

STETSON LAW'S PRO BONO NEWSLETTER



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Happy Friday, Stetson Law! Can you believe the fall semester is wrapping up? As you head into reading week, remember, you've got this! And as you prepare for finals, make your efforts count by staying healthy and focused on your goals.

The holidays are a perfect time to engage in service or reflect on the next steps in your pro bono journey as you hit pause and reset. This month's Pro Bono Newsletter includes information about some of the opportunities that are currently available to meet the Public Service Requirement for graduation (more to come!).

Need suggestions on where and how you can make a difference over winter break and beyond? Email ssstorke@law.stetson.edu or stop by the Office of Career and Professional Development.

Wishing all of you the best of luck as you prepare for finals.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Legal Pro Bono Opportunities

Crossroads for Florida Kids (Crossroads)

Passionate about child advocacy and want to gain practical experience while making an impact in the life of a child? Crossroads is accepting applications for volunteers. You would be paired with 2 pro bono attorneys who are representing a child as their Attorneys ad Litem. As a volunteer, you would attend court dates, staffings, accompany attorneys to meet with the client between court appearances, and occasionally conduct legal research remotely. To participate: (1) you must be a 2L, 3L, or LLM student; and (2) commit to volunteer throughout Spring 2024. Interested? Email a cover letter and resume to Scott Tolliver, Executive Director of Crossroads, at Scott@crossroadsfloridakids.org. In the cover letter, address why you are interested in advocating for children and what area(s) of law you are considering after law school. Crossroads will make an attempt to match you with an Attorney ad Litem working in your desired field of interest.

Second District Court of Appeal - Spring 2024 Internship

This is an ideal opportunity for students interested in gaining an understanding of appellate practice and the inner workings of the court, as well as improving legal research and writing skills. Interns will review appellate briefs and records, watch oral arguments, conduct legal research, submit written analyses, discuss legal issues with judges and staff attorneys, and attend regularly scheduled meetings. Although this internship is unpaid, 2DCA is happy to work with students seeking course credit or pro bono hours. All interested students are encouraged to apply. Send the following application materials to 2DCAinternships@flcourts.org: (1) cover letter; (2) resume; (3) writing Sample; (4) transcript; and (5) certificate of good character and competent legal ability, issued by the registrar's office. Apply by 11/30.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - Florida

CAIR-FL, the state's most prominent Muslim civil rights organization, is seeking interns. Interns would be expected to assist with new client intakes as well as providing support in a variety of their ongoing cases, including issues of police brutality, discrimination, and refugee and asylee immigration issues. This would be a valuable experience for students interested in a career in the public interest or nonprofit sectors. Interested students should contact CAIR's intake coordinator, Silvia Nagi, at snagi@cair.com and provide their resume along with a brief letter of intent. Students are asked to commit to completing at least 5 hours of pro bono work per week. Priority will be given to students who are able to work at CAIR's office in Tampa for hands-on experience.



Legal Pro Bono Opportunities

Winter Break Opportunities with Vote Blue Network of Florida, Inc.

This Winter Break there will be legal and nonlegal pro bono opportunities available for Stetson students with Vote Blue Network of Florida, Inc. (aka “Vote Blue Pinellas”), whose mission is to organize an enduring community of voters who are committed to advancing social justice and protecting our democracy. These are remote projects, without any required in-person meetings or specific scheduled work hours. We ask for a commitment of at least three hours during Winter Break, but we can provide projects that require a greater time commitment. If you have questions or are interested in these projects, please contact Mary C. Fahy, Esq. of Skelton, Willis & Wallace, LLP at 727-424-6987 or email mfahy@swbwlaw.com).

Voter Rights Research: Prepare and review procedures, training, and tools for voter registration outreach in underrepresented communities. Help research Florida law impacting voter registration to ensure the voter outreach program complies with Florida law.

March Municipal Election Research: Conduct research on ballot questions to be submitted to voters in March 2024 Pinellas County municipal elections. Review minutes of City Council meetings and arguments submitted in favor of and in opposition to the ballot proposals. Prepare voter education materials regarding these ballot questions.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic

VITA is an opportunity to help people in the Tampa Bay Area file their taxes for free. Training educates you on the US Tax code and how to prepare and file personal tax returns. The VITA program provides a great opportunity to give back to the community while earning both legal and non-legal pro bono hours. Training will take place from 8 AM - 5 PM on Thursday (January 11th) and Friday (January 12th). You must attend both training sessions to participate in the VITA legal pro bono opportunity this spring. RSVP on Engage: <https://stetson.campuslabs.com/engage/event/9411320>.



Legal Pro Bono Opportunities

Legal Services NYC - Spring 2024 Immigration Law Internship (Remote Option)

Legal Services NYC is offering unpaid Spring 2024 internships with their citywide Immigration Director. As an intern, you will learn about immigration legal services with an eye toward seeking systemic change and managing an immigration program. Days/hours are flexible with a preference for students who will intern at least five hours per week. To apply, please submit a resume with a subject line of "Spring Internship 2024" by February 15, 2024 to Rex Chen at rexchen@lsnyc.org. We know it is difficult to look for an internship, so you do not need to provide a cover letter. Feel free to submit a short list of bullet points or to submit your resume without a cover letter. Feel free to address your materials to LSNYC, To Whom It May Concern, or to Rex. Please list language skills and indicate how many hours per week you plan to intern. Please do not attach other materials. See the full job posting on PSJD [HERE](#). Don't have a PSJD account? Register for free as a Stetson Law student.

Al Otro Lado Internship Applications Open

Al Otro Lado continues to provide legal advocacy to asylum seekers in Tijuana, Mexico and border-wide through an almost entirely remote service delivery model and we have internship opportunities available! All training will be provided remotely by Al Otro Lado and incorporated into the internship. Internships run for a total 12–16 weeks, depending on the season. All seasons except summer require a minimum of 12 hours per week; the summer internship has a requirement of 15 hours weekly. Although the internship is remote, most interns' work hours are between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday, in order to facilitate regular meetings with supervisors and teammates. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis so get them in as soon as possible! To learn more, or complete the application, visit <https://alotrolado.org/internships>. If you have any questions, feel free to email our Intern Coordinator at volunteer@alotrolado.org

Volunteer Legal Internships at the U.S. Department of Justice

Interested in working for the world's largest legal employer? Each year, over 1500 law students intern with DOJ components and U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country during the summer or academic year. Legal interns work on meaningful issues in a variety of practice areas and on matters that impact our country. Visit the link below for more information and a list of positions.

<https://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/volunteer-legal-internships-0?position=2>

Non-Legal Pro Bono Opportunities

Tampa Jewish Family Services (TJFS)

TJFS is seeking student interns to work virtually on nonlegal research and grant writing projects to obtain additional non-profit funding. TJFS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit offering emergency financial assistance, counseling services, and a food bank to the Tampa Bay community at large. As a pro bono intern, you will have the opportunity to: (1) gain insight into the non-profit grant writing process; (2) attend community events and other possible networking opportunities; and (3) get involved with TJFS' Community Food Bank (if you desire).

Time Commitment: Minimum of 12 weeks, starting around the week of Jan. 22

Eligibility: All students are welcome to apply. Priority will be given to students with basic grant writing knowledge and/or experience.

Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter explaining your interest and/or experience to Jennifer Feld, Esq. jennifer@feldlegal.com and Dr. Beth Ann Gemunder at bethann.gemunder@tjfs.org by Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

Guardian ad Litem Office - Circuit 6

There are still so many abused, abandoned and neglected children in Pinellas County waiting for a caring adult to work with our team in advocating and representing them in the courtroom and the community. You are invited to attend one of our online information sessions. This is the best way to find out more about becoming a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Volunteer, as it provides you with an opportunity to ask and receive answers to any questions you may have. It is also the first step in the application process. The meeting typically lasts 30-45 minutes. The next meeting will be held online on Tuesday, 11/21 @ 12pm AND 6pm (Zoom link below). If you are interested in attending, please email the office's Volunteer Recruiter, Anita Myers, at Anita.Myers@gal.fl.gov to let her know what session you will be attending. Hours earned during mandatory 30 hour training sessions to become a GAL are eligible for non-legal credit, while hours spend volunteering as a GAL are eligible for legal credit. To receive non-legal hours for training, you must follow through with volunteering as a GAL.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6662131406?pwd=VxkleWNDZDJWRW0rczhycVoxQTJRdz09>

Meeting ID: 666 213 1406

Passcode: GAL1234



WHERE CAN I FIND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES?



- Review Symplicity and the Campus Docket for new opportunities.
- Check out Stetson Law's new monthly Pro Bono Newsletter!
- Explore opportunities on the Public Service Jobs Directory (www.psjd.org), which provides national job and internship listings, and other public interest resources for law students and graduates. Register for free by using your Stetson Law email.
- Explore volunteer opportunity websites for one-time or long-term service opportunities at Idealist, Volunteer Match, and United Way.
- Meet with the Assistant Director of Public Interest Careers and Pro Bono or your assigned career services advisor. Let us know what you want to do and who you want to help.

COMMON PRO BONO MYTHS

»»» I NEED 30 HOURS OF NON-LEGAL PRO BONO CREDIT TO GRADUATE

DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR HOURS

Once you begin working with a pro bono provider, submit your hours on the GivePulse Platform for certification by your supervising attorney or site organizer.

SUBMIT YOUR HOURS [HERE](#)

The most common misconception about Stetson Law's Public Service Requirement is that students need 30 hours of legal AND 30 hours of non-legal pro bono credit to graduate. Stetson Law requires students to perform a total of 60 hours of pro bono work during their law school careers. A minimum of 30 of those hours MUST be law related (i.e., up to 30 hours MAY be non-legal work). Therefore, students are free to fulfill the graduation requirement by engaging in only law related work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT:



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