Pro Bono Opportunities for Law Students

Spring 2021: All opportunities operate remotely

Projects are listed by quantity of volunteers needed: most to least. Project FAQs are located in the "documents" tab of your pro bono account. There will be an optional session for all pro bono student volunteers to attend on Friday, January 29th from 10-11AM – the Pro Bono Pop-in. This is a chance to connect with experienced volunteers and project supervisors. Join here.

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics (MVLC) ★★★★★ S
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 5PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Law students pair up with volunteer attorneys and help clients with civil legal questions. 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, and prepare a written summary of next steps for the client while developing professional relationships with the volunteer lawyers. All clinics take place on Zoom and students are scheduled for a three-hour shift every other week.

Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC) Family Law Forms Clinic ★★★★ S
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 4:30PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Learn the basics of family law and procedure ranging from matters of divorce to child support to others like name changes. 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 this clinic. Students interact with circuit court civil procedures ranging from jurisdictional issues to service of process to de novo reviews. All clinics take place on Zoom and students are scheduled for a two-hour weekly shift.

Civil Legal Help Line ★★★★ S
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 4:30PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
The Civil Legal Help Line was established at the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis when in-person services and drop-in clinics were no longer a safe option for community members seeking legal aid. The Help Line receives up to 100-calls daily. Help Line operators will hone their issue spotting skills and learn about the civil legal aid options available in the Milwaukee area. Answer calls in live-time or respond to voice mails to help get community members linked with the best resource to resolve their legal issue. Hotline operators use a Google Voice account (not their own phone numbers). Students are scheduled for a two-hour weekly shift and have access to a supervisor throughout the entirety of the shift.

Student Legal Aid Clinic (SLAC) with Legal Action of Wisconsin ★★★★★
Training: Friday, January 29th, 2021 at 1:00PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Law students will work with volunteer lawyers and Legal Action staff to assist technical college students from across the southern half of the state to remove barriers to graduation and employment. Specifically, the clinics address criminal records/expungement/pardons, driver’s license recovery, unemployment, and consumer/bankruptcy issues. Law students will learn how to read and interpret Criminal Information Bureau (CIB) reports, CCAP records, driver’s license abstracts, administrative decisions, and court-related documents. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to work directly (remotely) with clients to assist in completing pardon applications, court motions, court and administrative forms, and prepare for unemployment hearings. Students are scheduled for three-hour shifts every other week.

Free Legal Answers: Brief Legal Advice by Email ★★★★★
Training: Friday, January 29th, 2021 at 3:00PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Collaborate by email with a Legal Action lawyer to draft a written answer to a legal question posted by a low-income Wisconsinite to a free online legal help service. Law students are assigned two questions every three to five weeks to work on over a five-day period on their own time. Relevant research materials are available and a catalogue of over 100 past questions and accompanying completed answers are provided for students’ use as models. The estimated time commitment for this project is four hours monthly. This project is for students with at least one semester of consistent pro bono experience.

Estate Planning Clinic ★★★
Training: Recorded video to view online before the first shift
Law students and lawyers pair up to prepare an estate plan for a 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 1.5 hour shifts weekly on Zoom and have about one hour of preparation work to complete on their own before the assigned shift.

Expungement and Pardons Clinic ★★★
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 2400PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Work alongside volunteer criminal defense attorneys to help clients determine whether they qualify for an expungement or a pardon. If a client qualifies, work through the process of applying to remove convictions from public records in an attempt to increase employment opportunities, obtain safe sustainable housing, and pursue educational advancements. As part of this opportunity, students will learn how to interpret Criminal Information Bureau (CIB) reports, CCAP records, and other court-related documents. Students are scheduled for three-hour shifts every other week.

Adult Guardianship Forms Clinic ★★★
Training: Recorded video for viewing online before the first shift
Assist a family in need of a court-appointed guardian for a loved one with the required court pleading in this forms-intensive process. A guardianship practice is a natural accompaniment to an estate planning practice. Law students work with an attorney to interview the petitioner and complete the necessary forms. Students are scheduled for a 1.5 hour shift every other week on Zoom.
Private Minor Guardianship Forms Clinic with Kids Matter, Inc. ⚫⚫⚫⚫
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 10:00 AM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Help an adult caring for someone else’s child complete the necessary paperwork to petition for private guardianship of the child. Parental substance abuse, untreated mental health that interferes with the ability to parent, domestic violence, incarceration, child abuse, death or a combination of factors that result in an inability to parent are common reasons that relatives or like-kind come forward to care for a child when a parent is not able to raise a child. Private minor guardianship grants the caregiver the legal authority to make important decisions about the child’s future. This may include decisions about education, medical needs, shelter, and more. There was a significant law change effective August 1, 2020 that makes more guardianship options available to families. Students are scheduled for a 2-hour shift every other week on Zoom with the option to also participate in a weekly case staffing meeting with the Kids Matter Inc. team on Tuesdays from 10-11AM. Prior to their scheduled shift, students will need to spend approximately 2-3 hours on their own time preparing the initial draft of the client’s guardianship paperwork, which will be emailed to the project director at least 24-hours before their scheduled shift.

Eviction Records Clean-up Clinic ⚫⚫
Training: Friday, January 29th, 2021 at 1:00 PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Nearly 15,000 evictions are filed in Milwaukee each year. Help a tenant with a dismissed eviction action have the record sealed. When a tenant’s history of eviction—even a dismissed eviction—appears in the public record, this often presents barriers to securing future housing and employment. Learn when eviction records may be sealed and work directly with clients, under attorney supervision, to draft motions to seal. Students are scheduled for a three-hour shift every other week.

Bankruptcy Clinic ⚫⚫
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 4:30 PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
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 forms of debt relief, besides bankruptcy. Students are usually scheduled for a two-hour shift every week.

Small Business Clinic ⚫
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 5 PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Law students pair up with volunteer attorneys and help clients with business law questions including finance, insurance claims, commercial contracting, tax issues, labor and employment matters, real estate, commercial debtor/creditor matters, and regulatory 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, and prepare a written summary of next steps for the client while developing professional relationships with the volunteer lawyers. All clinics take place on Zoom and students are scheduled for a three-hour shift every other week.

Wills for Healthcare Heroes ⚫⚫⚫⚫
Training: Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at 2:30 PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Prepare an estate plan including a will and powers of attorney for a healthcare worker, then collaborate with a Quarles & Brady attorney to review and finalize the documents. Helping a client through these processes when they are healthy means later avoidance of court proceedings for guardianship and heirs’ questions about asset distribution. Law students are assigned 1-2 clients every 4 weeks. The estimated time commitment for this project is 4-8 hours monthly. Most of this work is done on the student’s own time. This project is for students with previous estate planning experience, or who have taken Trusts & Estates.

Unemployment Insurance Clinic with Legal Action of Wisconsin ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫
Training: Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 2 PM (recorded for those unable to attend live)
Law students assist clients in gathering evidence and organizing their case documents prior to attorney consultations and in anticipation of hearings. This may involve identifying evidence, helping the client navigate the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) application website, and contacting DWD with the client. All work will be done remotely via Teams. The estimated time commitment for this project is two hours weekly. Students will set their own two-hour weekly time commitment that will remain the same each week for the semester.

Which projects work for your class schedule?

- 1L, Section 1, Scoville, Fallone
- 1L, Section 2, Oldfather, Scoville
- 1L, Section 3, Scoville, Fallone
- Only works with 2L’s, 3L’s, & part-time students’ schedules
- Spanish-speaking volunteers needed
# Pro Bono Project Schedule At-a-Glance ~ Spring 2021

Learn more at the Pro Bono Opportunities Event on Wednesday, January 27th, 11:30-12:45PM. Sign up for projects online at [https://mulaw.wufoo.com/forms/pro-bono-project-scheduling-spring-2021/](https://mulaw.wufoo.com/forms/pro-bono-project-scheduling-spring-2021/)

## What works for you?
- **1L, Section 1, Scoville, Fallone**
- **1L, Section 2, Oldfather, Scoville**
- **1L, Section 4, Bayden, Idelman**
- **Only works with 2Ls, 3Ls, & part time students schedules**
- **S** Spanish-speaking volunteers needed here

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-11 (option to stay until noon) MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>9-11 Civil Legal Help Line</td>
<td>9-11 Civil Legal Help Line</td>
<td>9-11 MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>9-11 Civil Legal Help Line</td>
<td>8:30-11:30 Small Business Clinic</td>
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<td>1-3:30 (option to stay until 4) MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>12-2 Civil Legal Help Line</td>
<td>12-2 Civil Legal Help Line</td>
<td>12-2 MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>10-11:30 Estate Planning Clinic</td>
<td>10-12 PM MVLC on select Saturdays</td>
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<td>12-2</td>
<td>1-4 MVLC</td>
<td>1-4 Expungement Clinic</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 (option to stay until 4) MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>1:15-4 Eviction Records Clean-up</td>
<td>10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-6 Civil Legal Help Line</td>
<td>3-6 MVLC</td>
<td>3-6 Adult Guardianship Forms Clinic</td>
<td>3-6 Student Legal Aid Clinic</td>
<td>3-6 Student Legal Aid Clinic</td>
<td>1-4 Student Legal Aid Clinic</td>
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<td>3:30-7:30 MVLC</td>
<td>4:30-6 Estate Planning Clinic</td>
<td>4:30-7 MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>4:30-7 MJC Family Law Forms</td>
<td>4:30-6</td>
<td>8:30-11:30 MVLC</td>
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</tbody>
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### Projects on Your Own Schedule
- **Wisconsin Free Legal Answers**
- **Wills for Healthcare Heroes**
- **Unemployment Insurance Clinic**