

Albany Law in New York's Capital. Knowledge Empowers.

Student Pro Bono Projects

FALL 2010

Our deep and abiding commitment to pro bono service and supporting students pursuing public sector careers.



ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

Office of Student Affairs
80 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208-3494
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www.albanylaw.edu



ALBANY LAW SCHOOL



ALBANY COUNTY FAMILY COURT HELP DESK

Student Coordinator:
Alaina Bergerstok

In conjunction with the Albany County Bar Association, students provide assistance to those conducting business with the Family Court. While no legal advice is given, students provide invaluable assistance in completing necessary paperwork. Students generally volunteer their time on a weekly basis, and while at the Family Court, are afforded the opportunity to observe court proceedings.

ANIMAL LAW

Student Coordinator:
Kendra Jenkins

In conjunction with the Animal Law Project at Penn Law, students perform law related research on a wide range of projects related to animal law issues.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Student Leader: Joy David

Working with Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, students assist with housing intake and preparing for unemployment compensation hearings under the supervision of attorneys.

EDUCATION PROJECT

Supervisors: Dr. John King,
Leslie Templeman and
Sally Bachofer

The Education Project provides legal research and writing support to the New York State Department of Education, Office of Innovative School Models. The primary work will involve the recently amended Charter School Bill, passed in May 2010.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Student Leaders: Bronson
Stephens and Sara Gabriels

Working with the Washington D.C.-based Freedom Now, students assist with the Freeing Political Prisoners Project.

PRISONERS LEGAL SERVICES AND RE-ENTRY

Student Leader:
Andrew Richard

Through this project, students have the opportunity to work with Prisoners Legal Services of New York to provide legal support for prisoners by writing legal articles and providing research. Students may also have the chance to conduct administrative appeals for prisoners who are challenging disciplinary hearings.

LAW HELP/NY

Supervisor: Equal Justice Works
AmeriCorps Legal Fellow

Through this project, students assist Law Help/NY with providing “know your rights” materials on legal issues common to low-income New Yorkers, as well as referral information for free and low-cost legal services. Thousands of unrepresented New Yorkers come to the Law Help/NY website looking for help with legal problems that require either a court or administrative hearing appearance.

PRO SE DIVORCE CLINIC

Student Leader:
Lauren Lostritto

Following a four-hour substantive training by Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, students The Pro Se Divorce Clinic provides legal assistance to low-income individuals seeking to file for pro se divorce. Student assistance is particularly vital in determining the proper grounds for divorce, and writing a convincing explanation of why those grounds apply in the particular case. Through participation in this project, the student is exposed to a broad range of substantive legal topics including: custody/visitation, support and equitable distribution. This opportunity is open to all class years and is a great chance to work directly with clients.

NYSBA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Supervisor: Susan Feathers
and NYSBA Chairs

Through this unique partnership with the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), Albany Law School students work with select Section Chairs and Taskforces on a wide range of substantive areas including elder law, environmental law and civil rights. In addition, students are working on the Taskforce on the Legal Profession and the Taskforce on Government Ethics.

RURAL LEGAL SERVICES

Student Leader: Nicole Kulik

This placement allows students to provide information to rural and elderly New Yorkers about a variety of legal issues, including health care proxies, living wills and public benefits.

TAX LAW DAY WITH THE TAX LAW SOCIETY

Student Leader: Dana Vitarelli

Each year the United Way and KeyBank hold a free tax preparation event to help low-income individuals receive the income tax credit they deserve. With the help and dedication of the Tax Law Society, students become certified tax preparers and assist people with filing their taxes.