Projects are listed by quantity of volunteers needed; most to least. FAQs about each project are located online & in the “documents” tab of your pro bono account.

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics, includes the Mobile Legal Clinic & the Family Law Advice Clinic. Work one-on-one alongside a volunteer attorney to provide brief legal advice and referrals to unrepresented litigants on a wide range of civil legal matters. Law students explain the limits of the clinic to each client, help frame the legal issue presented, conduct legal research, help prepare legal forms and other documents, maintain the client file, prepare a written summary of next steps for the client while developing professional relationships with the hundreds of volunteer lawyers committed to the MVLCs. Students are scheduled for 2.5-hour shifts, usually every other week.

Milwaukee Justice Center Family Law Forms Clinic. Learn the basics of family law and other matters ranging from divorce to child support to name change. Law students work one-on-one with a client, under attorney supervision, and learn how to identify the procedure required to help a client meet their goal. Client interviewing skills are central to all types of lawyering and is a skill honed at the MJC. Students interact with circuit court civil procedures ranging from jurisdictional issues to service of process to de novo reviews. Students are scheduled for 1.5 to 2-hour shifts each week.

Domestic Violence Injunction Hearings Project. Conduct client interviews by phone and prepare a written report for a volunteer lawyer who will represent the client in a domestic violence injunction hearing. Learn key questions to ask when preparing a witness and how to gather information beyond what is already contained in a client’s petition for the temporary injunction. Work with the client to identify and gather available evidence. Determine whether the opposing party has been served, whether police reports are available, and if court records contain relevant historical information about either party. Students generally receive a monthly referral and work on their own time (2-4 hours).

Eviction Defense Project. Law students and volunteer lawyers work together to respond to Milwaukee’s eviction crisis. Over 14,000 eviction actions were filed in Milwaukee in 2017. In eviction court, most people being evicted do not appear because they do not have a lawyer and, prior to the Eviction Defense Project’s creation in 2016, Legal Action of Wisconsin could help only about 3% of people being evicted. Most landlords have experience in court or have someone representing them. Learn defenses to eviction, determine if a negotiated stipulation is possible, and watch the case resolution before a court commissioner or judge. Students are scheduled for 2.5-hour shifts, usually every other week.

Estate Planning Clinic. Law students and volunteer lawyers pair up to prepare an estate plan for the client that includes power of attorney documents for health care and finances, a living will, and a will. Helping a client through these processes when they are healthy means later avoidance of court proceedings for guardianship and heirs’ questions about asset distribution. Students are scheduled for 2.5-hour shifts, 1-2 shifts per month, and have about 1.5 hours of preparation work to complete on their own time before the assigned shift.

Consumer Rights Clinic. Law students and volunteer lawyers work together at this community based legal clinic for people who have unresolved debt issues, have frequent contact with debt collectors, or are considering bankruptcy as a debt solution. Law students work with clients to draft ‘Do Not Contact’ letters to creditors and help evaluate a client’s eligibility for bankruptcy. Students learn about consumer rights related to debt collection and issues such as car repossession and small claims cases. This clinic operates from 3:00-5:00 PM the third Tuesday each month.

Parenting Conferences, Alternative Dispute Resolution. For volunteers with at least one semester of MJC Forms experience. Work with parents hoping to reach an agreement on issues of child support, custody, placement, and more. When a resolution is reached, the law student prepares a stipulation reflecting the terms of the agreement under supervision of a volunteer lawyer. Students are scheduled for a 1.5-hour shift every other week.

Bankruptcy Help Desk. Join volunteer attorneys to assist Chapter 7 debtors and those considering filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy with the required paperwork. Students learn the basic analysis involved in determining eligibility for Chapter 7 filings and possible alternatives to debt relief. Students are usually scheduled for 1.5-hour shifts, every other week.

Guardianship Clinic. Assist the parents of an adolescent with a significant disability in need of a court-appointed guardian as they approach adulthood. Students work directly with a volunteer attorney from Quarles & Brady to complete the required court pleadings in this form-intensive process. A guardianship practice is a natural accompaniment to estate planning work. Approximately 5-hours of work per referral.