The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics

Our legal clinics serve low-income people at five locations—the House of Peace, the Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office, the Sojourner Family Peace Center, the United Community Center, and the Milwaukee Justice Center. Plus, we have a Mobile Legal Clinic that goes where people who need service are. And we put on estate-planning clinics in several locations.

4,300 clients are served annually. Of those, 70% live at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.

EXCELLENCE  |  FAITH  |  LEADERSHIP  |  SERVICE

. . . And Then There’s the Public Interest Law Society

Putting excellence, faith, leadership, and service into action—those words describe the Public Interest Law Society (PILS), a long-standing and wide-ranging program that supports Marquette law students in public-interest summer internships.

For more than 20 years, Marquette University Law School has sponsored PILS fellowships. Students receive a $4,000 stipend to support them in unpaid summer internships in public interest organizations in the law. Most fellowships are in the Milwaukee area, but a number are in locations around the country. Fellows are also expected to perform at least 20 hours of PILS service in the following academic years.
So Who Supports All This?

Much of Marquette Law School’s public service work is underwritten by generous donors. The Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation, established by a Marquette lawyer from the class of 1936, has provided several hundred thousand dollars in grants over the past decade. Also of great significance in supporting the school’s public service work have been the unrestricted donations to the Law School’s Annual Fund, often called the dean’s discretionary fund, ranging from small amounts to Woolsack Society gifts, all generous. The annual “Howard B. Eisenberg Do-Gooders’ Auction” each February brings the Marquette Law School community together and attracts additional donations.

Who Coordinates, Enables, and Encourages All of This?

Well, the Marquette Law School community generally, to be sure, but the school’s Office of Public Service more specifically. After study by the faculty and dean, the Law School created the office in 2006 to build upon the Jesuit tradition of public service and to capture the legacy embodied by the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg. Led by Angela Schultz, assistant dean for public service, the office works with the community at large to offer students, alumni, and other members of the legal profession a range of opportunities. These include pro bono work, community service, and contributions to issues focused on access to justice.

What Types of Questions Do Clients Have?

- **FAMILY & SAFETY** 32%
- **IMMIGRATION** 2%
- **TRAFFIC & MUNICIPAL CITATIONS** 4%
- **ESTATE PLANNING** 6%
- **MONEY & DEBT** 27%
- **HOUSING & APARTMENT** 18%
- **HEALTH & BENEFITS** 11%

What Else Do You Do Besides the Volunteer Legal Clinics?

Plenty. Here’s a partial list:

- Marquette Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC)
- Domestic Violence Project
- Milwaukee Justice Center Family Forms Assistance Clinic
- Second Chance Expungement Clinic
- Eviction Defense Project
- Guardianship Clinic
- Legal Action of Wisconsin U-Visa Project

For more information and details, or to volunteer at our clinics, visit us at law.marquette.edu/community/office-public-service.