

# Pro Bono Program Overview

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## **Mission**

To foster in every member of the law school community a moral and professional obligation to ensure access to justice for all, and to provide meaningful opportunities for students to give back to the community, develop practical legal skills, and build a professional network.

## **Definition**

Student pro bono work is defined as:

- Law-related assistance to lawyers providing pro bono services to persons of limited means or to nonprofit organizations in matters that address the needs of persons of limited means;
- Law-related assistance to lawyers providing pro bono services to individuals, groups or nonprofit organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or to nonprofit organizations in matters that are in furtherance of their organizational purposes; or
- Participation in activities to improve the law.

## **Requirements**

- Work must be purely voluntary. No pay: No Work-Study or stipends. No credit: No internship, clinic participation or coursework for credit.
- Work must be supervised by an attorney.
- Voluntary Goal: 50 hours of pro bono work by graduation.
- All students who meet or exceed the 50 hour goal will receive recognition.
- To participate in the program, sign the Law Student Pro Bono Pledge and the Law Student Acknowledgment of Professional Responsibility.
- Students must record and report hours each semester.

## **Approval**

All pro bono placements must be approved in order for hours to count towards the pro bono requirement. Email [toni.machowsky@suffolk.edu](mailto:toni.machowsky@suffolk.edu) with the details of your placement: the semester you intend to work, supervisor's name and contact information, and a description of the work to be done.

## **Experiential Learning & Professional Development Requirement**

The Pro Bono Program is *not* mandatory. However, students may count pro bono hours towards their Experiential Learning & Professional Development Requirement. You must bring the [Professional Development Requirement Form](#) to your supervisor to sign. The form is available in the PCD or Academic Services Offices and must be returned to the Academic Services Office.

1Ls may participate, but are encouraged to be cautious about taking on responsibilities outside of class work.

*Questions? Visit Professional and Career Development or email Toni Machowsky, [toni.machowsky@suffolk.edu](mailto:toni.machowsky@suffolk.edu).*