



Ave Maria

SCHOOL OF LAW

Pro Bono Recognition Program

Beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year, Ave Maria School of Law has approved a Pro Bono Recognition Program honoring students who volunteer 50 or more hours of time to pro bono legal work. The Pro Bono Recognition Program includes:

- ❖ A spring reception honoring the commitment to pro bono work.
- ❖ A notation on the student's transcript.
- ❖ Recognition during graduation.
- ❖ A graduation cord conferred at graduation.

What is considered Pro Bono work?

- Legal or law-related work that is consistent with Catholic teaching on faith and morals as set forth by the Magisterium under the supervision of a licensed attorney and for which a student is not compensated, either with pay or with academic credit, AND
- Provides legal assistance to individuals of limited means or to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations which are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; OR
- Provides legal assistance to individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, particularly those closely linked to AMSL mission, OR
- Provides legal assistance to charitable, civic, community, governmental or educational organization in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would otherwise be inappropriate.

Why is Pro Bono work important?

In addition to helping individuals in need and underserved populations, Pro Bono works allows you to develop necessary and important legal and practical skills. It is a rewarding opportunity to make a recognizable difference in individual's lives and grow your marketable legal skills at the same time. In addition, the ABA and many state Bar Associations are placing increased importance on Pro Bono work. For instance, the New York State Bar requires 50 hours of Pro Bono work before licensing new attorneys.

When can Pro Bono work be completed?

Now! And as long as you complete 50 hours of Pro Bono work and submit all paperwork by April 15th, you will be eligible for the Pro Bono Recognition Program.

How do I sign up?

Whether you use a placement site recommend by AMSL or you find your own placement site, you must visit the Office of Professional Development (OPD) to register for the program and make arrangements to log your Pro Bono hours.

For more information, please see OPD or email OPD@avemarialaw.edu.