

Current Pro Bono Opportunities for Law Students:

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) & Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO) Opportunities:

• *If interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Anneliese Gryta at (419)-930-2380 or agryta@lawolaw.org *.*

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) are non-profit regional law firms that provide high quality legal assistance in civil matters to help eligible low-income individuals over 32 counties in Western Ohio achieve self reliance, economic opportunity and equal justice.

Unlike many areas of private practice, which do not operate within strict budget constraints, public interest law firms rely heavily on the work of volunteer law students and pro bono attorneys as they struggle to meet the legal needs of a given region. By the federal government's own estimate, roughly 80% of those eligible for free legal services are turned away at the door due to staffing and funding constraints. Accordingly, students who volunteer at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) receive quality legal work experience, which is very much relied upon by the firms. Such experience includes legal research and writing, client contact/interviewing, outreach, and court/hearing appearances for those with Intern Certificates.

We are happy to work with students to pair their interests, goals and experience levels to the right opportunities within either ABLE or LAWO. These opportunities provide both the proper foundation for those pursuing a public interest career and excellent legal work experience for those who are not.

Internship Program: ABLE and LAWO are currently scheduling law student volunteers. Students can commit to weekly hours over the course of an entire semester or for a shorter span of time. Internships are unpaid and not for credit, but provide students with valuable legal work experience and an excellent introduction to poverty law.

LAWO and ABLE Student Research Squad (LASRS): LASRS is a great way to gain legal research/writing experience with LAWO & ABLE if your schedule prevents you from obtaining a traditional externship or internship.

The way LASRS works:

- 1.) Attend the "no obligations" information session and orientation held once a semester. If you miss the session, but would like to participate, contact Anneliese Gryta at agryta@lawolaw.org.
- 2.) At the session, sign up to gain access to LAWO & ABLE's online research assignment database.
- 3.) Once you log in, you can peruse assignment information, which will include the exact nature of the assignment, estimated hours needed and the deadline.
- 4.) If you choose to accept an assignment, contact us and then simply return it by the deadline.
- 5.) Afterwards, you receive feedback from the supervising attorney, which will help you refine your research skills.

With LASRS, the power is in your hands to take as much or as little work you would like. But, please note, we will expect you to each take at least one assignment and do work that is of quality.

Benefits of Participation: Hours spent participating in this activity will count toward the Pro Bono Commendation and may qualify you for summer Public Interest funding.

Toledo Bar Association, Pro Bono Legal Services Program Opportunities:

• *Contact Pat Intagliata at the Toledo Bar Association at 419.242.9363 or pintagliata@toledobar.org to get involved with these programs.*

Pro Se Juvenile Court Clinic: This clinic runs every Thursday at the Juvenile Justice Center, 1801 Spielbusch, Toledo, OH. The clinic begins at 11:00 and ends when the last client leaves, generally around noon. Sometimes there are as few as 4 or 5 clients, and sometimes as many as 18-20. HRC Manor Care attorneys generally staff the clinic, but they are always glad to have assistance from law students.

Pro Se Family Law Clinic: This clinic runs every other Friday from 1:15 – 3:00 at the Family Court Center, 429 N. Michigan, Toledo, OH. Students will assist Pro Se litigants to complete legal forms. Students will have an opportunity to tour the court after the clinic.

Pro Se Expungement Clinic: The clinic will provide assistance to those filing for an expungement of their record. This clinic runs the first Friday of every month starting in May 2009.

Bankruptcy Clinic: Students in this clinic will get an overview of bankruptcy, working to collect all the necessary data from clients. Students will also assist the attorneys with entering information about the client's financial picture into the proper forms and preparing the petition for bankruptcy. (Special training required and offered approximately twice a year)

City of Toledo, Department of Law Opportunities:

• *Contact Paul Syring, General Counsel at paul.syring@toledo.oh.gov*

The City of Toledo, Department of Law has partnered with The University of Toledo College of Law to provide students a new opportunity to earn pro bono service hours. Students interested in earning hours toward Pro Bono Commendation award can now earn those hours while volunteering with the City of Toledo Law Department, Civil or Criminal Division. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Mr. Syring with your resume and a cover letter that states your practice area interests addressed to Paul Syring, General Counsel, Department of Law at paul.syring@toledo.oh.gov.

21st Century Government Committee:

• *Contact Commissioner Benjamin Konop at benjamin.konop@utoledo.edu*

The Lucas County Commissioners' Office is seeking volunteers to serve as a part time law clerk. The person selected for this position will aid in conducting field and legal research regarding the reorganization of county and state government in Ohio. Criteria: 1L or 2L. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Resumes and cover letters accepted via e-mail only.

University of Toledo Defense of the Wrongly Convicted (UT DWC)

• Contact Mark Abramowitz at mark.abramowitz@utoledo.edu or call him at 419-280-8855

University of Toledo Defense of the Wrongly Convicted (UT DWC) works closely with the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC). Their mandate is to prevent and rectify wrongful convictions in murder cases. The students here at UT would first be screening cases in order to write a report outlining evidence that demonstrates the factual innocence of the accused. In the report, they will also be making recommendations to AIDWYC on how to proceed. A student may be called upon by AIDWYC to answer any questions AIDWYC may have.

If AIDWYC chooses to endorse the case, the student will offer any assistance possible to either AIDWYC or the representing attorneys. All cases come from AIDWYC which receive their cases through an application process.

If you would like more information about AIDWYC check out their website at www.aidwyc.org.