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12-2020

The Pro Bono Collaborative Project Spotlight: Can You Help? December 2020

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "The Pro Bono Collaborative Project Spotlight: Can You Help? December 2020" (2020). *Pro Bono Collaborative Staff Publications*. 15.
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THE
PRO BONO
COLLABORATIVESM

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.

CAN YOU HELP?



Can we count on you to partner with us and provide some discrete legal help?

The unmet legal need is greater now than ever. The Pro Bono Collaborative and many of our attorney and firm partners are hard at work providing pro bono legal service and we are looking for additional help on a few of our projects. Our License Restoration, Special Education, and Expungement projects, described below, need you! For two of the projects, the time commitment is minimal and no special expertise is required.

Please consider getting involved! Email Eliza Vorenberg (evorenberg@rwu.edu) to volunteer or with any questions.

License Restoration Project

Many low-income individuals are trying to turn their lives around but are hampered in their efforts by past license suspension coupled with related debts and fees. It's hard to get work if you can't drive. These cases are straightforward and predictable and come with the gratification of seeing your client back on their feet with a license in hand.

Type of Pro Bono Work: Legal assistance in reinstating driver's licenses. Advice and counsel on navigating the DMV and brief representation before the municipal courts and the RI Traffic Tribunal.

Background Desired: No area of expertise needed but an interest in helping people get a fresh start and a desire to make brief appearances in court is helpful.

Time Commitment: Minimal. Attorneys can decide how many referrals they would like. With the assistance of law students, each referral should not require more than 2-8 hours, including court appearances at the Traffic Tribunal in Cranston and some municipal courts.

Training: We have a recorded training by Professor Andrew Horwitz, a binder of resources, and consulting support from Professor Horwitz.

Special Education Project

Type of Pro Bono Work: We currently have two children whose families need special education advocacy.

1. The guardian grandmother of a child diagnosed with emotional and behavioral disabilities needs legal assistance in working with the East Providence School District (EPSD) to establish residential care.
2. The Spanish speaking mother of a child with language, cognitive, and behavioral disabilities who was recently diagnosed with Mild Intellectual Disability needs a bilingual attorney to explore due process/state complaint/mediation options. Negotiations with Providence Public School Department (PPSD) are ongoing.

Background Desired: Experience with special education cases.

Time Commitment: Each case will probably require 10-25 hours.

Expungement Project

Help homeless and low-income individuals secure employment and/or housing by expunging criminal records; and to empower individuals with information about the consequences of their criminal histories.

Type of Pro Bono Work: Legal assistance for homeless and low-income individuals hoping to secure housing and/or employment dependent on having their criminal records sealed or expunged.

Background Desired: No area of expertise needed but an interest in helping people

get back on their feet and a desire to make brief appearances in court.

Time Commitment: Minimal. Attorneys can decide how many intakes they would like to review and how many cases they would like to take on.

Training: Background and resources will be provided and current project attorneys will provide consultation.

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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The Pro Bono Collaborative is funded by the Roger Williams University School of Law and the generous donations of law firms and individuals.

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