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The Pro Bono Collaborative Project Spotlight: Pro Bono Collaborative Law Students Helping The Homeless Navigate Legal Issues And Institutions 02-26-2018

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Project Spotlight

The Pro Bono Collaborative periodically spotlights one project or issue as a way to keep our volunteers and supporters aware of, and engaged in, PBC projects and local access to justice initiatives.



RWU Law Students (left to right) Maegan DaSilva, Jennifer Lisi, Colleen Giles, Kim Doole, Saman Butt, and Mounia El-Arar doing legal rounds as part of the RI Medical Navigators Project.

Pro Bono Collaborative law students helping the homeless navigate legal issues and institutions

In September, Roger Williams University School of Law joined forces with Brown Medical School, Rhode Island College School of Social Work, and Brown University to help homeless individuals navigate medical, legal, and social service systems.

Through the [RI Medical Navigators Project](#), six RWU Law students work collaboratively on interdisciplinary student teams. Each team is matched with one homeless “partnered participant.” The team works together to support the individual’s goals which can range from changing one’s legal name to securing affordable housing.

“My role is to listen to the homeless individual and identify any legal issues they present. I then research those issues so that I can help provide the individual with

information and resources. This project has been a really interesting way to help people in a way we don't learn in law school. It's not what you typically think of when you think of pro bono—we aren't representing anyone in court or filing briefs. It is really the human side of doing pro bono work.” –Jennifer Lisi, RWU Law student

The program is a pro bono project facilitated by RWU Law's Pro Bono Collaborative.

About the PBC

The PBC staff identifies and develops pro bono projects that appeal to transactional and business attorneys, facilitates ongoing pro bono projects and works to increase access to justice. The PBC is not a referral program, but instead matches law firms with community organizations to provide pro bono legal assistance in a specific area of law. [Read more about the PBC...](#)

If you are an attorney and would like to get involved in this or any other PBC project, we would love to hear from you.

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