

2018

# Alternative Spring Break 2018 Report

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Roger Williams University School of Law  
Alternative Spring Break  
2018 Report



RWU  
Law



# APIL

THE ASSOCIATION FOR  
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

## Introduction

Alternative Spring Break was started in 2005 by the Association for Public Interest Law (APIL) at Roger Williams University School of Law in the wake of Hurricane Katrina as a way for students to assist those recovering from devastation.

Since then, ASB has grown into a large and successful program placing students in local and national pro bono legal service projects during spring break. The program focuses on areas of the law where clients often lack adequate representation and works to secure projects that give students the most rewarding experience possible. The 2018 program was one of the largest and most successful in history with 53 participants working on 18 different projects in 8 different states and Puerto Rico. Twelve of our trips were hosted by RWU Law alumni, many of whom participated in ASB when they were students here.

We are deeply appreciative of the efforts of the entire Roger Williams University School of Law community in making this year's program a success.

## 2017-2018 ASB Student Coordinators

Mitchell Ramic

&

Jourdan Thompson

# What this year's participants said about the experience...



*"Alternative Spring Break was a great reminder to me of why I decided to come to law school. It was a great week and it ended with me feeling energized about the final weeks of the semester."*

*"I think this experience has really helped me decide what I want to do in the future. I came to law school wanting to do corporate law...seeing the impact public interest has on the community has made me change my mind...I definitely want to pursue public interest in my future."*



*"In school, there is so much theory and such, but it was nice to feel like I was immersing myself in a practical assignment, instead of simply knowing what a motion to dismiss is, the standards involved, and then formulating a proper response."*



*"This experience has really helped me in narrowing my career choice after law school. This was also probably the best experience I have had in law school thus far."*



*"I can safely say that doing Alternative Spring Break was the best decision I have made so far in law school. The experience has helped me grow as a lawyer and more importantly as a person."*



*"I learned a semester's worth in one week."*

*"I came to law school with an eye toward public interest law. This experience has only heightened that interest"*



## ASB 2018 Projects

Project Name	Location	Area of Law
Bronx Defenders	Bronx, NY	Public Defender
Brooklyn Defender Services	Brooklyn, NY	Public Defender
Catholic Social Services	Fall River, MA	Immigration
Chesapeake Legal Alliance	Annapolis, MD	Environmental
City of Central Falls Law Department	Central Falls, RI	Municipal Law
Colorado African Organization	Denver, CO	Immigration
Colorado PD - Salida	Salida, CO	Public Defender
Community Defense Project	Providence RI	Civil Rights
Community Legal Aid	Worcester, MA	Civil Legal Services
CPCS	New Bedford & Fall River, MA	Public Defender
CT Veterans Legal Center	West Haven, CT	Veterans' Rights
Delaware Federal Public Defender	Delaware, MD	Public Defender
Hurricane Relief	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Disaster Relief
Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice	Manhattan, NY	Children's Rights
RI Center for Justice	Providence, RI	Civil Legal Services
RI Human Rights Commission	Providence, RI	Civil Rights
Southern Poverty Law Center Freedom Initiative	Ocilla, GA	Immigration

Would you recommend ASB to other students?

100% YES

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## About the Association for Public Interest Law

We are the Association for Public Interest Law (APIL) at Roger Williams University School of Law. Our organization works closely with the Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education to further public interest law. We are a non-partisan, student-run organization that supports students' public interest career goals by:

- Increasing awareness of public interest career options and social justice issues by hosting public interest events and speakers;
- Planning Alternative Spring Break trips for students to work with community-based organizations to gain hands-on pro bono legal experience;
- Encouraging students to attend the Equal Justice Works conference in October and the NYU Public Interest Career Fair in February.

### Thank You!

Dean Yelnosky, The Feinstein Center Staff,  
Joanne Fernandez & Sue Principe  
**ASB would not be possible without you!**

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<http://law.rwu.edu/public-interest-law>