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The Pro Bono Collaborative Project Spotlight: Pro Bono Collaborative License Restoration Project Makes A Fresh Start Possible March 2019

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.



Pro Bono Collaborative License Restoration Project Makes a Fresh Start Possible

A driver's license can mean the difference between employment and unemployment or housing and homelessness. For many low-income people re-entering society, restoring their driver's license is the one most important step to getting back on their feet.

Recognizing the tremendous need for license restoration legal assistance, in January 2018 the Pro Bono Collaborative launched a project aimed at giving formerly incarcerated individuals a fresh start by helping them navigate the legal processes necessary to restore their Driver's Licenses. Andy Horwitz, Esq., Director of the RWU Criminal Defense Clinic, along with staff from the DMV's Operator Control and the Chief Magistrate of the Traffic Tribunal provided the necessary training to Whelan Corrente LLP attorneys who had signed on to participate. A Roger Williams University School of Law student also partnered on the project to support the work of the pro bono attorneys and

several community organizations that provide re-entry services screen and refer project clients. Among the community organizations are [Open Doors](#), [ManUp](#), the [Non-Violence Institute](#) and the [H.O.P.E. Federal Re-entry Court](#).

The project has been an invaluable resource for people facing the formidable obstacles associated with re-entry. As Andrew Horwitz, Esq. said of his pro bono license restoration work: “this is perhaps the most rewarding pro bono work I’ve done because restoring my client’s license is always a huge step forward in getting someone back on their feet. Driving leads to employment and provides a measure of independence that is critical for those facing re-entry.”

We are currently seeking additional attorneys to join the project. Training and expert mentorship will be provided. If you’re interested please contact Eliza Vorenberg at evorenberg@rwu.edu or 401-254-4597.

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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