

Key Stakeholders Summit, Oct. 29, 2010

Break-out Group 3: Partnering Activities by courts, the bar, law schools and civil service providers

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Initial Breakout Session- What can we do to make our pro bono efforts more than what they are?

OCU

- Students report volunteer hours through a database. The idea is to get them accustomed to serving and reporting.
- Recognition luncheon
- Want to look into cords at graduation
- Most important goal is to inculcate habit and the value of pro bono service

OU

- Have started a public service opportunity for 1Ls; this year it was at the food bank. The point is to connect the students with each other. The problem was that only those students who already have public service as a focus come.
- Recognition ceremony includes grad cords and their name in the graduation program
- Several school sponsored programs: VITA, VPO, Summer Fellowships
- Challenge is reaching those students who are not focused on public service as a career and creating the habit with them.
 - In order to meet that challenge, the need for discrete tasks was identified. Discrete tasks meaning small, identifiable tasks that can be completed in a day, a week, or a semester rather than being an ongoing project or case.
 - Several existing discrete tasks were identified such as the clinic and VPO program.
 - Everyone expressed interest in getting input from other public service organizations to see what kind of projects they could come up with

Identified Needs and Challenges

- Need to identify opportunities to partner with attorneys in order to give students more hands on experience
- One suggestion was to use a real case as a writing project or assignment. The student is happy because he got to do something real while the attorney is happy because he got some free labor. This may also help a student develop a network.
- One identified challenge is the mindset of attorneys with regard to students- that training and using the student will be more work and a bigger hassle than just doing the work himself.
- Need variety in the tasks and programs.
- Need to change the mindset of students
 - How do you corral the students who are there to make money? If you make a meeting mandatory then a lot of grumbling ensues. But they won't come if it's voluntary. (Kate note- food and prizes?) Some suggestions:
 - Facebook page
 - Video vignette
 - Forum of some sort to channel positive energy about pro bono work
 - Involve the professors in that positive attitude
 - Combine real life and service with class work
 - Need influence of high-powered attorneys who will speak positively about pro bono work

Examining what's worked

- All parties involved must be on board and excited from the beginning: lawyers, judges, students, professors, etc.
- Doesn't require additional resources or time on the part of the supervisor
- Doesn't require much training of the student
- (Pro Se waiver docket as a model)

Focus Items Listed

- Getting law students involved early
- Recognition of students
- Identifying opportunities that are discrete student tasks and that partner either with an organization or private attorney
- Licensed legal interns
 - Waiving fees
 - Educating attorneys about them to get more sponsors
- Generating excitement about pro bono work
- More gatherings to share information/resources; possibly a database or clearinghouse

Second Breakout Session- How will we accomplish these tasks?

- Reaching students not already interested
 - Orientation- talking about the programs available
 - Creating a Student Service Chair
 - Some kind of interschool competition or goal for service hours completed
 - Recognition
 - graduation
 - party
 - service award (law student of the month)
 - name in bar journal (send names to Jones)
 - congratulatory letters from judges and attorneys
 - OBA website
 - Needs to be some kind of formal launch through the law school Pro Bono Coordinators
 - Spot on law day for student of the year
 - On OETA Law Day (Vreeland can handle this part)
 - Go to annual meeting
 - Overall award to most service-oriented 3L
 - graduation?
 - award night?
- Getting students involved early
 - make it social, make it fun
 - OBA sponsored social?
 - Some kind of one day event
 - Examples:
 - make a will day
 - guardianship day
 - Bus students out to rural communities or prisons

- Identifying opportunities
 - talk to judges
 - Legal Aide- gaps in their services possibly filled by law students
 - probono.net
 - posting services
 - inform judges/lawyers
 - linking in to other sites
- Licensed Legal Interns
 - Fee issue- if a student is going to take the bar in another state, they still have to do the background check in Oklahoma to get the Oklahoma LLI. This is expensive. Can we find a way to waive the fee if they're doing pro bono work?
 - Education of attorneys.
 - Students can be pro bono case specific. That may incentivize the attorney because it defrays the cost a bit, and the student will be excited about working with a real attorney.
 - Require a pro bono use of student hours
 - Simple encouragement
 - Issue of consistency- interns aren't around very long to see a case through
- Identifying Discrete Tasks
 - WE NEED ANOTHER CONFERENCE to pool resources and talk about opportunities
 - Use pool of jobless graduates or unhappy grads to take on extra cases- keeps them doing something and their skills honed, maybe gives them some contacts
 - Identifying appropriate 1L activities
 - client intake with juvenile cases? All they have to do is talk to the kid about who their favorite teacher is, what subjects they like, transformers, or whatever
 - short task dockets (small claims, landlord-tenant)
- People to involve
 - The top people from the organization
 - Judges
 - Retired attorneys, improve attorney involvement
 - There needs to be more communication between various organizations. It was mentioned several times that services identified in the larger group session as needed are actually offered by people who were in attendance. This is a major problem. *CONFERENCE NECESSARY* we nominate Maute to be in charge