Pro Bono Opportunities for Law Students
Fall 2018

Projects are listed by quantity of volunteers needed; most to least. FAQs about each project are located in the “documents” tab of your pro bono account. Read account login instructions online: https://law.marquette.edu/community/pro-bono-timesheet.

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics, includes the Mobile Legal 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 develop professional relationships with the hundreds of volunteer lawyers committed to the MVLCs. Students are scheduled for 2.5-hour shifts, usually every other week.

- Next Training Session: Wednesday, August 29th, Noon-1:15PM, Room 267

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 MIC. 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, usually every week.

- Next Training Session: Friday, August 31st, Noon-1:15PM, Room 263

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) to complete the work.

- Next Training Session: Wednesday, September 5th, Noon-1:15PM, Room 267

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 an attorney or professional agent to represent 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.

- Next Training Session: Wednesday, September 5th, Noon-1:15PM, Room 267

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, usually monthly, and have about 1.5 hours of preparation work to complete on their own time before the assigned shift.

- Next Training Session: Tuesday, August 28th, Noon-1:15PM, Room 267

Legal Action U-Visa Project. Prepare and file U-Visa applications for survivors of domestic violence. This special visa is for crime victims who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and are willing to assist law enforcement and government officials in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. Students work directly with a client to prepare a detailed statement, necessary immigration applications, and supporting evidence. One or two meetings happen at Legal Action’s office at a time that works for all involved. The remaining work is done on the student’s own time.

- Next Training Session: Friday, September 7th, Noon-1:15PM, Room 263

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.

- Training for this clinic is online: https://law.marquette.edu/community/pro-bono-training-videos

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.

- Training and materials for this project are online and intended for use when the volunteer receives a referral. https://law.marquette.edu/community/pro-bono-training-videos

To Sign-Up:

- 1Ls: Pro bono schedules are created for you based on your class schedule, other obligations, and areas of interest. Fill out the correct paper form for your class section (1=yellow, 2=green, 3=blue) distributed at the pro bono lunch or available on the front desk of the Eisenberg Suite (138).

- 2Ls and 3Ls: Choose whether to schedule yourself for a particular project(s) or have a schedule created for you based on your class schedule, other obligations, and areas of interest. In either case, use the scheduling links available online: https://law.marquette.edu/community/pro-bono-training-videos