

# The Difference

News and updates from the Pro Bono Program

## New Semester- New Opportunities

With the start of the new academic year the Pro Bono Program is pleased to announce two new projects with the 5th Circuit Public Defender's Office.

The *Homeless Court Case Preparation Project* allows students to take the lead on case preparation for clients at the Columbia Homeless Court. This holistic court meets once a month and provides clients with a fresh start but before the court can rule, they must have evidence of good faith and improvement.

The *5th Circuit Public Defender Special Research Project* involves a team of law students researching and collecting the various resources on a particular topic; putting it into a usable and logical format and finally explaining the next steps a client would take. Topics range from expungement, family law, §8 housing and more. Create your own team or join one.

Detailed job descriptions located here: [https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/law/internal/department/pro\\_bono/student/index.php](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/law/internal/department/pro_bono/student/index.php)



## Summer Reflection

At any time during your summer employment did you get exposure to pro bono activities? If not, did you ask why not? If yes, what did you see or hear? Client connection? professional identity? firm culture, judicial? integrity? job satisfaction? We hope your experience was positive and you are now ready to take the first step to your own involvement. It won't be long before you are influencing new summer clerks.

For 29 years the Pro Bono Program has presented a slate of opportunities but as the old saying goes "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink". You have to take the next step! Peruse the website, read the blog, check TWEN and see what peaks your interest. Then come by and talk to us. No appointment necessary.

## Law School Pantry

The Law School is a community and as such we help each other in the good times and when a member of our group has a challenge. From time to time there are law students who need a bit of help at the end of the month. Knowing there is a discreet location where they can pick up a few food items to tide them over is a great relief. The Pantry will be located off the Commons. Donations of non-perishable food items are being gathered in the Pro Bono Pantry, Faculty Suites, Library and Student Affairs. This is a project of the Pro Bono Program and the Diversity Task Force.



## Free (Legal) Advice

- *Don't be one of those students who graduates and regrets never having experienced pro bono!*
  - *When interviewing connecting with a pro bono story is extremely effective and humanizing!*
  - *Feeling a bit low, unappreciated? Helping someone else has a known healing effect on the helper*
  - *Get control over your email! Read it, file it, respond or delete but most importantly get into the habit of handling your email. Set a goal for only 10 inbox messages at the end of each day.* ask Professor Stoughton's Crim law class about the benefits of reading email
- "You know more than you think you do, but you don't know everything"* Riley McGraw, Class of 2020

Have you looked at the [Skills Inventory and Core Competencies](#) on the Pro Bono website?

Be honest with yourself, where are your weaknesses? Easy to play to your strengths but not a bad idea to step out of your comfort zone.



386° View (blog) <http://probono.scschooloflaw.org>

WEB <http://bit.ly/2BPwOqp>

TWEN Pro Bono Opportunities

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