



Gary Blasi, Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA School of Law

Gary Blasi is Professor of Law Emeritus at the UCLA School of Law. He joined the faculty of the law school in 1991, after working as an advocate and attorney for people in poverty for 20 years. Early in his career, Blasi specialized in the representation of low-income tenants and homeowners. He co-founded the Eviction Defense Center at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), which assisted more than 8,000 tenants per year. When mass homelessness came to Los Angeles in 1983, his primary work began to focus on working with and representing unhoused people. For eight years, he directed LAFLA's Homelessness Litigation Project, where he coordinated large-scale litigation on behalf of indigent and homeless people in Los Angeles County.

After becoming a law professor in 1991, Blasi's research included examining the public response to homelessness across a range of issues, including the cognitive and social psychology of how people understand the causes of homelessness and why people come to support particular solutions to the problem, with a special focus on the role of race in shaping both. Professor Blasi took emeritus status in 2012 but continues to do research and maintain an active pro bono legal practice. He also continues to do research relevant to public policy, most recently regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment, evictions, and homelessness. He also co-directs an extensive effort to create an online Eviction Defense Tool to help tenants who are unable to find lawyers defend themselves in eviction cases and connect with other tenants working toward housing justice.