

Susan D. Bennett
Biography

Susan Bennett is a professor of law and director of the Community and Economic Development Law Clinic (CEDLC) at the Washington College of Law of American University. She served as director of the law school's Public Interest Law Clinic from 1984 to 1998, and as Director of Clinical Programs from 2003 to 2006. In 1998, she established the Community and Economic Development Law Clinic, the law school's first clinic to specialize in transactional representation for neighborhood-based organizations, small businesses and tenants' associations. Professor Bennett is past chair and current executive committee member of the Section on Poverty Law of the Association of American Law Schools. She was appointed in 2007 to her first term as a member of the ABA's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. She is past co-chair and secretary of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. From 1999-2001 she served as co-chair of the Legal Educators' Division of the ABA Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law. She serves on the Advisory Committee for Community and Economic Development for the District of Columbia Bar's Pro Bono Program.

Professor Bennett has written on welfare bureaucracy in the administration of shelter programs, on HOPE VI and resident participation in public housing development, and on ethical problems encountered in the representation of groups. She also teaches courses in social welfare policy, introductory property law, and housing and community development. Before joining the faculty of the Washington College of Law, Professor Bennett practiced as a staff attorney with the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, where she specialized in housing and consumer law. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from Yale University, and received her J.D. from Columbia.