The Law Student Public Service (better known as “Pro Bono”) Program introduces the concept of Pro Bono Legal Service to law students. The Program allows law students to address unmet legal needs in the community while enriching their legal education. The preparation of lawyers who recognize the importance of their public service obligation is an important objective of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Successful completion of the Pro Bono service requirement is a condition for graduation and conferral of a Juris Doctor Degree. Students are required to locate and to provide law-related Pro Bono legal service, including law-related public service activities, under the supervision of an attorney or other supervisor, as approved by the Pro Bono Program Administrator.

The WSRSL definition of law-related Pro Bono legal service includes not only legal services provided by or for non-profit or public interest organizations and by private practice attorneys performing Pro Bono services, but also government service with any federal, state, or local government agency, court or legislature. Law students are however, encouraged to provide a portion of their Pro Bono service to persons of limited means, or to organizations that serve such persons. Pro Bono legal service is meant to be legal in nature, not clerical or administrative. Additionally, a component that encourages the student to discuss and evaluate his or her experience is built into the program through a required Student Evaluation.

We value our relationships with the legal community which make it possible for our students to experience Pro Bono legal service. We hope you find this useful in your practice/organization, as well. To this end, we suggest that you keep us updated with a brief description of what duties a student might be expected to perform at your office(s), including the name and phone number of the contact person at your office. Please note that neither supervisors nor students can change the following guidelines without faculty approval.

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