Texas Access to Justice Commission Pro Bono Spring Break 2015 Placement Options

Week 1

March 9-13, 2015 Baylor, SMU, St. Mary's, University of North Texas, Texas A&M

<u>Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence</u>, *Houston*: Students will be paired with an attorney/paralegal team. They will shadow the team. They will have the opportunity to sit in on new client intake, appear alongside the attorney at any court proceedings and mediations scheduled for the week they spend at AVDA. Further students will participate in services by drafting letters, making client telephone calls where appropriate. Finally students will have first-hand observations of the aforementioned services the Legal Advocacy Program provides at AVDA.

<u>American Gateways</u>, *Austin*: bilingual in Spanish required. Students will assist in the development of pro se materials for individuals seeking asylum who are detained by the Department of Homeland Security. Materials will include amicus briefs, country conditions research, and filing instruction manuals. Students will have an opportunity to visit the Immigration Court in San Antonio, Texas and visit the detention center where they will meet some of the women who will directly benefit from their volunteer work.

<u>Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program</u>, *Dallas*: In-office assistance with staffing cases and various administrative tasks, along with interviewing applicants at legal clinics and assisting with CLE and recruiting events outside of our office.

_____ <u>Disability Rights Texas</u>, Austin <u>AND</u> Dallas

<u>Human Rights Initiative of North Texas</u> *Dallas*: bilingual student in Spanish/French/Arabic preferred. Must be passionate about human rights and are committed to and enthusiastic about the mission and goals of HRI.

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas host cities:

- * Dallas Family Unit, or Housing, Consumer, Benefits Unit, or Legal Aid Line
- * Fort Worth Housing, Consumer, Benefits Unit
- * San Angelo
- * Wichita Falls

Legal Hospice of Texas Dallas: A non-profit law firm that provides free legal counseling and representation to low income individuals with a terminal illness, end-stage chronic illness, or HIV/AIDS. Our work is mainly focused in the areas of estate planning/advanced directives, public benefits (Social Security disability and SSI), insurance, employment, housing, and credit law. Intern will work directly with the staff attorneys as they meet with clients to assess needs and provide services and be trained to draft and execute estate planning documents and will provide research support as needed.

MOSAIC Dallas: bilingual students in Spanish preferred for immigration cases.

Texas Access to Justice Commission Pro Bono Spring Break 2015 Placement Options

Week 2

March 16-20 South Texas, Thurgood Marshall, Texas Tech, University of Houston, University of Texas

<u>Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence</u>, *Houston*: Students will be paired with an attorney/paralegal team. They will shadow the team. They will have the opportunity to sit in on new client intake, appear alongside the attorney at any court proceedings and mediations scheduled for the week they spend at AVDA. Further students will participate in services by drafting letters, making client telephone calls where appropriate. Finally students will have first-hand observations of the aforementioned services the Legal Advocacy Program provides at AVDA.

<u>Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program</u>, *Dallas*: In-office assistance with staffing cases and various administrative tasks, along with interviewing applicants at legal clinics and assisting with CLE and recruiting events outside of our office.

_____ Disability Rights Texas, San Antonio

<u>Human Rights Initiative of North Texas</u> *Dallas*: bilingual student in Spanish/French/Arabic preferred. Must be passionate about human rights and are committed to and enthusiastic about the mission and goals of HRI.

<u>Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas</u> host cities:

* Amarillo	* Lubbock
* Dallas – Legal Aid Line	* San Angelo
* Fort Worth – Family Unit	* Wichita Falls

<u>Lone Star Legal Aid</u>, *Belton*: Our Military and Vets Unit there are pro se clinics in Belton that they can assist with, so if they have their bar cards, they can appear before the Judge. Event for military families coordinated with Ft. Hood.

Lone Star Legal Aid, Houston: Disaster Response Unit. LSLA hosts the National Disaster Legal Aid web site in conjunction with LSC; students will be trained for this site and will then be qualified to post items and news articles to this site. Students will also help with site maintenance by running a check on all resources on the site, validating web addresses and reviewing each item for relevance and being up to date. Students will help locate and determine new content for the site and may contribute a section or sections to the site. Students will be involved in any nationwide planning or strategy calls that take place. Additionally, students will assist with current casework of the Managing Attorney of the Disaster Relief Unit, which could be in any one of a wide variety of disaster related issues.

<u>Texas Civil Rights Project</u>, *Houston*. Students will receive training and then put on a wills clinic in Houston's Third Ward area-- where the indigent population is unfortunately high.