

Stanford Law School

Pro Bono Program

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2014-2015

It is the daily; it is the small; it is the cumulative injuries of little people that we are here to protect....If we are able to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice.

- Learned Hand

*Address at the 75th anniversary celebration of the
Legal Aid Society of New York, Feb. 16, 1951*

Why Pro Bono?

Every year, nearly 250 students participate in the Levin Center's Pro Bono program. Some teach law to at-risk youth; others help people apply for citizenship; and still others advocate for homeless clients seeking Social Security Disability benefits.

Why do so many students volunteer? Here's what SLS '14 grads had to say:

“My pro bono projects let me live what I came to law school to do. Through my work with ReMade and at several public defenders' offices, I helped make just a few people feel heard, present, and listened to.”

– Camden Vilkin

“Pro bono at Stanford was a great way to stay connected with the communities that I care about. Sometimes we get lost in the classes and cases and forget that many of us came to law school to help real people.”

– John Butler

“Participating in many of the pro bono programs at SLS has given me a sense of purpose (especially in those dark times as a 1L). Doing pro bono work has enabled me to see the community outside of the Stanford bubble in addition to providing me with some of my favorite experiences these past three years.” – Rachel McDaniel

“Pro bono opportunities at SLS have given me a chance to contribute to under-served communities and build skills that will help me serve the public interest in my future career.” – David Lazarus

Who Can Participate in the SLS Pro Bono Program?

Anyone. Everyone! We encourage ALL of you to participate.

How Do I Earn Pro Bono Distinction at SLS?

To qualify for Pro Bono Distinction at SLS – for which students are honored in the Levin Center Spring Awards Ceremony at the end of their 3L year – students must perform at least 50 hours of eligible pro bono service during their three years at the law school. In 2014, more than 2/3 of the graduating class earned Pro Bono Distinction.

SLS requirements for eligible pro bono service are that it be:

- Uncompensated
- Law-related work
- At or with an SLS-approved non-profit or government agency
- Performed under the supervision of attorney, faculty member or other qualified supervisor¹
- For which no academic credit is received

What Hours Count for Pro Bono Distinction Credit at SLS?

Students will be given pro bono credit at SLS for the following public service work:

- Law-related assistance to a non-profit agency engaged in uncompensated legal representation of low-income clients
- Law-related assistance to a governmental entity
- Lesson preparation and presentation in legal education projects
- Hours in excess of SLS clinical program requirements
- Hours in excess of those for which student is receiving summer funding at a public interest placement
- Substantive training directly relating to the pro bono project
- Student leader time spent organizing and coordinating projects
- Note: Travel time does not count towards pro bono hours

What Training is Required?

Every student who commits to participation in a project must attend SLS Ethics Training and any training required by the project itself.

¹ Please note that while the majority of the pro bono projects approved by Stanford also satisfy the NY Bar Requirements, some do not. Every pro bono project listed herein DOES satisfy SLS's pro bono criteria. Some projects are working to secure supervising attorneys, and so while they currently do not satisfy the NY Bar Requirements, their status may change by fall quarter 2014. Please don't be dissuaded from participating in a pro bono project because it does not meet the NY Bar's requirements. There are many other ways to satisfy the NY Bar requirements, including, for example, law school clinics and summer internships at non-profits. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

How Do I Sign Up for the Pro Bono Program?

➤ **Come to the Pro Bono Fair on September 12, 2014!**

But, wait! What Projects are Available? Read On....

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL PRO BONO PROGRAMS

Access to Justice Pro Bono Project

California has a huge access to justice gap. There are not enough legal services available for vast numbers of low income Californians who need them. The goal of this project is to help the California State Bar with a research project designed to measure the economic and other benefits provided by legal services organizations who receive IOLTA (“Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts”) funding. (The Legal Services Trust Fund Program (which is part of the State Bar) receives IOLTA funds and distributes them to approximately 100 nonprofit legal aid organizations that provide free legal services in civil matters to indigent Californians).

The purpose of this pro bono project is to engage in research that will explain the economic and social benefits (both to the clients served by these organizations and to the state as a whole) of investing in these services, and to encourage increased funding to these organizations to help close the access to justice gap.

Students will analyze how other states have measured their legal aid organizations’ effectiveness and economic benefits, and will also conduct broader research to see how social scientists have approached collecting and measuring this type of information in differing substantive areas, such as housing, employment and domestic violence practice.

Students will then use the information they have gathered to create a toolkit for the state bar, providers and one to two representative counties in California that will 1) help them understand how to concretely measure the economic and social benefits of legal aid services and 2) serve as a model toolkit for other counties to use in the future.

Students with backgrounds involving economic analysis, cost projections, public finance as well as social science or policy backgrounds can be instantly involved in this work. Students will gain valuable knowledge about how legal services for those living in poverty are provided and funded, key players in the state bar system that fund and evaluate legal services as well as how legal analysis and writing interact with financial and policy considerations.

Students can participate for one quarter or more, and are particularly needed for the fall, with the possibility of continuing through the spring. Depending on which research or writing project the student selects, they could expect to work 20 or more hours per quarter.

Professor Phil Malone, Diane Chin and Jory Steele will supervise this project. We welcome any 2 or 3L students who are willing to serve as a student leader to assist with coordination as well as

communication with the State Bar of California and legal services leaders.

Alternative Break Options

Every year, SLS offers students the opportunities to work with organizations outside of the Bay Area, both within California and around the country, during school breaks. In past years, for example, students have travelled to Miami during spring break to assist stranded Haitians with obtaining Temporary Protected Status, to San Diego to work with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and to New Orleans to work at the Office of the Public Defender. *More information will be made available regarding trips for 2015 later in the year.*

Animal Legal Defense

SLS's Student Animal Legal Defense Pro Bono provides a chance to do research, writing and fact investigation on pending animal litigation projects. This year we will work with well-respected animal law practitioners on projects ranging from animal cruelty and industrialized farming practices to consumer protection and wildlife preservation. We will also plan field trips to local courts during the year. Students volunteer for assignments as they become available and work individually or in teams on their own time. Students make a year-long commitment to work eight hours per quarter. 2L and 3L students will be readily available to provide assistance and informal training on the assignments.

Student Leader Contact: Aaron Stanton <astant@stanford.edu>

Please note: at this time, it is unclear whether this project meets the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar. In order to determine whether this project meets the New York Pro Bono requirements, please visit:

<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

Asylum Assistance Project

For immigrants in detention, applying for asylum and other forms of relief based on persecution can pose an insurmountable hurdle. The Asylum Assistance Project addresses this human rights and immigrants' rights issue. Working with a local service provider, students will research and gather country condition materials for the asylum applications of people in immigration detention at the Richmond Detention Facility. The materials will focus on the immigrants' common countries of origins and forms of persecution (e.g., LGBT claims from El Salvador, domestic violence claims from Guatemala, gang recruitment from Honduras, etc.). Final country condition materials will be given to detainees to use in their applications for relief based on past persecution. Immigration Judges rely on country condition materials when deciding an asylum applicant's case, and a well-researched country conditions packet can help convey the applicant's need for status based on persecution. Students will work in teams and individually. This pro bono requires an average of 2-5 hours per week but it allows students to work independently and on their own schedule. The Asylum Assistance Project will provide training on basic issues in asylum and immigration law and will organize an optional opportunity to tour the Richmond Detention Facility. ***Student Leader Contact: Nikki Marquez <nmarquez@stanford.edu>***

The Constitution in the Classroom

The Constitution in the Classroom is a new pro bono opportunity for Stanford Law students, which is dedicated to raising awareness of fundamental constitutional principles among elementary, middle, and high school students. As law students, we have a special ability to communicate our knowledge and

appreciation of the Constitution. In many public schools, this type of information is not readily or extensively available. By teaching one-hour supplementary lessons to students, we are able to both serve as an extra resource to schools and to provide children without exposure to lawyers in their families or communities with a glimpse of what a real law student looks like. No teaching experience is required and the American Constitution Society provides a brief training as well as curriculum to guide each lesson, although the curriculum is flexible and allows for creative adaptations. This is a really lovely way to give back to our Palo Alto community and make connections outside of Stanford. The minimum time commitment per quarter is about 3 hours, which includes the training, teaching one hour-long lesson, and some transit time to and from the school. There will also be opportunities to sign up to teach more lessons, but only one is required. ***Student Leader Contact: Paulina Slagter*** (pslagter@stanford.edu).

Deferred Action for Immigrant Youth Project

SLS partners with the Redwood City office of the International Institute of the Bay Area – a nonprofit immigration legal service provider – to assist immigrant youth and adults at clinics that focus on citizenship and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA provides that certain immigrants under 31 years old – brought to the U.S. before they turned 16 – may be eligible for work authorization and other benefits if they meet strict criteria. The International Institute will train 15 SLS students who, supervised by attorneys and accredited representatives, will participate in workshops to explain legal options to the immigrant community and help people apply for citizenship and DACA. The goal is to increase access to these benefits while minimizing fraudulent immigration practices by unscrupulous individuals. Training is 3 hours; students volunteer for one or two 3-hour sessions a month for the academic year. ***Student Leader Contact: Michael Fields*** <mdfields@stanford.edu>

Environmental Law Pro Bono

The Environmental Law Pro Bono will provide an opportunity to work on exciting and meaningful litigation and policy projects with prominent attorneys in the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program. Participants will be able to do research and writing for a variety of projects which may include climate change and energy, clean air and water, land use and wildland preservation, and endangered species issues. Students can volunteer to work on the projects in which they are interested and can work individually on their own time or in small groups depending on the demands of each project. Students are expected to commit to a minimum of 8 to 10 hours per quarter. Please contact Elizabeth Hook (ehook@stanford.edu) or Liz Jones (elijones@stanford.edu) to join the project.

Guardianship Pro Bono

Are you interested in making sure local children have the opportunity to grow up in a stable, loving environment? Then join the Guardianship Pro Bono! Volunteers will be trained in introductory ethics, client interviewing skills, and the basics of the California guardianship petition process. During intake sessions, volunteers interview potential clients who are seeking guardianship of minors for whom they're already providing care. They then consult with volunteer attorneys about the proper advice and draft summary memos. Guardianship is a great way to experience direct client contact and make a difference in people's lives. The expected commitment is about 8 hours a quarter. ***Student Leader Contacts: Shereen Griffith*** <shereeng@stanford.edu> and ***Abigail Barnes*** <apbarnes@stanford.edu>

Housing Pro Bono

Affordable, stable and clean housing is a fundamental need, but not a reality, for many of Stanford's neighbors. Working at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA), Housing Pro Bono volunteers assist area low-income residents with housing and landlord tenant issues. They conduct

interviews to identify potential legal issues and understand the client's goals. Then, after consulting with experienced CLSEPA housing attorneys and staff, students work with clients to develop an action plan that serves their client's interest. Some students also pursue extended advocacy and investigation for clients, participate in administrative hearings, negotiate with landlords and draft briefs for small claims court and the Rent Board. Spanish is a *big* plus, but all students welcome! Students make a year-long commitment that involves 10-15 hours a quarter. SLS training in ethics is required, as is CLSEPA's training in client interviews, demand letter writing, and housing law. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Grace Chuchla* <gchuchla@stanford.edu>, *Virginia Halden* <vhalden@stanford.edu> and *Nikki Leon* <nleon@stanford.edu>

Immigration Pro Bono

Undocumented immigrants face major challenges in accessing the legal services crucial for them to pursue lawful status in the US. This often keeps them from finding employment, or from escaping dependence on an abusive family member. Students in the Immigration Pro Bono Project work with a licensed volunteer attorney to interview potential clients at Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto (CLSEPA), screen for legal issues, and help CLSEPA's immigration staff provide counsel. Students learn immigration law fundamentals, particularly the special routes in place for victims of crime or domestic abuse to become legal permanent residents, and gain experience communicating with a diverse range of clients. This is a year-long project that requires several hours of training during Fall Quarter, and volunteering at approximately two four-hour sessions per quarter. **Student Leader Contacts:** Amy Heath <amyheath@stanford.edu> and Phillip Klimke <pklimke@stanford.edu>

International Business Practices Pro Bono Colloquium

This project provides students the opportunity to work with SLS Lecturer Chip Pitts, former Chief Legal Officer of Nokia Inc. and Chair of Amnesty International USA, in an exciting effort to address key legal issues affecting ethical globalization, sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, business and human rights. Scheduling is flexible, but students generally spend two hours a week on projects. Students may work on Good Practice Notes for the UN Global Compact which are concise memos regarding good practices employed by companies to further the goals of respecting and promoting human rights. Volunteers may also participate in the Corporate Culture and Values Project, which involves inventorying and analyzing business's existing corporate values in order to design creative, yet realistic, ways to promote human rights values and practices by global businesses. This is a research project in the preliminary stage but ultimately offers the opportunity to do interviews as well. **Contact:** *Chip Pitts*, chip.pitts@att.net; **Student Leader Contacts:** *Kyle Canchola* <canchola@stanford.edu> and *Jun Feng* <jfeng03@stanford.edu>

International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Pro Bono

Students in this pro bono project will have an opportunity to assist the International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic on two projects. There may be additional opportunities to assist the clinic with research. The first project is the fall release of a report on policing reform in the United States. In light of the recent events in Ferguson, this project will give students a chance to learn more about a timely issue while developing their editing and cite checking abilities. These are important skills for legal writing and will be an introduction for students interested in working on a journal. The report's exact release dates has not been determined yet, but it will be this fall. Students who sign up for this project will be "on-call" for when the report is ready to be released. Students can then help out if they have the time and capacity.

Second, the Clinic is helping the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking work with numerous

stakeholders, including service providers, activists, lawyers, businesses, municipal authorities, and the law enforcement community prepare for the 2016 Super Bowl, which will be held in the new Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. Reports suggest that there is an increase in trafficking around these large sporting events. In the Spring of 2014 the clinic prepared a study identifying the successes and failures of responding to human trafficking of other communities that have hosted major sporting events in the past decade. As fans are drawn from around country, the Super Bowl has become an opportunity to engage the community in preventative efforts while highlighting the issue with the public. While working in advance of the Super Bowl, this project seeks to coordinate a regional response and build in a sustainable way the long-term capacity of the Bay Area to host major events, and deal with trafficking on an ongoing basis regardless of whether it's correlated with a major event or not. The goal of the pro bono is to map those resources and interview stakeholders, such as business owners, government officials, and law enforcement, to learn more about their experiences.

This pro bono will likely entail off-campus work in San Jose and the South Bay to engage with activists and businesses, with a focus on labor and sex trafficking. Transportation will not be provided but carpools will be coordinated. Estimated time commitment will be 5-8 hours per week when we go down to San Jose, but there is flexibility around student availability. Students will not be interviewing survivors, johns, or others potentially involved in trafficking.

This pro bono is open to 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls. There will be some light background reading to introduce students to the issues. Students can participate in either or both projects.

Student Leader Contact: *Nikki Marquez* <nmarquez@stanford.edu>

Please note: at this time, this project does not meet the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar. For more information on these requirements, please visit:

<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)

The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) is a national student organization that provides pro bono legal representation and policy advocacy on behalf of Iraqi refugees seeking resettlement in the United States. Stanford's student-run chapter offers students an opportunity to earn Pro Bono Distinction hours through both its client and policy teams. The Client Advocacy Team partners students with an attorney to support Iraqi refugees who are based in Jordan and are seeking resettlement in the United States. In recent years students have also worked to support Afghan applicants for Special Immigrant Visas (SIV), a visa designed to protect Afghans who have risked their lives to help American forces. Students do legal research, conduct interviews, and draft applications supporting their clients' cases. The Policy Team is also active: last year it produced a report documenting the threats SIV applicants face as they await decisions on their visas. Last March six Stanford IRAP members travelled to Amman, Jordan to meet with local organizations and interview clients. Students commit to 1 year, which includes 10 hours of mandatory training spread over several sessions. During Fall Quarter, 1Ls work about 2 hours/week on IRAP; in Winter and Spring, the commitment is 2-10 hours/week.

Student Leader Contacts: *Jen Binger* <jmbinger@stanford.edu> and *Elizabeth Miller* <emiller4@stanford.edu>

Please note: the advocacy component of this project meets the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar, but the policy component does not. For more information on these requirements, please visit:

<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

Native Litigation Project

The Native Litigation Project ("NLP") identifies federal and tribal court cases of particular interest to Indian Country and submits briefs to raise awareness and understanding of American Indian law and policy. By working with NLP, students develop hands-on litigation skills by tracking cases, researching legal issues, drafting case summaries, and, if they choose, briefs. Small student teams will be responsible for case tracking. The larger membership will select cases for greater involvement. Introduction to the litigation tracking process and general litigation training will take 2 hours. Students will commit 2 hours per week for tracking cases and exploring Native legal issues. They will have the option of taking on research and drafting later in the quarter and year. The time commitment for briefing projects would be greater and less predictable. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Andrew Grimm* <agrimm3@gmail.com> and *Jacob Raver* <jraver@stanford.edu>

Please note: because there is no supervising attorney, this project does not meet the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar. For more information on these requirements, please visit:
<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

Naturalization Pro Bono

One-third of San Mateo County residents are foreign born. Over 100,000 have not yet naturalized. Many need assistance to prepare their Citizenship interviews with US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). You can help! Work with the International Institute of the Bay Area in their Redwood City office to answer client questions regarding the naturalization process and role-play the citizenship interview with them. Students will have opportunities to research and consult on naturalization eligibility issues. Prior to participation, students will receive SLS Ethics Training and an overview of the naturalization process. Volunteers will participate in approximately four sessions per quarter, from 5 – 7 pm Tuesday or 6:30 – 8:30 pm Thursday. Student volunteers may have a chance to plan additional immigration-related events. **Student Leader Contacts:** *DeDe Mann* <dede.mann13@gmail.com> and *Thomas Buley* <Thomas.buley@gmail.com>

Please note: because there is no supervising attorney, this project does not meet the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar. For more information on these requirements, please visit:
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OneJustice Bus Trips

California has the country's largest low-income population - approximately 5.3 million residents living at or below the poverty line. (The number of people experiencing extreme economic hardship in California is equal to the population of the entire state of Massachusetts.) OneJustice is a non-profit organization that, among other things, partners with law schools to arrange law student trips to provide access to justice to this underserved population. This year, SLS students will be able to go on one of four Justice Bus trips to help clients in rural areas with various legal problems, such as housing, immigration and credit issues. Look for more information later in the year!

Pacific Legal Foundation Pro Bono Project

The Pacific Legal Foundation is the oldest and most successful public interest organization that fights for limited government – often through federal and state constitutional litigation. Students will research and

write amicus briefs, court briefs and memoranda for PLF on cases related to property rights, eminent domain, environmental law, labor laws, civil rights, and First Amendment issues. Time commitment is at least two projects per year (about 2-5 hours/term). **Student Leader Contact:** *Andrew Whalen* <whalen15@stanford.edu>

Parallel Justice Pro Bono Project

The Parallel Justice Pro Bono Project was founded at Stanford in Fall 2012. It is based on the idea that both criminal defendants and people victimized by crimes should be treated fairly within the criminal justice system. Last year, the Project represented three separate families who filed state victim compensation claims after their teenage sons were murdered in East Palo Alto and San Jose. The Project's members also attended meetings with state and local political figures and lawyers regarding overarching problems in the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) system as a whole. The Project's work was featured in the San Jose Mercury News and Palo Alto Weekly. If you are interested in writing advocacy letters, lobbying, and assisting the truly underserved population of crime victims in California, please consider joining us! **Student Leader Contact:** *Natasha Haney*, <nhaney15@stanford.edu>

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<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

Prolonged Immigration Detention Class Action Pro Bono

In *Rodriguez v. Robbins*, the ACLU and co-counsel Stanford Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic filed a class action challenge to the federal government's practice of subjecting immigrants in deportation proceedings to prolonged detention. In a landmark ruling, a district court in Los Angeles ordered the government to provide bond hearings—where the government must justify detention before an immigration judge—to all immigrants detained for six months or more. This pro bono project allows students to participate in ensuring that the federal government complies with the district court's order. Students will listen to the audio recordings of the bond hearings to track whether the hearings comply with due process. This pro bono requires an average of 4-5 hours per week and it allows students to work independently and on their own schedule. Attorneys from the *Rodriguez* team will provide training on basic issues in immigration detention law. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Stacy Villalobos* <stacyv@stanford.edu> and *Matthew Verdin* <mverdin@stanford.edu>.

Project ReMAde (Reentry: Making a Difference through Entrepreneurship)

Project ReMADE is an innovative Pro Bono Project founded three years ago by the Criminal Justice Center's Executive Director Debbie Mukamal and SLS grad Angela McCray '13. Its goal is to support recently incarcerated women and men through the power of entrepreneurship, which enables them to create for themselves the livelihood opportunities necessary for successful reentry. Individuals accepted into the program receive comprehensive entrepreneurship training, leadership development, and mentoring from teams comprised of a law student, a business school student and a Silicon Valley business executive. Each Project ReMADE graduate will have a completed business plan and a network of contacts at both Stanford and in the business community when they graduate in May. Past graduates have started and operated successful businesses in the Bay Area, found better employment, and increased total income through this sustainable model of self-empowerment (*see:* <http://projectremade.org/>). We are looking for approximately 10-12 individuals to teach classes or mentor entrepreneurs beginning January 2014 (a Winter/Spring commitment of approximately 25 hours), and up to four individuals to serve on our curriculum planning and

development team beginning in October 2014 (a 12- hour Fall commitment). We are seeking 1Ls as well as 2L/3L participants. **Contact:** *Debbie Mukamal*, dmukamal@law.stanford.edu. **Student Leader Contact:** *Sarah Salomon* ssalomon@stanford.edu

Please note: this project does not meet the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar. For more information on these requirements, please visit: <https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>

Serving Veterans

The Veterans Pro Bono Program aims to connect veterans of all stripes and eras with pro bono attorneys in the South Bay Area. **This is the first year Stanford Law School is offering the Veterans Pro Bono Program and your efforts will be key in developing this substantial public service! The program is open to all SLS students, not just veterans.** Students will assist in staffing a monthly legal clinic at the numerous Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities in the area including the Palo Alto VA Hospital, one of the largest in the nation. The program partners with *Swords to Plowshares*, a major Veterans Service Organization based in San Francisco. Students will work with pro bono attorneys under the supervision of *Swords to Plowshares* staff attorneys. Student contribution will be key in conducting intake, follow up, and managing cases. The majority of legal issues concern veterans' disability claims with the VA, but the program looks to explore numerous other legal issues. *Swords to Plowshares* will offer training throughout the fall and offers a number of web-based training resources. SLS Students are expected to commit to two clinics per quarter, most likely Thursdays. **Student Leader Contact:** *Vince Mazzurco* <vmazzur@stanford.edu>

Social Security Disability Pro Bono Project

The Social Security Disability Project (SSDP), the Mills Legal Clinic's in-house pro bono project, gives students the opportunity to work with local homeless clients under the supervision of Lecturer/Supervising Attorney Lisa Douglass. SLS established SSDP in 2007 to assist homeless individuals who need representation in hearings regarding their federal disability benefits. Thanks to the help of SLS students, many of these individuals now have stable housing, income and consistent medical care. But many more still need help. After completing training, SSDP volunteers conduct intake interviews with new clients and help those clients file initial benefits applications or appeals. They then follow up by requesting medical records from the client's health care providers and submitting them to the Social Security Administration. When the cases cannot be resolved without a hearing, representation will continue through SLS's Community Law Clinic, where 2L and 3L students will represent SSDP clients at hearings before Administrative Law Judges. Volunteers are expected to attend one office hour session per quarter (held mostly on Friday afternoons) and perform 2-3 hours of follow-up work. There will be an evening (dinner) training session in early October and one lunch meeting per quarter. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Micah Bluming* <mbluming@stanford.edu>; *Joe Catapano* <catapano@stanford.edu>; and *Malia McPherson* <maliam@stanford.edu>

StreetLaw

StreetLaw teachers work in teams to teach incarcerated and at-risk youth at San Mateo County juvenile hall ("Hillcrest") and other local facilities. Each week, teachers choose a lesson on substantive law (e.g., Gangs, Drugs, Immigration) or criminal procedure (e.g., Hearings and Pleas, Search and Seizure). Each comes with a detailed and ready-to-use lesson plan, though teachers are welcome and encouraged to modify these or create new ones. The goal of StreetLaw is to inform incarcerated youth of their rights and responsibilities, develop their advocacy skills, and promote critical thinking about our justice system. New teachers are often surprised by how engaged and insightful their students are – and they often find themselves learning as much as they teach. Teachers teach a one-hour lesson each week for

8-10 weeks each quarter (plus travel and prep time), and new teachers commit to teach at least two of three quarters. As a teacher, you'll receive training in the juvenile justice system as well as teaching techniques and classroom management; we welcome members with no prior teaching experience. Traditionally, StreetLaw is among Stanford's largest and most active pro bono projects. For many, it is a meaningful way to break out of the SLS bubble and see how the law affects real people in profound ways. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Sam Byker* <byker@stanford.edu> and *Nick Rosselini* rosselini.n@gmail.com

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Tax Pro Bono Project

The SLS Tax Pro Bono Project has an immediate impact on the lives of low-income people in the Palo Alto community. By offering free tax preparation to income-qualified individuals, student volunteers enable clients to receive their tax refunds without scams or hefty fees. Participants develop advising and interviewing skills – along with knowledge of some basic tax principles –while preparing the clients' tax returns. Prior experience with tax returns is not needed. This year, the project plans to hold service hours at off-campus sites, with some additional opportunities available on-campus. Volunteers must take both SLS Pro Bono Ethics Training and complete a one-day certification session conducted in association with the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. After their training, students will sign up for at least three 4-hour shifts in February, March, (excluding Spring Break), and the first two weeks of April. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Chelsea Priest* <cayres@stanford.edu>; *Brian Rogers*, <brianrogers@stanford.edu>, and *Jenna Williams* <jennaw2@stanford.edu>

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Volunteer Attorney Program

Students in the Volunteer Attorney Program conduct intake interviews at Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto (CLSEPA). Under CLSEPA attorney supervision, VAP volunteers counsel clients on a broad range of issues, including personal injury, debt consolidation, contract law, consumer protection law, small claims, family law, and more. The volunteers write follow-up memos and in some cases draft demand letters and answers to complaints. Students are required to attend a VAP-sponsored lunchtime training prior to participating. The program, which involves about two sessions per quarter (on Monday and/or Wednesday evenings) involves a total time commitment of about ten hours per quarter (including transportation time). Students learn how to effectively communicate with clients and will have an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-life scenarios. **Student Leader Contacts:** *Cassidy Rice* <cassrice@gmail.com>; *Gordon Grafft* <ggraft@stanford.edu>; *Giulia Scelzo* <gscelzo@stanford.edu>; *Andrew Ho* <andrew.taka.ho@gmail.com>; and *Christine Yoon* cjyoon@stanford.edu

Voting Rights Pro Bono Project

Though a fundamental right, the vote is not guaranteed, as problems at polls, in registration, and in redistricting prevent millions of Americans from participating as equals in the democratic process. The SLS Voting Rights Project supports nonpartisan election protection and voting rights efforts by assisting legal advocates pro bono. In past years, student volunteers have held voter registration drives, fielded election day calls on the nonpartisan 866-OUR-VOTE election protection hotline, and undertaken

research projects for advocacy groups; some past volunteers compiled three state-specific redistricting guidebooks for community organizations keen on becoming more involved in the process. Projects for 2014–15 will depend on the needs of such organizations and on opportunities to protect the vote, and we encourage students to bring their own ideas for initiatives. **Student Leader Contact:** *Kip Hustace* <khustace@stanford.edu>

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<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

The Stanford Law School Pro Bono Language Bank

The Stanford Law School Pro Bono Language Bank is not a stand-alone project, but rather an adjunct to the entire Pro Bono Program and a resource for non-profits in the Bay Area. Any students who are fluent in languages other than English may sign up to be available on an as-needed basis – if it fits within the student’s schedule – to translate and interpret for clients of agencies or pro bono groups that need such services. Services include transcribing and translating recordings in another language, translating written declarations, and interpreting over the phone or in face-to-face conversations. Only students who are fluent in a non-English language should sign up to participate in the Language Bank. In past years, various agencies have made requests for translation services in French, Spanish, Vietnamese and Cantonese, but students fluent in any non-English language are encouraged to sign up for the language bank. **Student Leader Contact:** *Cindy Garcia* <cmgarcia@stanford.edu>

Please note: because there is no supervising attorney, this project does not meet the Pro Bono requirements of the New York State Bar. For more information on these requirements, please visit:

<https://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

What should I do if I want to do Pro Bono, but don’t feel comfortable diving in during the first quarter?

That is totally fine. Send a quick email to Jory Steele at jsteele@law.stanford.edu to let her know that you plan to wait a bit before signing up for a project. Or drop by 392Q on the third floor of the Crown Building, if you would like.

Any Questions?

Contact Jory Steele at jsteele@law.stanford.edu.