

PRO BONO SERVICE PROGRAM

Participating Organizations
Fall 2011



CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
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Dear Law Student:

As Director of the Center for Social Justice, I want to invite you to take advantage of an exciting opportunity to be part of the law school's award winning **Pro Bono Service Program**. The Program offers each student an opportunity to gain hands-on legal experience while *making a real difference in someone's life*. The Program has a number of rewarding projects. You can select a project tailored to your interests.

When lawyers engage in *pro bono* activity, they serve the highest ideals of the profession. At the Center for Social Justice, we believe that lawyers and law students have a special obligation to give some of their professional time and skill to those who could not otherwise afford an attorney. Seton Hall has embraced those obligations enthusiastically and wholeheartedly. As you will see in the attached brochure, we have made a special effort to provide placement opportunities that address the needs of the community while appealing to the interests of students. With these goals in mind, we have created one of the most successful voluntary *pro bono* service programs in the country. Most placements can utilize the services of even new first year law students.

In 1988, with just a handful of students, we began our efforts to provide legal services to those who otherwise would not have access to the judicial system. Our **Pro Bono Service Program** has developed substantially to a point that, last year alone, more than 100 students voluntarily donated their time and skills to various organizations and agencies.

Numbers alone, however, do not suffice to measure the success of our **Pro Bono Service Program**. The true value of *pro bono* work can really only be measured in human terms. Almost without exception, our students report that their *pro bono* assignments have provided invaluable practical experience as well as tremendous personal satisfaction. Our clients express heartfelt gratitude for the services they receive.

I encourage each of you to participate by donating a minimum of 35 hours of your time. In addition to the personal and professional satisfaction that you will derive from working to secure justice for those who cannot afford counsel, you will also receive a notation on your transcript to reflect your commitment to public service.

If you wish to participate, complete the commitment form and return the completed form to Professor Philip A. Ross in Room 122. If you have any questions, you may call or see either of us.

Lori A. Nessel, Director and Professor of Law

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Pro Bono Programs by Area of Law

Appellate Advocacy

Office of the Public Defender – Appellate Section (#38)

Bankruptcy

New Jersey Pro Bono Bankruptcy Program (#29)

Business

Pro Bono Partnership (#35)

Community Development

Public Interest Law Center (#17)

Urban Revitalization Project (#1)

NJLEEP (#3)

Constitutional Rights

American Civil Liberties Union (#11)

Equal Justice Alliance (#26)

Consumer Issues

New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety (#12)

Central Jersey Legal Services (#40)

Newark Legal Advice & Resource Clinic for Consumers (#49)

Criminal Justice

Office of the Public Defender (#6)

Mercer County Prosecutor (#34)

Union County Prosecutor (#20)

Newark Reentry Legal Services Network – ReLeSe (#39)

Prisoners' Rights Project – Legal Aid Society (#43)

New Vision Organization Inc. (#45)

Last Resort Exoneration Project (#47)

City of Newark – Municipal Court Public Defender's Office (#48)

Discrimination

New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety (#16)

Disabilities

Disability Rights New Jersey/New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (#30)

Central Jersey Legal Services (#40)

Employment Law

Central Jersey Legal Services (#40)

Education Law

Urban Revitalization Project (#1)

Central Jersey Legal Services (#40)

Family Law

Office of the Public Defender – Office of Parental Representation (#37)
Project Self-Sufficiency – IOLTA Legal Assistance Program (#14)
Family Court (#21)
Association for Children of New Jersey (#28)
Courtroom Advocacy Program (#31)
Mercer County Prosecutor (#34)
Central Jersey Legal Services (#40)
Passaic County Family Division Pro Se Assistance Project (#43)
Domestic Violence Advocacy Project (#12)

Political

Public Interest Law Center (#17)

Juvenile Justice

The Legal Aid Society – Juvenile Rights Division (#7)
Association for the Children of New Jersey (#28)

Victim's Issues

New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center (#25)

Prosecution

Mercer County Prosecutor (#34)
Union County Prosecutor (#20)

Immigration and International

American Friends Service Committee (#10)
International Institute of New Jersey (#9)
Cornelian Community Counselors (#26)
International Human Rights/Rule of Law Project (#2)
Catholic Charities (#4)
International Rescue Committee (#42)
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) (#44)

Youth Programs/Prevention

Mentor Program (#22)
The Youth Advocacy Center at Covenant House (#23)
It's Your Life (#32)
Students Against Violence Everywhere –“Save R Us” (#50)

Mental Health

Warren County Legal Services – Easter Seals Project (#15)
Public Interest Law Center (#17)
Urban Justice Center (#27)

Health Care

Public Interest Law Center (#17)
Daniel J. O'Hern Memorial Legal Assistance Medical Partnership (#46)

Domestic Violence/Women's Issues

- Partners for Women and Justice (#5)
- International Human Rights/Rule of Law Project (#2)
- New Jersey Domestic Violence Center – Legal Advocacy Division (#18)
- Alternatives to Domestic Violence – Legal Advocacy Project (#19)
- Shelter Our Sisters (#33)

Housing

- Urban Revitalization Project (#1)
- Unity Center (#24)
- City Bar Housing Court Summer Assistance Project (City Bar Justice Center) (#8)
- Central Jersey Legal Services (#40)

Tax Law

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Project (#13)

Culture and the Arts

- New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (#36)

Animal Welfare Issues

- Equal Justice Alliance (#26)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is the Pro Bono Program?*

Seton Hall Law School's Pro Bono Service Program is an opportunity for law students to get hands-on experience in the legal profession while at the same time providing assistance to those who are most in need of legal help. Students select an organization from those listed in the brochure, and perform volunteer work for the organization. After completing 35 hours of volunteer work, the student will receive a certificate of completion and a notation on his or her transcript.

2. *What are the requirements?*

In order to successfully complete the Pro Bono Service Program, a student must complete 35 hours of volunteer work at an approved organization. Normally, these hours are completed within a semester, although this is not a requirement.

3. *Who can participate?*

The Program is open to any Seton Hall Law student, regardless of class year or course load status. Both part-time and full-time students are welcome. The majority of students in the program are first year students.

4. *How do I sign up?*

The first step is filling out the commitment form. You can access the form online at http://law.shu.edu/cs/probono_program.html, or you can pick one up in the clinic at the reception desk. Choose three organizations, and rank them in order of preference. Professor Ross will contact you within a week with more details.

After you complete your hours, have the organization fill out the Certification form to verify your attendance. Then, complete the Program Evaluation form to let us know about what you gained from your experience. These forms are also located in the back of this booklet, online, or in the clinic.

5. *Do the organizations require specific volunteer schedules, or can I set my own hours?*

Mostly, this depends on the organization. Some organizations may allow students to complete hours by working full-time for one week. Others may only have volunteer opportunities at night or on weekends. Still others have special needs, and may require that you follow a set schedule. Please refer to the brochure for further details. If you want to participate, but need a program to fit a unique schedule, please contact Professor Ross to find a program that is right for you.

6. *I want to volunteer at an organization that is not on the Program list. If I volunteer there, will my hours count towards the Pro Bono Program?*

It may be possible to volunteer for an organization that is not included in the brochure. Please make an appointment to speak with Professor Ross for further information before starting any work.

7. *What are Professor Ross' office hours?*

Professor Ross is available at the Law School on Tuesday mornings, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and Friday afternoons, 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. in Room 122. He also can be reached at his private practice office at (973) 242-7110.

Participating Pro Bono Organizations

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★ 1. **Urban Revitalization Project** [*Located within the Center for Social Justice*] – The Urban Revitalization Project litigates cases in the areas of urban housing and education in northern New Jersey. Project interns will represent clients in such areas as predatory lending, housing discrimination, and challenges to slumlords' rental policies; the education cases include representation of parents seeking adequate individualized education plans for their children, after-school tutoring, and other educational services. The Project students, working in conjunction with cooperating nonprofit organizations, will also assist in the Urban Revitalization Project's advice clinics on related education and housing issues, community education and outreach sessions.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

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★ 2. **International Human Rights/Rule of Law Project** [*Located within the Center for Social Justice*] – The International Human Rights/Rule of Law Project placement will concentrate on initiating a multi-disciplinary approach to protecting the rights of immigrants, with a focus on immigrant women, in New Jersey. Project interns will be involved in litigation and policy work including bringing legal actions raising international human rights issues. The Project will also undertake community outreach and education initiatives with the goal of building stronger ties to and better understanding of the legal needs of regional immigrant communities and educating those populations about their legal rights.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

★ 3. **New Jersey Law and Education Empowerment Program (NJLEEP)** – NJ LEEP is a non-profit corporation located within Seton Hall Law School. Its mission is to empower urban youth from underserved neighborhoods to perform at high academic levels by building new skills through law-related, mathematic, and other educational programs, thus developing the habits necessary for lasting success. In partnership with the Center for Social Justice, NJ LEEP facilitates a structured project in which law students are trained to teach law-related lessons in high schools and middle schools in Newark and East Orange. Emphasis is placed on training and support of law students. After completion of the training period, law students will visit their assigned school once a week to teach a law-related lesson.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

www.njleep.org



◆ 4. **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark** [Newark, NJ] Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark provides a full range of immigration legal assistance to the community. Law interns receive an overview of immigration law, assist with consultations, review and prepare documents, and observe proceedings in immigration court. Past interns have worked first-hand in helping immigrants and asylum seekers on a variety of issues including green card applications, asylum proceedings, and obtaining protection for victims of human trafficking.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

www.ccsnewark.org



5. Partners for Women and Justice [Montclair, NJ] – Partners for Women and Justice is an agency dedicated to effectuating positive change for abused and low income females. Dealing primarily with family law and related matters, their legal staff supervises interns in the preparation and filing of divorce complaints, child support and visitation petitions.

Eligibility: 2nd and 3rd year law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.pfwj.org/index.htm>



◆6. Office of the Public Defender [Various NJ locations] - Volunteer law interns can select from participating offices in Newark, Jersey City, Paterson and Elizabeth. The Office of the Public Defender provides legal services to indigent criminal defendants. Under the supervision of experienced public defenders, intern responsibilities may include the following: assisting in pretrial interviewing of clients; assisting in court appearances involving plea negotiations with the prosecutor's office; investigating legal defenses; and general case preparation for trial. Assignments may also include assisting in representation of juvenile offenders and preparation of written briefs.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: Interns are asked to donate one-half day per week for 12 weeks, or one full day per week for 5 weeks.

<http://www.state.nj.us/defender/>



7. The Legal Aid Society-Juvenile Rights

Division [New York City location] - JRD attorneys, also called law guardians, represent juveniles in family courts in the five boroughs of New York City. These juveniles are the subject of child

protective proceedings or are charged with juvenile delinquency or status offenses. Work given to law interns include: research and writing; motion practice; negotiation; review of case records in preparation for hearings; courtroom advocacy either in the form of “second seating” attorneys or conducting portions of hearings under close supervision.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged with supervising attorney.

<http://www.legal-aid.org/en/home.aspx>



8. City Bar Housing Court Summer Assistance Project (City Bar Justice Center)

[New York City location] - The Summer Assistance Project has grown tremendously since its inception in 1989. Operation is currently in the Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan Housing Courts. Summer associates work under the supervision of the Housing Court's pro se attorneys and provide assistance with Orders to Show Cause, Inspection and Repair Orders, Poor Person Petitions, illegal lockouts and provide general information to Housing Court litigants. To participate, each summer associate must attend a two hour training program. After completing the training, the student intern must work in the pro se office at one of the following Housing Courts from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for one full week. A lottery conducted at the training program will determine the specific court and date of individual assignments. Usually, a student must sign up for the program by late February or early March prior to the summer of anticipated enrollment.

Eligibility: All law students. Spanish speakers especially welcome.

Schedule: Program offered in summer only.

<http://www.abcnyc.org/CityBarFund/CommunityOutreachLawProgram.htm#combating>



9. International Institute of New Jersey

(Immigration Law Center) [Jersey City location]
The Institute helps refugees adjust to life in the United States. In addition to social services and educational programs, the Institute provides legal assistance to needy immigrants and their families. Law interns interview and counsel refugees, research and write legal memoranda and appellate briefs and assist staff attorneys with trial preparation. Third year students may also attend immigration hearings.

Eligibility: All law students. Students with Westlaw/Lexis, or paper legal research experience, and/or immigration law courses are especially welcome.

Schedule: Interns are asked to donate one half day per week for 12 weeks, or one full day per week for 5 weeks.

<http://www.iinj.org/>



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Quaker values in action

◆ 10. **American Friends Service Committee**
[Newark, NJ] - The Committee protects the rights of immigrants and refugees through legal representation, community education, advocacy and training. Law interns provide legal assistance to Latin American immigrants who have experienced discrimination.

Eligibility: All law students. Speakers of a second language are especially welcome.

Schedule: Interns are asked to donate one half day per week for 12 weeks.

<http://afsc.org/>



◆ 11. **American Civil Liberties Union** [Newark, NJ] - The ACLU, recognized as the nation's foremost advocate of individual rights, is a non-profit public interest organization with more than

250,000 members. Law interns, under the supervision of experienced attorneys, provide research assistance in cases involving due process, equal protection, freedom of expression, reproductive choice and police brutality.

Eligibility: All law students. [3rd year preferred].

Schedule: To be arranged by supervising attorney.

<http://www.aclu.org/>



NEW! ◆ 12. Domestic Violence Advocacy Project

[Newark, NJ] – The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project (DVAP) is a partnership between Seton Hall Law School and Rutgers-Newark Law School. The project trains law students from both schools in providing assistance to victims of domestic violence. After completing a mandatory training program, student interns will work directly with victims of domestic violence who are seeking restraining orders in Essex County Family Court. Volunteers will provide information and advocacy to their clients including the explanation of the court process, how to obtain temporary and final restraining orders and what to expect at the different hearings. Interns are also prepared to discuss safety planning and to give referral information. The students will be supervised at the courthouse by attorneys from the Rachel Coalition and Partners for Women and Justice.

Eligibility: Open to all law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

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★ 13. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Project

(VITA) [Located within Seton Hall Law School.] - The VITA project, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and the New Jersey Division of Taxation, offers free tax help to taxpayers with special needs, such as persons with disabilities and the elderly. VITA also targets taxpayers who do not speak English. Volunteers learn to calculate exemptions, deductions, credits and capital gains. After demonstrating proficiency, volunteers help prepare basic tax returns, including Forms 1040,

1040A, 1040EZ, and Schedules A, B, D, EIC, 1, 2, & 3.

Eligibility: 2nd year law students who have taken Tax I, or any student who has an accounting background.

Schedule: Services are usually provided on Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers are asked to donate 5-6 days during tax season in the spring semester.



14. Project Self-Sufficiency - IOLTA Legal Assistance Program [Sparta, NJ] - The Program provides legal education, individual consultation, and court accompaniment and advocacy for income eligible Sussex County families in family law matters. Law interns, under the supervision of experienced attorneys, draft legal documents and interview and advise pro se litigants.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



15. Warren County Legal Services - Easter Seals Project [Belvidere, NJ] - Under the supervision of staff attorneys, law interns interview clients, conduct legal research, assist in dispute resolution, draft pleadings and briefs, and appear in court (if a 3rd year student). Interns with an interest in mental health issues may handle civil commitment matters, denial and termination of benefits such as SSI/SSD, general assistance, Medicaid, consumer, family, housing and discrimination matters.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



◆ **16. New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety - Division of Law.** [Newark & Trenton, NJ]

a) Consumer Affairs Division (Newark location) The Consumer Affairs Division represents consumers who have claims involving violations of the

Consumer Fraud Act. Law interns review files, investigate and evaluate claims, assist with research and draft legal documents.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

b) Civil Rights Division (Trenton location).

The Civil Rights Division represents persons who seek relief under New Jersey's anti-discrimination laws in areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations. Law interns provide research assistance, investigate claims, draft motions, review decisions, and draft legislation.

Eligibility: 2nd and 3rd year law students who have taken administrative law courses.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.nj.gov/oag/law/home.htm>



◆ **17. Public Interest Law Center** - [Newark, NJ] -

The Center is a non-profit corporation providing legal advocacy for New Jersey residents by addressing statewide systemic social and political problems. The Center was initially authorized by the faculty of Rutgers Law School to develop and expand the reach of public interest law and education in the state. Currently the Center's work focuses on four areas: health care, community and economic development, structural employment, and electoral and campaign finance reform. Working along with the Center's directors and staff, as well as members of private law firms and legal academics, law interns handle research, the preparation of court papers, legal memoranda, policy reports, or administrative regulations and comments.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.njappleseed.net/>



18. New Jersey Domestic Violence Center- Legal Advocacy Division. [New Brunswick, NJ] - The

Center is a non-profit agency, also known as Women Aware, Inc., providing services to abused women

and their children, e.g., crisis response, community education, support groups, emergency shelter, and legal advocacy. Law interns assist in legal consultations, court preparations and accompaniment.

Eligibility: Law students who have completed a family law related class or have previous experience in family law.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://womenaware.net/>



19. Alternatives to Domestic Violence - Legal Advocacy Project. [Hackensack, NJ] - Alternatives to Domestic Violence is a division of the Bergen County Department of Human Services, and provides various services to victims of domestic violence, as well as to batterers. Through its legal advocacy project, it provides legal consultations, court preparation, court accompaniment, and legal representation for victims at their final restraining order hearings. Law interns handle client intakes/interviews, assess cases, and gather documentation for volunteer attorneys who take these cases on a pro bono basis. Also, interns work on research assignments, and sometimes assist in final restraining order hearings.

Eligibility: All law students. Preference for students who have taken a family law class or who have previous experience in family law.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/adv/ADVindex.htm>



NEW! 20. Union County Prosecutor [Elizabeth, NJ] – The Union County Prosecutor’s Office offers a variety of opportunities for law students. Interns will work directly with Assistant Prosecutors and handle expungement petitions as well as pretrial intervention hearings and appeals. They can also be assigned to the County drug court.

Eligibility: 2nd and 3rd year law students who have taken Criminal Law and Procedure and Legal Research.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.unioncountynj.org/prosecutor/>



◆ **21. Family Court** - [Newark, NJ] – This organization is a department of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex Vicinage which provides services to the public. In its Family Division, law interns will primarily give information and answer questions from the public on family court procedures regarding custody, child support, and visitation. There may also be assignments in the Juvenile Justice section, as well as in-court assignments.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: Volunteers are asked to donate 1-2 hours in the morning each week, over the semester. Other schedules can be arranged.

<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/essex/family/>



◆ **22. Mentor Program** [Newark, NJ] - The Mentor Program pairs law students with urban high schools, law firms, and legal services organizations to provide high school students with access to the legal profession and the diverse career opportunities within the legal field. The Program seeks to offer a greater understanding, through observation and participation, of how our legal system works. Law interns serve as liaisons to the high school/law firm partnerships, conduct presentations in high school classrooms, host high school visits to the law school, publish the Mentor Newsletter, and coordinate, coach and judge the Mentor Moot Court Competitions.

Eligibility: Open to all law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



◆ **23. The Youth Advocacy Center at Covenant House New Jersey** [Newark, NJ] - Law students can assist the organization in a variety of tasks. In the public policy area, interns will research issues that affect runaway and homeless youth, draft legislation

to address those issues, garner support for policy initiatives, and create avenues to educate the public about the clients served. Work will range from research projects and technical legal writing to phone calls and follow-up faxes. In the direct service area, students will aid in intake, and assisting youth with legal questions that do not require actual litigation. Interns may also appear with clients in court to clear warrants or appear for a juvenile court date as a special advocate. Additionally, law students sometimes aid clients with eligibility requirements of public benefits laws.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.covenanthousenj.org/>



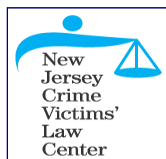
24. Unity Center, Inc. [Media, Pennsylvania] -

Unity Center operates as an advisor to the tenant councils of housing projects helping to ensure that they receive the benefits available under the Hope VI Funding. One of the organization's goals is to have its residents actively participate in the rebuilding and operation of the projects, with possible involvement in ownership. Also, Unity Center is in the process of establishing economic development corporations to recycle finances within the community. Involved students gain experience with non-profit, inner city and federal funding issues. Interns can work directly with Unity Center, Inc. and Delaware County Legal Assistance by telephone and computer rather than traveling to Pennsylvania. Work can be done on weekends, during school breaks or during the course of the semester.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://unitycenterofpa.org/default.html>



25. New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center

[Sparta, NJ] - The Victims' Legal Assistance program is a pilot project of the New Jersey Crime

Victims' Law Center. The objective of the Legal Assistance Program is to increase the scope and quality of pro bono legal services to crime victims while providing legal training to law students. The Center was formed by Richard D. Pompelio and Ann M. Pompelio, who have dedicated the Victims' Law Center to their seventeen-year-old son, Tony, who was murdered in 1989. Legal interns will work with crime victims in protecting their rights in bail and other pre-trial proceedings, sentencing, victim impact statement issues and any other matters in which victims need legal assistance. The Victims' Law Center also advocates on victims' rights issues via amicus curiae briefs in matters before the United States Supreme Court, New Jersey Supreme Court and Appellate Division. The focus is on clients in the surrounding area.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.njcvlc.org/>



26. Equal Justice Alliance [Forest Hills, NY] - The Equal Justice Alliance began operations in 2006 following the passage of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. The organization provides educational, community and media outreach regarding animal civil liberty issues. Interns would be involved in any or all of the following: liaison with the legal and legislative community, aiding in the organization of an open forum in the legal community; and working on an article, either for law reviews or other publication. This placement is ideal for students working at the law school or home, with weekly in person or telephone conferences.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.noaeta.org/>



27. Urban Justice Center [New York City location] - The Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center advocates the civil rights of indigent persons with mental illnesses. The MHP uses an

interdisciplinary legal and social work model to help clients understand their rights and receive appropriate assistance in the areas of housing, health care and public benefits. Law students work under the supervision of the MHP staff to prepare cases and act as the client's representative in administrative "fair hearings." There are also opportunities to participate in litigation at the State Supreme Court level in Article 78 Administrative appeals. Students are trained by the MHP's staff in working with clients, relevant laws and regulations, and presentation of cases before Administrative Law Judges.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.urbanjustice.org/>



◆ **28. Association for Children of New Jersey** [Newark, NJ] - ACNJ is a statewide, nonprofit, child advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the rights of New Jersey's children. ACNJ advocates on a wide variety of issues, including child welfare, juvenile justice, child care, education, health and family support. ACNJ's activities include public policy analysis, research and information services, and community education and outreach. Law students are needed to research the following topics: child protection and foster care; termination of parental rights; education-related issues; welfare-related issues; custody and visitation; and child support. Interns also might be responsible for maintaining the office database with current information. Finally, opportunities may present themselves for students to handle child advocacy calls and children's SSI appeals.

Eligibility: All law students (2nd and 3rd year students preferred).

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.acnj.org/>



29. New Jersey Pro Bono Bankruptcy Program

[Throughout all of New Jersey] - The purpose of the Pro Bono Bankruptcy Program is to help alleviate the Pro Bono Bankruptcy workload within the NJ Bankruptcy Court. The program primarily handles Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies for qualifying individuals throughout the state. Law interns are invited to participate in assisting with the administration of claims to completion alongside supervising attorney volunteers. Law interns may also assist with the initial interviews, preparation of paperwork and schedules, and making appearances at bankruptcy hearings called the "341" meeting.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



30. Disability Rights New Jersey [Trenton, NJ] - DRNJ is New Jersey's designated protection and advocacy organization for persons with disabilities. It was established to advocate for and protect the civil, human and legal rights of citizens of New Jersey with disabilities; protect public awareness and acceptance of persons with disabilities as equally entitled members of society; advise and assist persons with disabilities and their family members in obtaining and protecting their rights; and provide education, training and technical assistance to persons with disabilities. Among the current projects is an investigation of communities near Seton Hall Law School as to their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires public entities to develop a schedule for installing curb ramps for wheel-chair access at street intersections.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.drnj.org/>



31. Courtroom Advocate Project [New York City locations] - Housed at Sanctuary for Families, one of New York’s oldest and largest providers of social services for battered women, CAP provides domestic violence victims with trained, supervised volunteers who assist them with the legal advocacy, education, and safety planning they need to start new lives. Advocates assist domestic violence victims by helping them draft and file their petitions, advocating for them during two court appearances, educating them about their legal rights and remedies, and providing referrals to community resources, such as shelters and counseling. Advocates are directly supervised in court and receive ongoing supervision from experienced family law attorneys.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged. Advocates must dedicate one day for training and two full weekdays for their petitioners' (1) initial filing and (2) return dates, in addition to ongoing correspondence in between the appearances.

<http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org/index.htm>



32. It’s Your Life [Passaic, Bergen and Morris County locations] - Students in the IYL Program will deal directly with middle school students in a mentor “roll playing capacity” in an attempt to show them the consequences of indulging in high risk behaviors, enhancing their decision-making skills and educating them, and providing help by solving the problems in their scenarios. Law students will also be guided by local attorneys in this endeavor. A typical scenario might involve reading, discussing and researching a legal issue; writing up possible solutions; or participating in the IYL program at the various schools.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



33. Shelter Our Sisters [Bergen County] - SOS is a private non-profit agency providing shelter and support services to battered women and their children. Clients face a myriad of legal challenges including: restraining orders; child support; visitation; divorce; immigration; bankruptcy; and assaults. Student responsibilities include interviewing clients, accompanying clients to appointments with their attorney and to court meetings, explaining the client’s rights, laws and court procedures, preparing legal documents, and researching the law.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

www.shelteroursisters.org



34. Mercer County Prosecutor [Trenton, NJ] -The Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office offers a legal intern program, which provides meaningful opportunities for law students. First year students handle a variety of legal research and writing assignments, including appellate motion and municipal appeal briefs and miscellaneous legal memoranda. Interns who have completed their second year are also eligible to appear in court with attorney supervision. Future lawyers may present cases before the Mercer County grand jury and can handle selected juvenile family court matters. Other tasks may include bail hearings, arraignments, guilty pleas and sentencing. Student interns may also argue pre-trial motions and municipal appeals.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.mercerpros-nj.com/>



◆ **35. Pro Bono Partnership** [Newark, NJ] - Pro Bono Partnership provides non-litigation business law assistance to charitable organizations in the tri-state area. Clients of P.B.P. are tax-exempt community based organizations that serve the low income and needy population. Interns screen clients for eligibility and review contracts, waivers, and releases under the supervision of attorneys. Other responsibilities include legal research on tax exempt issues.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.probonopartnership.org/>



36. New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts [Laurel Springs, NJ] – N.J.V.L.A. is a non-profit organization that operates a legal referral service, matching artists and cultural organizations that have arts related legal issues with volunteer attorneys. Law students perform intake with clients, spot issues with the Executive Director to determine how best to service particular clients; assign matters to volunteer attorneys; prepare articles, checklists or scripts to enable artists to be better prepared in their legal dealings; research ways of contacting potential clients and volunteer attorneys, e.g., preparing contact lists, as well as making presentations to attorneys and clients.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.njvla.org>



◆ **37. Office of the Public Defender – Office of Parental Representation** [Newark, NJ] – The Northern Office of OPA provides representation to clients in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties. Specifically, OPA provides legal representation to indigent parents who are involved in child abuse and neglect cases as well as termination of parental rights proceedings. Student

interns would be assigned to assist experienced public defenders with legal research, client interviews and client motivators. Representing clients in DYFS (Division of Youth and Family Services) cases incorporates much more than being their legal representative. Many times, an attorney acts as a quasi-social worker in an attempt to get the best results for their respective client.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

http://www.state.nj.us/defender/div_opr.shtml



◆ **38. Office of the Public Defender – Appellate Section** [Newark, NJ] – Volunteer interns have the opportunity to work under the guidance of a managing attorney and several Assistant Deputy Public Defenders. The primary assignment would be through the Appellate Division’s Intake Unit and would involve learning complete preparation of a client’s trial file for appeal. Other possible assignments include the opportunity to work on Excessive Sentence Oral Argument (ESOA) files in preparation for oral argument by an assigned staff attorney. Work on the ESOA files would necessitate research and writing of memos regarding appellate sentencing issues in addition to viewing client video-conferences with the attorney as well as attendance at oral argument before the Superior Court of New Jersey – Appellate Division. Thus, the student intern could be involved in the matter from beginning to end. Occasionally, following oral argument, the judicial panel may require an additional brief. In these cases, the student would assist the assigned attorney in the research of the appropriate law and compilation of the brief. Finally, interns might have the opportunity to participate in some stages of a plenary appeal and to attend noteworthy Appellate and Supreme Court arguments.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

http://www.state.nj.us/defender/div_appellate.shtml

ReLeSe

◆ **39. Volunteer Lawyers for Justice – Newark Re-entry Legal Services (ReLeSe) Network** [Newark, NJ] The ReLeSe Network assists with formerly incarcerated individuals with civil legal matters that are barriers to successful community reintegration. ReLeSe matches volunteer attorneys with ex-offenders to address the following legal barriers to their successful reentry: suspended drivers' licenses; municipal court issues; child support matters; errors in criminal records, employment licensing and other legal issues; identity fraud and expungement. ReLeSe does not handle criminal matters. Interns will assist with screening expungements for eligibility, answering all referred cases for eligibility, speaking and corresponding with clients and participating attorneys, and other aspects of the program's administration.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.volunteerlawyersnj.org/relese.htm>



40. Central Jersey Legal Services, Inc. [Various NJ locations] – Central Jersey Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm with approximately forty attorneys that provides free legal representation in civil matters to very low income residents of Central New Jersey. This agency has offices in Elizabeth, Perth Amboy, New Brunswick and Trenton. The most common types of cases handled include landlord-tenant, public benefits, family matters and consumer issues. The Elizabeth office has a special project in predatory lending. New Brunswick is staffed with an employment law specialist, while Trenton has an education law practitioner. Student interns would be involved in legal research, factual investigation and client interviewing and would be supervised by a specific attorney in each office. That attorney would be determined after evaluating the student's interests and qualifications for particular substantive areas.

Eligibility: All law students. 2nd and 3rd year students may have opportunities to appear in court.

<http://www.lsnj.org/cjls/>



41. International Rescue Committee [New York City location] – Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is a leading non-sectarian non-profit organization providing emergency relief, protection, rehabilitation assistance, resettlement services and advocacy for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. IRC staff and volunteers provide shelter, medical and public health assistance, education, training, and income-generating programs for refugees in nearly 30 countries, as well as resettlement in the United States. Committed to human dignity and self-reliance, the IRC serves as a symbol of hope and renewal for those who have taken flight in the search of freedom. Responsibilities of student interns include completing naturalization applications, community outreach, general administration and maintaining immigration database, etc.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.theirc.org/>



42. Prisoners' Rights Project – Legal Aid Society [New York City location] – The Prisoners' Rights Project has served as a leading advocate of humane and constitutional conditions in the New York City jails and state prisons for over thirty years. The Project conducts federal civil rights litigation on behalf of pre-trial detainees confined on Rikers Island and in other New York prisons. Recent litigation activity includes correction officer brutality, sexual abuse of women prisoners, constitutional violations regarding environmental conditions and the use of restraints in city jails; adequacy of medical care to HIV infected prisoners, the denial of educational services to prisoners, the denial of minimally adequate psychiatric treatment to prisoners in solitary confinement, access to programs and services for disabled

prisoners and the application of the Prison Litigation Reform Act. Student interns primarily assist attorneys in collecting and organizing factual material in connection with litigation or pre-complaint investigations, in corresponding with and interviewing incarcerated clients, and in monitoring compliance with existing court orders. Law students generally maintain a “case load” of matters in which they are assisting individual clients in the city jails and state prisons with specific institutional problems, e.g. medical care, guard brutality and safety issues.

Eligibility: All law students. Spanish-speaking students are especially encouraged to apply.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.legal-aid.org/en/home.aspx>



43. Passaic County Family Division Pro Se Assistance Project [Paterson, NJ] - This program assists pro se litigants with matrimonial forms. Student interns, following training from Passaic County Family Division staff, would be involved with either in-person or telephone assistance in the following areas: divorce complaints and applications, motions, orders to show cause and other requisite forms and documents.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/passaic/Family.htm>



◆ **44. Kids In Need Of Defense (KIND)** [Roseland, NJ] - KIND is a non-profit organization created in 2008 whose goal is to expand pro bono representation in immigration matters for unaccompanied children. The KIND Fellow in Newark is hosted by American

Friends Service Committee, another of Seton Hall’s pro bono placements. Kids in Need of Defense was founded by the Microsoft Corporation and actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie in order to change the way the United States treats refugee and immigrant children who come to the U.S. without a parent or guardian. Each year, more than 8,000 children come to our country alone. Many are escaping abuse or persecution. Others are victims of trafficking. Students would work with pro bono attorneys in an attempt to keep these children here rather than being sent back to their countries of origin to await a potentially perilous fate where their well-being and lives could be in danger. KIND provides assistance with special immigrant status cases, V or T visas (victims of criminal activity or trafficking), VAWA petitions (victims of domestic violence or abuse), family based petitions and other forms of protection from deportation. Both student interns and translators are welcome to apply.

Eligibility: All law students. Some Spanish speaking ability is preferred.

Schedule: To be arranged.

<http://www.supportkind.org/>



45. New Vision Organization, Inc. [Bruckton, MA] - New Vision Organization, Inc. (NVO) is a non-profit grassroots organization that works with advocates for long term and soon to be released incarcerated men, women and youth. NVO works with individuals serving sentences from one year to life in prison and includes prisoners sentenced to Death Row. This organization provides a wide range of services including advocating for medical and/or psychological support, rehabilitation and legal assistance. Additionally, NVO does extensive research and networking, in order to assist ex-offenders in obtaining resources, such as transitional or permanent housing, employment,

vocational training, education and counseling prior to an inmate's release. NVO is unique in that their emphasis is not on how to get the client out of custody, but rather on what they are going to do when released and to avoid falling back into old habits. As there is minimal private or governmental assistance set up for the offender, the volunteer will have to be self-motivated and resourceful in reintegrating their clients back into society. NVO can provide some direction and legal counseling, but much of the day to day research and communication will be the responsibility of the student intern which should help enhance their education, experience and knowledge.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services

46. Daniel J. O'Hern Memorial Legal Assistance Medical Partnership [Red Bank] – The LAMP Project is a collaboration between Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services and Parker Family Health Center. Daniel J. O'Hern was a former Justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court who was a good friend to Seton Hall Law School having received an honorary degree from our institution, providing services for our self-studies and serving as a moot court judge. Several of his children were Seton Hall law school graduates. Former Seton Hall Dean and current Professor of Law, Ronald J. Riccio has been actively involved and supports this venture which honors his friend and colleague. Parker Family Health Center, located in Red Bank, New Jersey, has formed a partnership with Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services with offices in Freehold and Toms River, New Jersey. Their goal is to address the socio-economic factors that undermine health for disadvantaged patients by integrating legal advocacy into the medical and personal history. The latter potentially could provide legal issues such as entitlements, immigration, housing and domestic violence. Law students would work directly with OMLS attorneys in addressing these problems.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



47. Last Resort Exoneration Project [Newark, NJ] – The Last Resort Exoneration Project will begin operations in February of 2011. This program will provide pro bono investigative and legal services to convicted innocents who are serving long prison sentences, concentrating on the innocents in New Jersey. There is a rigorous screening process with the most important criterion being a plausible and substantial claim of actual innocence. If a case is approved, the Project reviews the entire case. After such review the student intern would work with the Director to decide whether investigative and legal resources should be committed to litigate a post-conviction motion to reverse the conviction or to seek other relief. Last Resort also has a law reform component. Interns would be involved in researching the state of innocence law and litigation in New Jersey and propose and advocate for legislative or court rule reforms where appropriate.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.



◆ **48. City of Newark – Municipal Court Public Defender's Office [Newark, NJ]** – Volunteer interns would be working in a very busy office. Duties would include research assistance and assisting staff attorneys with a variety of tasks including client interviews and service of documents.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: To be arranged.

http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/government/municipal_court/



◆ **49. The Newark Legal Advice & Resource Clinic for Consumers** [Newark, NJ] – The NLARCC is a free clinic at the Essex County Courthouse wherein consumers can get help in defending themselves in pro se actions. It is a joint project of Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, the Essex County Court and Seton Hall and Rutgers law schools. The program is held on the first three Tuesdays of every month at the Arbitration Room at the Hall of Records from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. It was created in response to a large number of low income individuals who were sued in Essex County Civil Courts and who have no access to legal advice. Law students would interview clients to gain an understanding of their legal issues. After reviewing the matter on the court’s JEFIS system, the intern refers the client to a volunteer attorney after presenting a synopsis of the issue and pleadings to date. The student would sit in with the client and attorney and participate in the resolution of the issue. This is a unique opportunity for the law student to get hands on experience with the court system and consumer issues and gain an understanding of civil procedure from summons and complaint to answers and motion practice.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: See description.

http://vljnj.org/Newsletter.html#LETTER_BLOCK4

★ **50. Students Against Violence Everywhere Are Us (SAVE R US)** [*Located within Seton Hall Law School*] – Save R Us trains law students through a series of interactive trainings conducted by the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office and the Help Increase the Peace Program. After the training the student interns will educate high school and elementary school students about the legal implications of bullying, cyber-bullying and violent crimes.

Eligibility: All law students.

Schedule: One afternoon per week

SETON HALL SCHOOL OF LAW
Center for Social Justice
Pro Bono Service Program

COMMITMENT FORM

Name:

Address:

Home Tel:

Alternate Tel:

Class Year:

Seton Hall ID N

1st Choice:

2nd Choice:

3rd Choice:

Our Commitment Form is now located online! Please sign up on our CSJ Pro Bono webpage, located at <http://law.shu.edu/ProgramsCenters/PublicIntGovServ/CSJ/Pro-Bono-Service.cfm>.

Once there, click the link for the [Pro Bono Commitment Form](#).

If you have difficulty signing up online, please stop by the Center for Social Justice Reception Desk, or call (973)642-8700 for assistance.)

I agree to participate in the Seton Hall School of Law Center for Social Justice Pro Bono Service Program. I am committed to making a difference in someone's life and hereby agree to donate 35 hours per semester of my professional time, without compensation, to one of the projects identified by me above. I understand that when I complete my commitment an appropriate notation will be made on my law school transcript.

Signature

Date

Please complete this form and return it to the Center for Social Justice - Room 117. If you have any questions, please call the clinic at (973) 642-8700.

At or near completion of the 35 hours, you will receive a certification and program evaluation form which must be completed in order to receive the appropriate notation.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
Center for Social Justice
Pro Bono Service Program



Professor Philip A. Ross, Director
One Newark Center
Newark, NJ 07102

Tel: (973)642-8297 or 642-8700
Fax: (973)642-5939

CERTIFICATION

(To be completed by student) Date _____

Student's Name: _____ Student ID # _____

Entering Class Year:

Sponsoring Organization: _____

Semester of Pro Bono Service: _____
(Academic Session) (Year)

Supervisor's Name: _____
(Please print)

(To be completed by supervisor)

I certify that the above-named student has completed 35 hours of pro bono service with the above-identified organization.

Supervisor's Signature Date

(Optional)

Did this student perform his/her duties in a timely and professional manner? Yes ___ No ___

Comments: _____

[After completion of 35 hours of pro bono service, students should have this form completed by supervisor, and return to Prof. Philip A. Ross, Rm. 122 – Center for Social Justice, along w/Program Evaluation.]

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
Center for Social Justice
Pro Bono Service Program

Professor Philip A. Ross, Director
Tel: (973)642-8297 or 642-8700
Fax: (973)642-5939

PROGRAM EVALUATION

(To be completed by student)

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student ID # _____

Organization: _____ Supervisor: _____

Please describe the work performed _____

Was this placement suitable for the 35-hour requirement? Yes _____ No _____

If not, please explain: _____

Were you satisfied with the training that you received? Yes _____ No _____

If not, please explain: _____

Were you satisfied with the supervision that you received? Yes _____ No _____

If not, please explain: _____

Was your Seton Hall supervising attorney and coordinator helpful and responsive to your needs?

Yes _____ No _____

If not, please explain how they could have been more helpful: _____

How would you improve or change the program? _____

Would you recommend your placement to other students? Yes _____ No _____

If not, please explain: _____

We thank you for the time and effort you have devoted to the Pro Bono Service Program. If you have any additional comments or suggestions, you may include them on the back of this form.