

**Property Rights Education for Landowners and Small Farmers:** In response to requests for assistance from community leaders, students in the Community Development Clinic provided educational programs to landowners and small farmers in Dorchester and Talbot Counties about land owned under conditions of “heirs property.” Land that has descended for generations without a deed transfer is by law held in common by many family members, making it difficult for owners to use their property fully -- that is, to sell, use as collateral, or to obtain USDA or other governmental assistance after flooding or other natural disasters. Through these workshops, student attorneys help Eastern Shore families preserve family farmland for the next generation, by translating the legal requirements of deeds, wills and probate, and drafting models for consolidating many heirs’ interests through various management or title holding agreements.

**Mediation:** The School of Law is home to the Center for Dispute Resolution (C-DRUM). C-DRUM provides mediation services for a range of disputes including small claims litigation in the District Courts of Maryland, Equal Opportunity Employment Commission cases, contractor disputes, school attendance and truancy issues, and school-based disputes and conflicts. C-DRUM has provided support for school mediation projects in Worcester County, Somerset County, Wicomico County, Cecil County, Queen Anne’s County, and Kent County. C-DRUM runs the Maryland Public Policy Conflict Resolution Fellows Program, training Maryland leaders in negotiation, conflict resolution and consensus building. Eastern Shore graduates from the program have included the Mayor of Salisbury, the President of Salisbury University, the Mayor
of Cambridge, and the Executive Director of the Delmarva Poultry Industry. C-DRUM has provided training in conflict resolution skills for the agricultural industry on the Eastern Shore, and provided mediator training for court representatives from Kent County, Queen Anne’s County and Talbot County.

**Civil Rights:** Faculty and students participated in representation of the Jersey Heights Neighborhood Association in Salisbury, Maryland in a suit against the Federal and State Highway Administration for due process failures in siting decisions regarding the planning and proposed construction of the Route 50 bypass. Because of the suit, the State Highway Administration agreed to a negotiated settlement with the plaintiffs that resulted in neighbors receiving assistance with sale of their homes along the highway route; improvements to physical infrastructure of affected neighborhoods including drainage, sidewalks and a fund for street lighting and other improvements; construction contract opportunities for local Disadvantaged Business Enterprises; and highway construction jobs for local Salisbury residents.

**Economic and Community Development:** The School of Law’s Economic, Housing and Community Development Clinic represents non-profit community-based organizations on a wide range of issues related to basic nonprofit management and organization. The Clinic has represented the Haitian Community Center of Delmarva, Inc. in Wicomico County. The Center serves a community of 20,000 Haitians on the Eastern Shore, promoting communication among Delmarva residents of Haitian descent, and assisting newly arrived refugees to participate fully in the American mainstream.

**Supporting Eastern Shore Courts:**

a. **Problem Solving Courts:** The Community Justice Clinic has served as a resource for the courts in Talbot County, which are working to establish a problem solving court there. Additionally, the Clinic has taken court employees and judges to visit the Red Hook Justice Center in New York. The County has expressed interest in the alternative justice systems that C-Drum and the Community Justice Initiative are participating in.

b. **Clerkships:** The School of Law has a long history of sending students to serve as judicial clerks and interns for judges in courts on the Eastern Shore. Clerks assist with the operation of the court and conduct legal research and drafting for judges.

**Emergency Preparedness and Planning:** The Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS) has several initiatives in support of Eastern Shore communities. A Center staff member leads the Eastern Shore Communication Alliance, comprised of the directors of emergency services from every county on the Eastern Shore and Ocean City. The goal of Alliance is to establish and maintain interoperable emergency communications by pooling resources and making unified regional decisions. Already the Alliance has been able to develop interoperability standards, communications lifecycle plans, and a long-term technology investment strategy.

Additionally, CHHS has provided emergency preparedness training, materials and exercises on the Eastern Shore. The team has developed an “InterOp 101” course that teaches first responders on the Eastern Shore the basics of communicating during a region-wide emergency.
Finally, CHHS has done a great deal of Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning to help institutions on the Eastern Shore maintain operations in the event of a disaster or emergency. Institutions involved include the Eastern Shore community colleges (Chesapeake, Cecil, and Wor-Wic), and District and Circuit Courts on the Eastern Shore. CHHS has an upcoming COOP training planned for city officials, emergency managers and first responders in Ocean City.

**Workers Rights:** The Workers’ Rights Clinic represents employees throughout the state in unemployment insurance appeals hearings. It has represented numerous citizens from the Eastern Shore and students frequently travel to Elkton for hearings.

**Post-Conviction Appellate Practice:** The School of Law has for many years been involved in post-conviction appellate practice for incarcerated individuals. Faculty and students have worked with the Eastern Correctional Institution in Westover and have represented people from Cecil, Wicomico and Somerset Counties.

**Re-Entry to Community for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals:** The School of Law’s Reentry Clinic has partnered with the School of Law’s Law and Social Work Program to provide reentry-related assistance to individuals returning to their communities from incarceration, including those who have returned to communities on the Eastern Shore. These efforts have also provided the development of release plans for several incarcerated people that links them to medical, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment, jobs programs and appropriate housing.

**Environmental Protection:** The Environmental Law Clinic has developed an educational training program for individuals interested in environmental protection on the Eastern Shore. It has represented environmental organizations with an extensive membership of Eastern Shore residents in administrative proceedings and citizen suits to enforce environmental regulations.

**Voting Rights:** A faculty member of the School of Law convened a hearing as Co-Chair of the Attorney General’s Task Force on Voting Irregularities to hear concerns from Eastern Shore residents about irregularities in the 2006 primary election. Testimony received was included in a statewide Report of the Task Force in 2008.

**Immigration Assistance:** The Immigration Clinic represents individuals in proceedings before the Immigration Court and the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. It has provided a workshop in Salisbury to assist Haitians living on the Eastern Shore to apply for Temporary Protected Status in the wake of last year’s earthquake. Students also represent individuals who are seeking asylum in the United States and are victims of domestic violence or other crimes. The Clinic has represented people in Dorchester, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

**Faculty Scholarship:** A member of our faculty has conducted extensive research on the history of lynching on the Eastern Shore. Her work resulted in the critically acclaimed book, *On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century* (Beacon Books 2007). This work both documents a history of racial violence and develops a framework for racial reconciliation and healing. She has lectured and served as scholar-in-residence extensively on the Eastern Shore in Chestertown, Centreville, St. Michaels, Princess Anne and Ocean City.
**Student Research, Internships and Pro-Bono Projects:** Students in the School of Law regularly participate in pro bono and other service projects to give back to their communities. Several students have served as pro bono volunteers with Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. in Easton, Maryland. One student recently completed a major paper on new strategies in fisheries management in collaboration with the University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Various students have interned for Eastern Shore General Assembly members, including one student who is currently working for Delegate Bohanan.