FAQ’S for Law Student Volunteers

What is the MVLC?
The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic is a free walk-in brief legal advice and referral service provided to the community by Marquette law students and volunteer attorneys.

When & where does it operate?
The MVLC is open all year long (including during summer, winter, and spring breaks and exam weeks).

1. The House of Peace at 1702 W. Walnut St
   Tuesdays, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Students work 2-hour shifts)
2. Hillview (Council for the Spanish Speaking) at 1615 S. 22nd Street
   Wednesdays, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
3. The Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office at 6419 W. Greenfield Avenue
   1st & 3rd Mondays, 4:00-6:00 pm
4. Milwaukee Justice Center (Milwaukee County Courthouse) 901 N. 9th Street, Jury Management Room (Room 106)
   Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
   Fridays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

How often am I expected to volunteer?
We typically try to schedule students for one two-hour shift each month. New volunteers often work less, as they begin volunteering after the preliminary schedule has been set for the semester and there are often not enough shifts to allow new volunteers to work once per month. Volunteers wanting to work more will have the opportunity to substitute for students unable to make their assigned shifts.

How do I get to the clinics?
The Law School operates a free shuttle for volunteers going to the House of Peace and Hillview sites. The Milwaukee Justice center is walking distance from the Law School and volunteers at the Milwaukee County Veterans Services site must provide their own transportation.

Can 1L’s and part-time law students participate?
Yes. We encourage 1L’s and part-time students to participate.

Are there any specific classes I should take before volunteering at the clinic?
No specific classes are needed to prepare to volunteer. As a student volunteer, you will not be giving legal advice and will always be working with a licensed attorney. You will assist the attorney and learn by doing.
Do students earn credit?
No. Like the attorneys and almost everybody involved at the MVLC, you will be a volunteer.

Will my hours count for the Pro Bono Society?
Yes.

How should I dress?
We ask that you wear “business casual.” The goal is to be neat and professional, but low-key enough to put clients, many of whom are intimidated by attorneys, at ease.

Do I have to be fluent in Spanish to work at Hillview?
Although we give preference to students who speak Spanish, you may still volunteer with no Spanish speaking ability.

What if I have class right up until a shift starts? Can I arrive late? Will the Shuttle still come to pick me up?
Yes. You can start a shift late, if it overlaps with class times. The shuttle will come back to campus for students with this issue. For example, if you have class until 3pm, you can catch a shuttle at 3:15 p.m. to work the 3:00 p.m. shift. You can likewise catch a shuttle at 5:15 p.m. if you have class until 4:45 or 5:00 p.m.

What kinds of cases will I see?
The most common cases are family, housing and employment. However, virtually all types of civil cases are accepted. Web-based and hard copy research materials are available at the clinic, including our website: legalhelpmilwaukee.org.

What kinds of attorneys will I volunteer with? From which firms?
Volunteer attorneys come from a wide variety of practice backgrounds and from many different firms. Our House of Peace and Veterans clinics are staffed by attorneys from over 50 different firms. The Hillview site is staffed primarily by attorneys from Quarles and Brady, LLC and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The Milwaukee Justice Center site is staffed primarily by attorneys from Foley & Lardner LLP, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, O’Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing S.C. and Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.

Why do I want to volunteer at the MVLC?
Because you will be joining hundreds of other Marquette Law School students who have provided much needed legal services to the community in the Jesuit tradition of being a person for others, enhancing your classroom learning. You will also have the chance to network with and be mentored by attorneys from a wide variety of firms and practice backgrounds.

For further information go to www.marquettelegalclinic.org or contact Mindy Schroeder, Program Assistant, at mindy.schroeder@marquette.edu