

Pro Bono

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY



What is the Pro Bono Program?

Pro Bono service -- providing unpaid legal services to persons of limited means or organizations that serve underrepresented groups -- is a foundational underpinning of the legal profession. Emory Law encourages all students to do pro bono work during their law school careers. While students help others, they also hone valuable legal skills. Emory Law provides multiple avenues for students to do pro bono work and recognizes significant commitment to pro bono.

What counts as pro bono?

- Unpaid, law-related work
- Supervised by a judge or attorney
- Performed during the academic year
- For persons of limited means or non-profit organizations

(See our full definition on Page 2)

How can I earn hours?

- Volunteer with a legal non-profit
- Serve in one of Emory Law's volunteer clinics
- Serve excess hours in a public interest or government externship or clinic
- Reach out to your favorite organization to volunteer, or [check out our list of opportunities here:](#)



How do the awards work?

- Record all hours in Symplicity Pro Bono Module in the Term when you serve them
- Record 25+ hours per year for the pro bono certificate
- Record 75+ hours total (JD/AJD) or 50+ hours total (LLM) to earn a medal to wear at commencement

What Counts as Pro Bono?



Pro Bono hours must be:

- unpaid, law-related work,
- performed during the school year,
- supervised by a judge or attorney, that
- assists in the provision of legal services without charge
 - o for persons of limited means, or
 - o for not-for-profit, nonpartisan (501(c)(3)) organizations or governmental organizations, or
 - o for other individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights.

“**Law-related work**” includes all activities that require **lawyering skills** -- such as legal research and writing, interviewing, counseling, or advocacy. Also included are public **legal education activities** for under-served communities, such as preparing for and delivering lectures on legal topics or writing informational brochures or web posts. **Training** to provide pro bono services can be counted as long as you go on to provide the services.

What does NOT count?

Pro Bono work does not include

- o non-legal public service;
- o partisan work;
- o work assisting a judge in chambers; or
- o work for a student organization, such as tabling, board meetings, etc.

Eligible Dates

Pro Bono hours must be recorded during the Term you work them:

Fall 2023: Aug. 14, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024

Spring 2024: Jan. 8, 2024 - May 10, 2024

Graduating students must record hours by the end of February to be recognized in the Commencement Program

Can You Give Me Examples?



Sure! This is a non-exhaustive list of pro bono activities to serve as guidance.

If you have questions about specific activities, contact
lawpublicservice@emory.edu.

Activities that count

- Volunteering with a non-profit legal organization
- Volunteering with Emory Law VCV, EILA, or IRAP
- Assisting an attorney with a pro bono case
- Legal observing
- Poll watching
*non-partisan
- Unpaid activities that require "lawyering skills" (e.g., legal research and writing).
- Legal education activities for under-served communities
- Training to provide pro bono services, as long as you go on to provide the services

Clinic and externship overage hours: Excess hours you serve in school-year, academic-credit clinics or in public interest, prosecution, criminal defense, or government externships (other than judicial externships) can be logged as Pro Bono.

Activities that do not count

- Partisan work
- Paid work
- Non-legal volunteer work
- Legal volunteer work without attorney supervision
- Work during the summer
- Work for a judge in chambers
- Work for student organizations (e.g., tabling, board meetings)

Opportunities to earn hours



These are just a few of the many places you can serve. To view an updated list of opportunities, [click here](#) or scan the QR code.

- Atlanta Legal Aid Pro Bono Projects
- AVLF Saturday Lawyer Program
- Barton Center's Know Your Rights Project
- Emory Immigrant Legal Assistance (EILA)
- Emory Law School Supreme Court Advocacy Program (ELSSCAP)*
- Emory Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans (VCV)
- International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
- Georgia Justice Project, Pardon Project
- Georgia Legal Services projects



*Not all ELSSCAP work qualifies



What About EPIC Hours?

Students who apply for an EPIC summer grant are required to report service hours on that application. Emory Pro Bono hours always count as EPIC hours, and other types of service also count.

If you have questions about what counts as an EPIC hour or about the grant application, contact epicgrants@emory.edu.

What About NY Bar Hours?

New York requires 50 pro bono hours for bar admission. Emory Pro Bono hours will generally count, and other legal service hours may also count. Find more information at the [NY Board of Law Examiner's website](#).

Questions?

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