The weather outside is cold and dreary ... but the Pro Bono Program has some hot opportunities for you! And it is not too soon to be thinking about sweltering in the heat of a SC summer! If you have even a scintilla of interest in a career in public interest law NOW is the time to get something on your resume to show the hiring attorneys that you are different! Volunteering (and doing an awesome job at it!) can be the difference between you and all the other applicants! Come by and talk soon.

The Pro Bono office will also manage several paying summer public interest fellowships but these will only be offered to those who have stepped up and demonstrated their commitment.

Skills and More Skills

Have you ever stepped back and been honest with yourself? Do you know what your strengths and challenges are? Are there skills that you need but do not have? If you have been honest with yourself the answer is “yes” as everyone needs to continue to hone their skills and add new ones. The Pro Bono Program performed a Skills Inventory based on all the volunteer opportunities in the Program. This Skills Inventory has been incorporated into each of the job descriptions for every volunteer project offered. The Skills Inventory is posted in the Pro Bono Office and on bulletin boards. Read and think about how you want to improve.

“I want YOU to help people with their tax returns”

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or VITA is how you can help! All volunteers must become certified by the IRS! Certification is online and not a Law School exam! Great resource material, open book encouraged- no knowledge of taxes required just a desire to help low-income and elderly clients. The Pro Bono Program has a long history with VITA- we work as a team to provide quality and accurate returns. Our motto “You benefit; we learn!” Information and training material available now but this is not something you can do at the last minute (unless you are a CPA)!

Carolina Clerks: Pro Bono Clerks for Pro Bono Lawyers

Everyone knows that networking is a great way to get a lead on a permanent job but how can you effectively network when you are a student? Easy, sign up to be a Carolina Clerk! These special law clerks are on call when a request is received from a SC lawyer working on a pro bono case. Kind of like Match.com but without dinner!

Recently Carolina Clerks have been involved in several 1983 cases and numerous post-conviction relief trial preparations. The attorneys requesting help have been most impressed by the volunteer Carolina Clerks and are spreading the word about this valuable service. Get on board by simply contacting the Pro Bono Office today. A follow up form will be sent to you. Too busy when you are asked to help? No problem you can always refuse.

Network through action!
The men in the Law School are needed to help distribute a special poster! The poster provides information and links to the SC Responsible Father’s Registry and needs to be placed in locations where men are more likely to spend time and notice it! For example, restrooms, gyms, bars, golf clubs, pool halls and such.

Lawyers from the Richland County Bar Public Service Committee volunteer to provide legal advice, but before the clients get to talk to an attorney an intake interview is conducted. This is where law students get to practice their skills, learn to listen to complicated stories, help clients focus and try to find the legal issues that need to be addressed.

You can volunteer for one month or for several but it is assured that you will find the experience interesting. A great way to start building your lawyer network!!

Sign up is online, contact the Pro Bono Program office today to gain access to the sign up site.

Calling All MEN!
The men in the Law School are needed to help distribute a special poster! The poster provides information and links to the SC Responsible Father’s Registry and needs to be placed in locations where men are more likely to spend time and notice it! For example, restrooms, gyms, bars, golf clubs, pool halls and such.

Drop by the Pro Bono Office and a packet of ready to post posters will be given to you. What county can you cover?

Calling all WOMEN, too!
We have a poster distribution project with information about abandoned babies and Safe Havens-Daniel’s Law. If you can help, come by and pick up a packet today, instructions included. We may never know if the poster helps but if one baby is saved that is good.

@USCLawProBono

¿Hable español?
The SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center has a new project that needs the help of Spanish speakers! The project involves the representation of minors facing deportation. Volunteers will assist by providing telephone (or in person) translation for the attorneys and their clients.

Your time commitment is about an hour once or twice a month and can be scheduled at a time convenient for you. Contact us today if you are willing to help with this special project.

Will you help protect abused children?
Yes, you can!

It takes a very special volunteer to step up and serve as a guardian ad litem. As a trained volunteer guardian ad litem you will become an advocate for the best interests of a child! A child who really needs protection and an advocate! The next training with the Richland County CASA Program will be held on January 19, 20, 26 & 27 from 5:30-8:30 in Room 230 of the Law School. Now is the time to get an application from the Pro Bono office and submit it in time to be interviewed. The time and place could not be more convenient for you but neglect should never be “convenient”!

Are you considering the Children’s Law Concentration? Get in touch with the issues and gain first hand experience without paying for a class!

You snooze, you lose.
Limited enrollment opportunities will be posted first on TWEN- Pro Bono News and Opportunities Add this page today!

=suitable for 1Ls