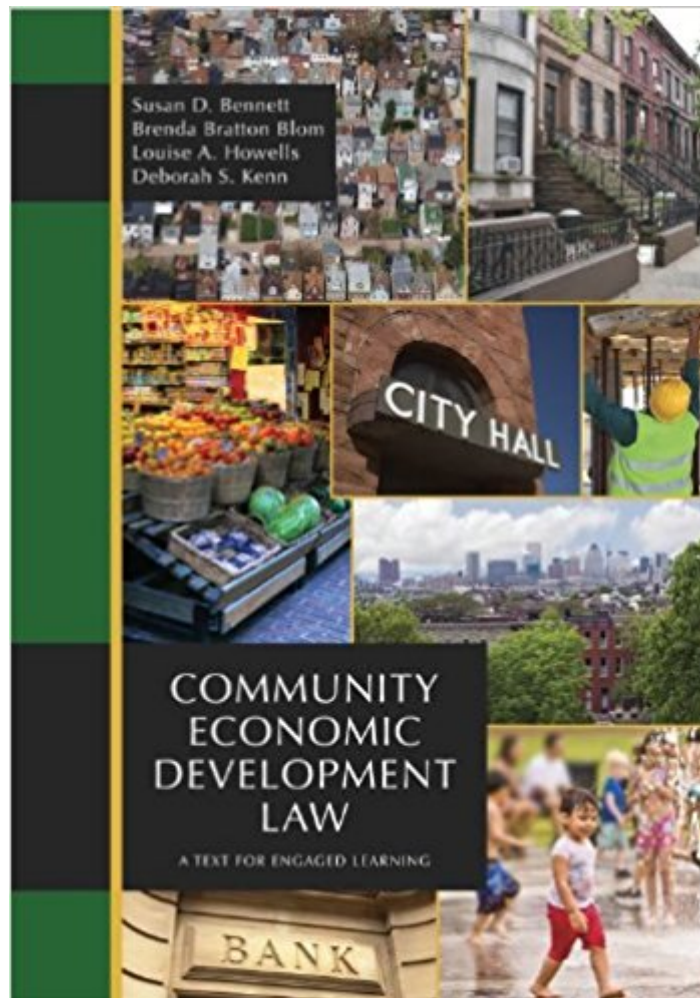


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# Community Economic Development Law: A Text For Engaged Learning



## Synopsis

Community development law has assumed pre-eminence among strategies to alleviate entrenched poverty and create sustainable economic and social change within low income communities. Despite the growing prominence of community development within graduate schools and the helping professions, there is no comprehensive textbook to date. This text provides that resource. *Community Economic Development Law: A Text for Engaged Learning* provides a flexible set of materials that faculty can customize to meet the goals of the stand-alone community development class, or the pedagogical needs of community development law clinics. The text enables students to approach the substantive material as would problem-solving, community-based practitioners. They do so by entering the community of Ourfuture City, whose Old World immigrants built a vanished industrial prosperity; and of its neighborhood, Milkweed Park, whose new immigrants and long-time residents confront the stresses of physical and financial isolation, racial segregation and economic disinvestment. Students assume the roles of advisors and advocates for the families, teachers, clergy, bankers, entrepreneurs, non-profits, public institutions, and activists of this prototypical struggling municipality. The book intersperses overviews of substantive areas that are commonly encountered in community development advocacy with exercises and problems presented by the clients from Milkweed Park. Those areas include entity formation, economic development finance, housing, land use and the emerging field of community justice. The exercises use the substantive law to highlight skills that community development lawyers need to address their clients' problems and projects, as a basis for in-class discussion and/or preparation for client representation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Susan D. Bennett is a Professor of Law and Director of the Community & Economic Development Law Clinic at American University Washington College of Law. Brenda Bratton Blom is a Professor of Law and Co-director of Clinical Programs at the University of Maryland School of Law. Louise A. Howells is a Professor of Law at UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Deborah Kenn is a Professor of Law and Director of the Community Development Law Clinic at Syracuse University College of Law.

The book begins with a prologue about a city that could be anywhere in America that goes through the changes that American cities saw (immigration, segregation, brown v board of education, depression, recession, etc.) While that is a good way of explaining the development of American cities in just a few short pages, The characters of the prologue followed the rest of the way through, and it was much more distracting than it was helpful. Everything was a long narrative with these characters that you needed to remember who they were. It would have been much more time efficient to just cut to the chase and say some activists do X. Some laws say X while others say Y. Message to the Author: Save your nostalgic stories for fiction. It decreased my comprehension and consumed far more time than it needed to talking about "Milkweed Park" and "Ourfuture City."

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