Seton Hall University School of Law
PRO BONO SERVICE PROGRAM

Program Information and
List of Organizations

Changing the World
For the Better

CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
833 McCarter Highway
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 642-8700
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 Pro Bono Service Program. The Program offers you 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 without resources to hire 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. 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 through the Pro Bono Service Program. The Program has developed substantially to a point that, last year alone, more than 40 students 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. Their clients express heartfelt gratitude for the services they receive.

I encourage each of you to participate by donating a minimum of 50 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 and in most cases, your work can be used to satisfy the pro bono service requirement for admission to the New York bar.

If you wish to participate, complete the Pro Bono Commitment Form that you find online on the Seton Hall Law School website. You will then be contacted by Professor Lori Outzs Borgen, Director of the Pro Bono Service Program, to discuss your placement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or see either of us.

Lori A. Nessel
Director, Center for Social Justice and Professor of Law
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Animal Welfare Issues
   Equal Justice Alliance

Appellate Advocacy
   Office of the Public Defender – Appellate Section

Bankruptcy
   New Jersey Pro Bono Bankruptcy Program
   Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Business
   New Jersey Law Revision Commission
   Pro Bono Partnership

Children’s Rights/Juvenile Justice
   Association for the Children of New Jersey
   The Legal Aid Society – Juvenile Rights Practice
   Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Civil Rights/Discrimination
   American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
   New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
   New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

Community Development
   Public Interest Law Center
   NJLEEP
   New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
   Unity Center
   New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Constitutional Rights
   American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
   Education Law Center
   Equal Justice Alliance

Consumer Issues
   Central Jersey Legal Services
   Essex County Legal Aid Association
   New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
   New Jersey Law Revision Commission
   Northeast New Jersey Legal Service
   Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services
   The Waterfront Project, Inc.
   Volunteer Lawyers for Justice
Criminal Justice
City of Newark – Law Dept./Municipal Prosecutor’s Office
Last Resort Exoneration Project
Mercer County Prosecutor
New Jersey Law Revision Commission
New Jersey Reentry Corporation
New Vision Organization, Inc.
Office of the Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender – Appellate Section
Office of the Public Defender – Office of Parental Representation
Prisoners’ Rights Project – Legal Aid Society
Union County Prosecutor
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice – ReLeSe

Disabilities
Central Jersey Legal Services
Disability Rights New Jersey

Domestic Violence/Women’s Issues
Alternatives to Domestic Violence – Legal Advocacy Project
International Human Rights/Rule of Law Project
New Jersey Domestic Violence Center – Legal Advocacy Division
Partners for Women and Justice
Courtroom Advocate Project – Sanctuary for Families

Education Law
Education Law Center
Central Jersey Legal Services
Urban Revitalization Project
Disability Rights New Jersey

Employment Law
Central Jersey Legal Services

Environmental Justice
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Family Law
Association for Children of New Jersey
Central Jersey Legal Services
Courtroom Advocate Project (CAP) – Sanctuary for Families
Family Court
Mercer County Prosecutor
Office of the Public Defender – Office of Parental Representation
Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
Passaic County Family Division Pro Se Assistance Project
Project Self-Sufficiency – IOLTA Legal Assistance Program
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice
Health Care
   Public Interest Law Center
   New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Housing
   Central Jersey Legal Services
   City of Newark-Corporate Counsel’s Office
   Essex County Legal Aid Association
   Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services
   Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
   The Waterfront Project, Inc.
   Unity Center

Immigration and International
   American Friends Service Committee
   Catholic Charities-Archdioceses of Newark and Metuchen
   International Rescue Committee
   Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
   New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Mental Health
   Disability Rights New Jersey
   New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
   Public Interest Law Center
   Urban Justice Center

Military Legal Assistance/Veterans’ Rights
   Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Prosecution
   City of Newark-Law Dept./Municipal Prosecutor’s Office
   Mercer County Prosecutor
   Union County Prosecutor

Tax Law
   New Jersey Income Estate & Local Tax Pro Bono Program

Urban Affairs
   New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

Victim’s Issues
   New Jersey Crime Victims’ Law Center

Youth Programs/Prevention
   Covenant House of New Jersey-Youth Advocacy Center
   NJLEEP
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Pro Bono Service 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 50 hours of volunteer work, the student will receive a certificate of completion and a notation on his or her transcript. Students may receive only one notation per semester, but may do an additional placement each semester.

2. What are the requirements?

In order to successfully complete the Pro Bono Service Program, a student must complete 50 hours of volunteer work at an approved organization. Normally, these hours are completed within one semester, although this is not a requirement. While you are encouraged to complete 50 hours at one placement site, at times this may not be feasible. In such situations, you can combine hours from two or more separate placements to satisfy the 50-hour requirement to receive a notation on your transcript.

3. Who can participate?

The Program is open to any Seton Hall Law student, regardless of class year or course load status. Full-time, weekend, and evening students are welcome.

4. Where can I volunteer?

When an organization is seeking pro bono volunteers, the Program will place a position announcement on Symplicity. Log on to your Symplicity account and search for “pro bono” placements. Also, watch your email for blasts with information about pro bono opportunities. To access the Symplicity database, go to: https://law-shu-csm.symplicity.com/students/index.php?signin_tab=0.

In addition, this Pro Bono Brochure includes a list of many organizations that have hosted pro bono volunteers in the past. You are permitted to volunteer at other organizations as well, as long as they require you to do legal work with a government or not-for-profit entity that does not charge its clients for their services.

5. How do I sign up?

First, complete and submit the Commitment Form. You can access the form online at http://law.shu.edu/csj/probono_program.html, or you can pick one up at the reception desk in the Center for Social Justice. Choose three organizations, rank them in order of preference, and submit the Commitment Form to Professor Lori Borgen. Professor Borgen will review your selections and then contact you to discuss possible placements.

After Professor Borgen has spoken to you about a placement, it will be your responsibility to contact the organization to discuss the placement, arrange for an interview, etc. Once you have finalized a placement, you should e-mail or call Professor Borgen to confirm the placement. During your term of service, it is your responsibility to keep track of the hours that you work on an ongoing basis. You
should discuss with your placement supervisor whether you need to submit timesheets to your supervisor, and if so, how often (weekly, monthly, at the end of the placement, etc.).

After you complete your hours, ask your supervisor to fill out the Certification form to verify your attendance and the number of hours you completed. 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 Center for Social Justice. Both should be submitted to Professor Borgen at the Center for Social Justice.

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 Service 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 Borgen for further information before starting any work.

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

The volunteer schedule varies by organization. Some organizations ask you to work a few hours each week on a regular schedule. Others offer clinics where you volunteer each month (e.g. third Thursday of the month, 9-12), or allow students to complete hours by working full-time for one or two weeks (e.g., during the January break). 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 Borgen to find a program that is right for you.

8. **What type of work will I be doing?**

The assignments vary at the organizations. Some may ask you to do legal research on a topic and prepare a memo of law, while others may ask you to assist with client intake and preparing memos summarizing the facts in a case. Your assignments must be legal in nature. While you are permitted to do a small amount of administrative work in support of an assignment, that work must be *de minimus*, and the majority of your assignments must be legal in nature. All work must be supervised by an attorney. If you are not receiving *legal* work at a placement site, or you lack attorney supervision, please notify Professor Borgen promptly.

9. **Will my work with the Pro Bono Service Program satisfy the New York State pro bono requirement for admission to the New York bar?**

New York State requires individuals to complete 50 hours of pro bono service in order to apply for admission to the New York bar. Thus, we suggest that students complete their pro bono service during law school so they satisfy this requirement. Most (but not all) placements with the Pro Bono Service Program will satisfy the New York requirement. Please speak to the Director of the program if you have any questions about whether a placement will meet the New York requirement. For more information on the New York pro bono requirement, go to [https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml](https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml). If you would like to use your service with the Pro Bono Service Program to satisfy the New York requirement, you should ask either (1) your supervisor at your placement site or (2) the Director of the Pro Bono Service Program to
complete the required form, available at
https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/AppForAdmission_Pro-BonoReq_Fillable.pdf.

10. How do I contact Professor Borgen?

Professor Borgen’s office is Room 120 on the first floor of the Center for Social Justice. She can be reached at (973) 642-8700 or at lori.borgen@shu.edu. It is recommended that you e-mail her to arrange a time to meet in person or to speak on the phone.

For Program questions, you can also speak with Melinda Lampley-Merritt, Paralegal at the Center for Social Justice. Her desk is located on the first floor of the Center for Social Justice and she can be reached at (973) 642-8700 or melinda.lampley-merritt@shu.edu.
Participating Pro Bono Organizations

I. Placements Associated with Seton Hall Law School

★ 1. Last Resort Exoneration Project [Located within Seton Hall Law School] – This program provides 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.
Website: http://law.shu.edu/ProgramsCenters/PublicIntGovServ/ExonerationProject/about.cfm
Contact Professor Lesley Risinger for more information on volunteering.

★ 2. New Jersey Law and Education Empowerment Program (NJLEEP) – NJ LEEP is a non-profit corporation located near Seton Hall Law School, with some of its programming hosted at the 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. 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.
Website: www.njleep.org
II. Placements in Newark, NJ

3. American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey [Newark, NJ] - The ACLU of New Jersey, the local office of one of the nation’s foremost advocates for individual rights, is a non-profit public interest organization. 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.
Website: www.aclu-nj.org/

4. 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.
Website: www.afsc.org

5. 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.
Website: www.acnj.org/

6. 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.
Website: www.ccannj.com

7. City of Newark – Department of Law [Newark, NJ] – Volunteer interns would work in the Corporation Counsel’s office or the Municipal Prosecutor’s Office. Duties would include research assistance and assisting staff attorneys with a variety of tasks including client interviews. Third-year students might have the opportunity to appear in court.

Eligibility: All law students.
Schedule: To be arranged.
Website: http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/government/departments/law/
8. Covenant House New Jersey -- Youth Advocacy Center [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.  
Website: [www.covenanthousenj.org/](http://www.covenanthousenj.org/)

9. Education Law Center [Newark, NJ] -- Founded in 1973, the Education Law Center (ELC) serves as the leading voice for New Jersey’s public school children and has become one of the most effective advocates for equal educational opportunity and education justice in the United States. Widely recognized for groundbreaking court rulings on behalf of at-risk students, ELC also promotes educational equity through coalition building, litigation support, policy development, communications, and action-focused research in New Jersey, in other states, and at the federal level. ELC’s legal and policy advocacy, which includes such landmark rulings as Abbott v. Burke, has significantly advanced the provision of fair school funding, high quality early education, safe and adequate school facilities, and school reform, especially to schools serving high concentrations of at-risk students and students with disabilities and other special needs. Interns are needed to assist with individual cases, litigation assistance, and research.  
**Eligibility:** All law students.  
**Schedule:** To be arranged.  
Website: [http://www.edlawcenter.org/](http://www.edlawcenter.org/)

10. Essex County Legal Aid Association (ECLAA) [Newark, NJ] – ECLAA was founded in 1906 to provide free legal advice and/or representation in civil cases to low-income residents of Essex County. Their office is located in the courthouse and their work focuses on landlord/tenant issues and consumer matters. Volunteers assist with litigation, interview clients, engage in motion practice, conduct discovery, and/or draft memoranda of law. primary area of assistance is on landlord/tenant cases, but they also  
**Eligibility:** All law students.  
**Schedule:** To be arranged.  
Website: [https://eclaanj.org/](https://eclaanj.org/)

11. 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.  
Website: [www.judiciary.state.nj.us/essex/family/](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/essex/family/)
12. 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.
Website: www.nj.gov/oag/law/home.htm

13. New Jersey Institute for Social Justice [Newark, NJ] -- The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) is a Newark-based urban research and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of New Jersey’s urban areas and residents. Established in 1999 by the Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Foundation, the Institute provides a dynamic and independent voice for change necessary to create just, vibrant, and inclusive urban communities throughout New Jersey. NJISJ has been referred to as a “social justice think and do tank.” The Institute seeks to identify, analyze, and address the underlying causes of social and economic disparities and challenge the barriers that constrain cities and their residents from achieving their full potential. Interns assist with legal research related to policy papers, litigation, and other advocacy effort by NJISJ.

Eligibility: All law students.
Schedule: To be arranged.
Website: www.njisj.org

14. New Jersey Law Revision Commission [Newark, NJ] -- The New Jersey Law Revision Commission (NJLRC) is an independent Legislative commission responsible for conducting a continuous examination of the New Jersey statutes and the judicial decisions construing the statutes. The Commission is also instructed to carry on a continuous revision of the statutes to maintain them in revised, consolidated and simplified form. Each year, the Commission will work 20-30 projects in different areas of the law. The projects vary in size. Some recommend a change to a single sentence of a statute; others recommend changes to hundreds of pages of statute. Law students assist staff attorneys with research and drafting.

Eligibility: All law students.
Schedule: Flexible; work can be done at home.
Website: www.njlrc.org

15. 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.
Website: www.state.nj.us/defender
16. 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 interview 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.

**Website:** [www.state.nj.us/defender/](http://www.state.nj.us/defender/)

17. 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.

**Website:** [www.state.nj.us/defender/div_opr.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/defender/div_opr.shtml)

18. 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.

**Website:** [www.probonopartnership.org/](http://www.probonopartnership.org/)

19. 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.

**Website:** [www.njappleseed.org/](http://www.njappleseed.org/)
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice – [Newark, NJ] – VLJ is a comprehensive pro bono legal services program in downtown Newark. VLJ works with volunteer lawyers to serve low-income clients with a variety of legal issues, including consumer law, bankruptcy, family law, disaster legal services, education law and estate planning issues. Additionally, VLJ coordinates ReLeSe, a program assisting recently incarcerated people who face legal barriers to effectively re-entering the community and the Military Personnel/Veterans Legal Assistance Project (MLAP), helping veterans with legal issues they encounter when returning to civilian life. VLJ hosts several legal clinics, including the Newark Legal Advice and Resource Clinic for Consumers, the Divorce Clinic, the Family Law Clinic, the Driver’s License Clinic, the MLAP Clinic and Disaster Legal Response Program clinics. Clinic dates and times vary, but most are held in Newark. VLJ offers a variety of pro bono projects that fit with most students’ schedules and VLJ attempts to place students with projects that meet students’ substantive interests. Law students are needed to conduct client intake interviews, work with clients to gather relevant documents for their file, staff limited-scope legal clinics with volunteer lawyers and VLJ staff and/or work on legal research and writing projects. VLJ offers flexible schedules for student volunteers. Opportunities for volunteers include: legal clinics; in-house client intake hours; client document gathering/file building days and in-house hours for general projects.

Eligibility: All law students.
Website: www.vljnj.org
III. Other New Jersey Placements

♦ 21. 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.  
Website: www.co.bergen.nj.us/adv

♦ 22. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Metuchen [New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, and Phillipsburg, NJ] – Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Metuchen provides immigration legal assistance to the community, including adjustment of legal status, reuniting family members, seeking asylum, and becoming free from abusive living situations. Law students might assist with legal clinics or other legal matters.  
**Eligibility:** All law students.  
**Schedule:** To be arranged.  
Website: www.ccdom.org

♦ 23. 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.  
**Schedule:** To be arranged.  
Website: www.lsnj.org/cjls

♦ 24. 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.  
Website: www.drnj.org/
25. International Rescue Committee [Elizabeth, NJ] The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world’s worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. For over 75 years, they have offered lifesaving care and life changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war, persecution or natural disaster. At work today in over 40 countries and 22 United States cities, the Committee leads the way from harm to home. The IRC is the leading refugee resettlement agency in the state. They offer case management, employment services, immigration assistance and English classes for those desiring to learn the English language (ESOL) who are refugees and other humanitarian entrants who have been granted sanctuary in the United States. They also help refugee youth adjust to their new communities, succeed academically, and foster a positive multicultural identity. Law interns would get involved in all aspects of immigration work and would be supervised by the Immigration Program Manager, who is an accredited representative with the Board of Immigration Appeals.

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

Schedule: To be arranged.

Website: www.rescue.org/

26. Kids In Need Of Defense (KIND) [Roseland, NJ] - KIND is a non-profit organization that strives to protect immigrant and refugee children who come to the United States alone. Historically, more than 8,000 children come to the United States each year without a parent or legal guardian, and recently, the number of children risking the harrowing journey alone has dramatically increased. The majority are fleeing child abuse and neglect, gang and sexual violence and trafficking. Upon arrival, they must face immigration proceedings without a lawyer. Student interns work with KIND in-house attorneys 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. Interns will prepare asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or Trafficking Visa petitions and procedural filings in removal proceedings. Interns may also conduct initial intake interviews of potential clients. Both law student interns and Spanish translators/interpreters are welcome to apply.

Eligibility: All law students. Spanish speaking ability is preferred but not required.

Schedule: Flexible; remote work possible.

Website: www.supportkind.org/

27. 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.

Website: www.mercercountyprosecutor.com

28. New Jersey Alimony Reform [New Brunswick, NJ] – New Jersey Alimony Reform (NJAR) is a non-profit corporation whose goal is to enact significant family law reform in the State of New Jersey, beginning with changes as to how the amount and duration of alimony awards are determined. The organization was started in 2011 by Dr. Thomas Leustek, a professor in the Rutgers University, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology. Alimony reform was first enacted in Massachusetts in March 2012. New Jersey is among the states that are stepping to the forefront in this area of the law. NJAR has three specific areas in which it
needs support from interns: (1) research on substantive law, including research from other jurisdictions that have adjusted guidelines and the methodology used to develop those guidelines; (2) factual background on the operation and functioning of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Family Division, including the duration of time to be required for cases to be resolved; and (3) potential legislative support, including assistance in drafting legislation and/or attending meetings with legislators.

**Eligibility:** All law students.

**Schedule:** One afternoon per week.

Website: [www.njalimonyreform.org](http://www.njalimonyreform.org)

**29. 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.

Website: [www.njcvlc.org](http://www.njcvlc.org)

**30. 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.

Website: [www.nj.gov/oag/law/home.htm](http://www.nj.gov/oag/law/home.htm)

**31. 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.

Website: [www.womenaware.net](http://www.womenaware.net)
32. **New Jersey Income Estate & Local Tax Pro Bono Program** [Hackensack, NJ]

The objective of the New Jersey Tax Pro Bono Program is to provide legal assistance to low-income, unrepresented taxpayers with cases before New Jersey Division of Taxation and New Jersey Tax Court. Help will be given to clients in the areas of income, sales and/or excise taxes. Referrals will be provided from the Bergen County Bar Association Tax Section. Cases will be ideally assigned to a team of one attorney, one accountant and one law student. Interns would be trained by the Bergen County Bar Association and the Bergen Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.

**Eligibility:** All law students who have completed Tax I or who have a tax or accounting background.

**Schedule:** To be arranged.

33. **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.

34. **New Jersey Reentry Corporation** [Paterson, Newark, Jersey City and Toms River] - The New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) is a non-profit agency with a social mission to remove all barriers to employment for citizens returning from incarceration. Legal work for NJRC includes pro bono representation for formerly incarcerated individuals, such as drafting Motions to Convert Fines to Time Served for outstanding municipal court matters, drafting of child support modification petitions, drafting letters to municipal courts to recall warrants, guiding clients through expungements, case management, and daily, regular client consultations. Clients may also have a range of other matters with which they need legal assistance, such as Landlord-Tenant matters, administrative hearings to address the denial of disability benefits and other public benefits, or OSHA complaints.

**Eligibility:** All law students.

**Schedule:** To be arranged.

35. **Northeast New Jersey Legal Services.** [Hackensack, Jersey City and Paterson, NJ] – Northeast New Jersey Legal Services provides legal assistance to low income individuals in Passaic, Bergen and Hudson County, in the areas of housing, family law, public benefits and consumer law.

**Eligibility:** All law students.

**Schedule:** To be arranged.

Website: [www.northeastnjlegalservices.org](http://www.northeastnjlegalservices.org)
36. Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services, Inc. [Freehold, NJ and Toms River, NJ] – Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services provides legal advice and/or representation to low income residents of Ocean and Monmouth Counties in civil matters in the following areas: matrimonial; unemployment benefits, social security, welfare, and food stamps; housing; and consumer law. Volunteers assist attorneys with cases. Research assignments might also be available. 
Eligibility: All law students. 
Schedule: To be arranged. 
Website: http://www.lsnj.org/OMLS/index.htm

37. 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: To be arranged. 
Website: www.state.nj.us/defender/

38. 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. 
Website: www.pfwj.org

39. 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. 
Website: www.judiciary.state.nj.us/passaic/Family.htm
40. 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.

**Website:** [http://www.projectselfsufficiency.org/](http://www.projectselfsufficiency.org/)

41. 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.

**Website:** [www.unioncountynj.org/prosecutor/](http://www.unioncountynj.org/prosecutor/)

42. The Waterfront Project, Inc. [Hoboken, NJ] – The Waterfront Project, Inc. was established in 2013 by a SHLS graduate to ensure equal access to justice by providing legal advice, referral, consultation, and representation in civil legal matters to low income, homeless and otherwise disadvantaged individuals and families of Hudson County. Law students assist with responsibilities such as screening of clients, factual investigation, and legal research.

**Eligibility:** All law students.

**Schedule:** To be arranged.

**Website:** [www.thewaterfrontproject.org](http://www.thewaterfrontproject.org)
IV. New York Placements

43. 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.
Website: www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org/index.htm

44. 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.
Website: www.noaeta.org/

45. The Legal Aid Society-Juvenile Rights Practice [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.
Website: www.legal-aid.org/en/home.aspx

46. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest [New York City] – NYLPI’s mission is to advance equality and civil rights, with a focus on health justice, disability rights, and environmental justice. The Disability Justice Program works to advance civil rights and ensure equality of opportunity, self-determination, and independence for people with disabilities. The Health Justice Program works to bring a racial justice and immigrant rights focus to health care advocacy in New York City and State through representing immigrants and detained individuals with serious health care needs. The Environmental Justice Program provides community organizing and legal assistance to low-income neighborhoods and communities of color that bear an unfair burden of environmental threats.

Eligibility: 2Ls and 3Ls.
Schedule: Positions are available part-time (8-16 hours/week; hours and days are flexible according to class schedule and school calendar) during spring and fall semesters. Interested applicants should email a letter of interest and resume to internships@nylpi.org.
Website: www.nylpi.org
47. **Prisoners’ Rights Project – Legal Aid Society** [New York City location] – The Prisoners’ Rights Project (PRP) protects the legal rights of prisoners in the New York City jails and the New York State prisons through litigation, advice and assistance to individual prisoners, legislative advocacy and public education. PRP is a nationally known law reform office and members of its staff regularly consult with other prisoner advocates locally and nationally, testify in legislative forums and work directly with legislators, and work with other professional and human rights organizations concerned with the protection of prisoners.

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

**Schedule:** To be arranged.


48. **Urban Justice Center** [New York City location] – The Urban Justice Center is a social justice advocacy organization that combines direct legal services, systemic advocacy, community education, and political organizing. There are a wide range of projects that address legal issues, including asylum, corrections, community development, human rights, international refugee assistance, sex workers, street vendors, and veterans.

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.

Website: [www.urbanjustice.org/](http://www.urbanjustice.org/)
V. Placements Beyond New Jersey and New York

- **49. New Vision Organization, Inc.** [Bruckton, MA] – NVO is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization advocating for the incarcerated men, women & youth, nationwide, serving life or death sentences or soon to be released prisoners. NVO volunteers provide extensive research, in addition to writing letters and/or making phone calls to and on behalf of prisoners, assisting with obtaining transitional housing, employment, counseling, health care, and other necessary services to prevent reincarcerations. NVO also networks with other advocacy groups & organizations, across the country, to try to ensure prisoners' civil/human rights are not violated.
  
  **Eligibility:** All law students.
  **Schedule:** To be arranged.

- **50. 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.
  **Website:** [www.unitycenterofpa.org](http://www.unitycenterofpa.org)
The Pro Bono Commitment Form is now located online! Please sign up on the CSJ Pro Bono webpage, located at https://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.
CERTIFICATION

(To be completed by student) Date ______________

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Student ID # ________

Entering Class Year: _________ Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/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 ______ hours of pro bono service with the above-identified organization.

_________________________________________ __________________________
Supervisor’s Signature Date

Did this student perform his/her duties in a timely and professional manner? Yes___ No___

Comments: _______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

[After completion of 50 hours of pro bono service, or upon completion of the assignment/position if less than 50 hours, students should have this form completed by their supervisor, and return to Prof. Lori Outzs Borgen – Center for Social Justice, along with the Program Evaluation.]
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 50-hour requirement?  Yes _____  No _____
If not, please explain: ______________________________________________________

Where did you do most of your work for this placement (please check one)?
At the offices of the organization ______  At home/location of my choice _____
At another location (e.g., courthouse, community legal clinic) _____  Mixed _____

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: _____________________________________________________

Would you recommend your placement to other students?  Yes _____  No _____
If not, please explain: _____________________________________________________

How would you improve or change the Pro Bono Service Program? ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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.