

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PERSPECTIVE (PILP) REQUIREMENT

Students may fulfill the Public Interest Law Perspective Requirement by completing forty (40) hours of pro bono service. (Students who have successfully completed certain courses may fulfill the requirement by performing 20 hours of pro bono service.) This work must be unsalaried and without other compensation, and must be performed under the supervision of an attorney.

The work must be performed for a public interest organization which serves the poor or another under-served group, or for a private attorney or firm exclusively on a pro bono case which has been assigned by a pro bono or volunteer referral service for low-income clients. (An example of such a referral is a domestic violence case assigned to a private attorney through the Suffolk County Bar Association Pro Bono Project or the Pro Bono program of the Nassau Supreme Court.)

The work must be legal in nature and may include interviewing, factual investigation, drafting legal documents, legal research and similar duties. Clerical duties do not qualify toward the requirement. Time needed to train the student for the activity or instruction on the case will not count.

Supervising attorneys are encouraged to permit the student to have contact with the client and an opportunity to observe the legal system in action, if appropriate to the needs of the case and the work setting.

At the conclusion of the student's work, the supervisor will be asked to complete a brief evaluation form. It will be the student's responsibility to return it to the Law Center.

The supervising attorney should notify the Law Center if there are any deficiencies in the student's attendance or performance. Contact the Director of Clinical Education at (631) 421-2244 ext. 330 or the Director of Public Interest in the Career Planning and Counseling Office at (631) 421-2244 ext. 349.

Finding a Placement

Find a placement through the Office of Career Planning and Counseling or the Office of Clinical Education or suggest a placement for approval. To locate a suitable placement, you may find it helpful to search internet sources such as www.pslawnet.org or www.equaljusticeworks.org or the resources listed on the public interest section in the Career Planning portion of this website. You may also arrange a placement with the Housing Rights Project, a joint project of Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc., or the Social Justice Project, both located in the clinical offices.

Obtaining Approval

Each student must obtain approval from the Director of Clinical Education or the Director of Public Interest that the placement, if completed, will satisfy the Pro Bono requirement.

The student must send the description of the Pro Bono option to the attorney who will be supervising the work. The form describing the responsibilities and tasks of the placement must be signed by the student and the supervising attorney, then approved by the Director of Clinical Education or the Director of Public Interest. The student must then file this form with the Office of Clinical Programs.

NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY WORK PERFORMED BEFORE A COMPLETED PRO BONO PLACEMENT FORM IS FILED IN THE CLINICAL PROGRAMS OFFICE

Completion of the Placement

At the conclusion of the 40 or 20 hours of pro bono work, you must have the supervisor complete the Pro Bono Report of Completion form, certifying satisfactory completion of the placement, and return it to the Office of Clinical Education. You must also complete an evaluation of the experience, which will be made available to future students who might be considering the placement. On approval, deliver the Report of Completion to the Registrar to note satisfaction on the student's record.

PRO BONO PLACEMENT FORM

Student must file this form in the Clinical Programs Office before commencing pro bono required hours

Date _____

Student Name

Address

Home Phone _____ Email _____

STUDENT STATUS (CIRCLE) Year 2 3 4 FTD PTD PTE

Proposed Placement (Name & Address of Firm/Agency)

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Type of Work Student Will Perform _____

Name and Title of Supervising Attorney _____

Statement of Supervising Attorney - (Note: See Pro Bono Requirements on Reverse)

I understand the requirements and expectations of the Touro Law Center Pro Bono Requirement as outlined on the reverse side hereof, and agree to supervise the student named above in such a program.

Dated: _____

Statement of Participating Student

I understand the requirements of the Pro Bono option and agree to perform a minimum of forty (40) or twenty (20) {circle one} hours of service under the supervision of the above-named supervising attorney.

Dated: _____

Approval of Director of Clinical Education/Director of Public Interest

The placement described above is approved for consideration in connection with the satisfaction of the Touro Law Center Pro Bono Requirement of the Public Interest Law Perspective Requirement.

Dated: _____