

2019 Pro Bono Spring Break Placement Options

(Updated as of January 27)

WEEK 1 - MARCH 11-15

[Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse](#) (AVDA). Spanish proficiency is helpful but not required; AVDA provides free legal representation and other services to all victims of domestic violence who live in Harris and Fort Bend counties—regardless of their citizenship status.

___ Stafford (Fort Bend County)

___ Houston

___ [American Gateways](#), *Austin*

Spanish language proficiency and ability to bring own laptop preferred. American Gateways (AG) is a nonprofit organization that provides immigration legal services and education to families in Central Texas. AG's numerous programs provide assistance to the Central Texas immigrant community in the form of legal orientations and representation for asylum seekers detained in the following detention centers: Hutto, Karnes, and the South Texas Detention Center. AG also represents affirmative asylum seekers; persons applying for immigration benefits on the basis of being victims of crimes and human trafficking; family reunification; and naturalization. Austin-based interns will work with the Hutto center. Supervised by attorneys, interns will work on individual cases in the various program areas, and have the opportunity to visit a Department of Homeland Security detention center, and to observe intake interviews and assist in preparing applications and petitions to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They may also be involved in removal (deportation) defense, including assisting with case research and documentation of claims for asylum and other relief from removal.

___ [The Beacon | Beacon Law](#), *Houston*

Student should provide own laptop; 3rd year bar card may be helpful but not required. The Beacon is a non-profit organization that serves the Houston homeless community through daily services, civil legal aid, counseling and mentoring, and access to housing. The Beacon's mission is to provide essential and next-step services to restore hope and end homelessness in Houston.

___ [Boat People SOS](#), *Houston*

Boat People SOS provides civil legal assistance for low-income Vietnamese Texans in the areas of domestic violence, human trafficking, family law, immigration, and wills. BPSOS also provides academic support, educational resources to thousands of disadvantaged youth, access to health services, and preventative health education for refugees and immigrants.

___ [Catholic Charities of Dallas](#), *Dallas*. Spanish proficiency preferred but not required.

Additional description to come.

**See pages 1-5 for Week 1 — March 11-15 placement options;
See pages 6-10 for Week 2 — March 18-23 placement options**

___ [Legal Hospice of Texas](#), *Dallas*. Legal Hospice of Texas provides free legal services to low-income individuals with terminal illnesses or HIV disease to residents of Dallas and the surrounding counties.

___ [Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program](#), *Dallas*. In-office assistance with drafting case summaries, observing case staffing, assisting with Continuing Legal Education programs and recruiting events, and assisting with intake and interviews at various legal clinics.

___ [Disability Rights Texas](#), *Austin*
Student should provide own laptop. Disability Rights Texas advocates for and protects the rights of individuals with disabilities. Among other issues, our Austin office handles special education cases for individual K-12 students who have disabilities, as well as statewide special education policy advocacy. The selected Student will assist with statewide special education policy advocacy projects, particularly research on state legislative issues and bills.

___ [Disability Rights Texas](#), *Dallas*
Student should provide own laptop. Disability Rights Texas advocates for and protects the rights of individuals with disabilities. The Dallas office handles special education cases for K-12 students who have disabilities, including special education cases involving foster children and other students in psychiatric facilities. In addition to special education issues, students may possibly assist with other teams such as Community Integration/Healthcare, Social Security Rep. Payee, and HEAT (Housing, Employment, Accessibility, and Transportation). Students will likely participate in projects such as drafting federal administrative complaints, research of legal issues, and interaction with clients.

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___ [Houston Volunteer Lawyers](#), *Houston*
Spanish proficiency helpful but not required. HVL welcomes interns to assist with civil legal matters. Interns may be officed in either the main office located in downtown Houston or the satellite office serving Harvey-affected clients located in southwest Houston. Students will participate in one project over the course of the week, which may include a final clinic to meet with clients. The students will work with staff attorneys on the specific project. Projects include:

- Estate Planning. Interns will draft estate planning documents and execute the documents with clients at the end of the week.
- Pro Se Assistance Information Booth, located at the Harris County Law Library. The Pro Se Assistance Information Booth provides legal information to pro se individuals who are representing themselves, primarily in family law matters such as divorce and custody modification.

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- Case Preparation: Students will assist with case preparation, which may include working with clients to obtain and/or replace documents.
- Clinics & Court Appearances. If there is a scheduled clinic or if a staff attorney has a court appearance, students will be invited to attend.

___ [Kids in Need of Defense](#) (KIND), *Houston*

Spanish proficiency preferred but not required; student should provide own laptop. Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is a national non-profit organization that helps provide pro bono legal counsel to refugee and immigrant children who come to the U.S. without a parent or legal guardian. KIND was founded by the Microsoft Corporation and actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie to help protect the rights of children in immigration proceedings. Duties include assisting KIND attorneys with case research and immigration applications to be filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Houston Immigration Court, or state civil/family court, including drafting briefs, memos, affidavits, or other materials as needed; participating in intake interviews with clients, interpreting telephone calls, and translating documents; conducting follow-up interviews and phone calls with child clients, adult caregivers, and government agencies; contacting adult caregivers, social workers, government agencies, relatives, or agencies from the child's home country to prepare case files; assisting with obtaining case status updates from pro bono attorneys; and assisting with trainings at law firms, including developing mentoring and training materials and/or presentations.

___ [Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas](#) (LANWT)

Various office locations: LANWT offers free civil legal assistance to low-income Texans who wouldn't otherwise be able to secure legal representation. LANWT is the fifth-largest legal aid program in the nation and handles a myriad of cases including consumer rights, bankruptcy, family law issues, individual rights, civil rights violations, employees' rights in the workplace, affordable housing, and public benefits.

___ *Amarillo*

___ *Brownwood*

___ *Dallas* – Community
Realization Project

___ *Dallas* – Family Unit

___ *Dallas* – Housing Unit

___ *Dallas* – Legal Aid Line

___ *Ft. Worth* – Community
Realization Project

___ *Ft. Worth* – Family Unit

___ *Ft. Worth* – Housing Unit

___ *Lubbock*

___ *McKinney*

___ *Midland*

___ *Odessa*

___ *Waxahachie*

___ *Wichita Falls*

___ [Lone Star Legal Aid](#) (LSLA), *Longview*

Various office locations: LSLA is the second largest service provider of free legal aid in the US and serves Texas 72 counties with 14 offices throughout east, southeast, and northeast Texas. LSLA handles a myriad of cases including disaster relief, advance and estate planning, consumer rights, bankruptcy, family law issues, probate matters, individual rights, civil rights violations, employees' rights in the workplace, affordable housing, and public benefits.

___ [MOSAIC](#) - Multicultural Legal Services Program, *Dallas*

Spanish proficiency preferred but not required; student should provide own laptop. Mosaic Family Services, Inc. is a nonprofit community-based social services agency in Dallas that assists low-income immigrants and refugees who are victims of crimes such as domestic violence and human trafficking. The Multicultural Legal Services Program provides representation to Mosaic clients in both immigration and family law. Students will complete the following tasks: prepare immigration petitions for filing with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; draft pleadings, briefs, and other legal documents; interview and communicate with clients regarding their cases with the agency; and conduct research related to novel issues within the agency.

___ [Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services](#) (RAICES), *Fort Worth*

Spanish proficiency required. Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) *Fort Worth* provides direct legal representation to immigrants and refugees appearing before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Department of State (DOS), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Volunteer Legal Interns help conduct thorough legal intakes, draft immigration petitions and applications, draft court pleadings and motions, conduct legal research, and gather supporting documents and evidence. Volunteer Legal Interns assist with applications for family-based immigration benefits, defensive forms of relief before the immigration court, as well as victim and crime-based forms of relief and benefits such as U and T visas, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).

___ [Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services](#) (RAICES), *San Antonio*

Spanish fluency preferred but not required; student should provide own laptop whenever possible. RAICES Community Immigration Services Program provides free and low-cost immigration legal services to individuals applying for affirmative relief with the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services, defending themselves against deportation in the San Antonio and Pearsall immigration courts, and anything else in-between. Students will provide pro bono legal services and assistance to clients residing in the San Antonio area or detained at the South Texas Detention Center in Pearsall, Texas; assist with legal research and writing; draft declarations and legal memoranda and pleadings; participate in opportunities to represent families in immigration court and/or before the Asylum Office; and assist with advocacy and litigation efforts as available.

___ [Texas Advocacy Project](#) (TAP), *Austin*

Spanish speakers preferred, but not required. TAP works to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout Texas through advice and counsel, assistance with protective orders including MOEP's, assistance in pro se matters, and direct representation. It also provides assistance with general civil issues that impact power-based abuse cases such as housing, employment, education, and immigration (where assault has occurred).

____ [Texas Legal Services Center](#) (TLSC), *Austin*

TLSC is non-profit organization that offers a myriad of legal services and advice to help low-income Texans through its programs including:

- Crime Victims
- Family Help Line
- Family Law Clinics
- Health Law Program
- Kincare Taskforce
- Legal Hotline for Texans
- South Central Pension Rights Project
- Transactional Legal Assistance
- Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project

____ [Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid](#) (TRLA), *Laredo*

Spanish proficiency preferred but not required; two different legal clinics will be held during the week students may opt to participate in; students with a 3rd year bar card will have the opportunity to prove up an expunction in Social Justice Night Court (a pro bono court) March 12; students should provide their own laptops. TRLA is the third largest legal services provider in the nation that provides free legal services to low-income residents in sixty-eight counties of Southwest Texas. TRLA serves approximately 25,000 clients each year; a myriad of cases are handled including colonias and real estate, civil rights, environmental justice, labor and employment, public benefits, disaster assistance, federally subsidized housing, foreclosure, bankruptcy, wills and estates, border issues, human trafficking, and international child abduction.

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____ [Travis County Law Library](#), *Austin*

The courts are for everyone. At Travis County Law Library & Self-Help Center, we help self-represented litigants access their courts in meaningful and productive ways.

- We help family law litigants get enforceable divorce and child support orders in uncontested cases.
- We help defendants charged with driving without a valid license to reinstate their driver's license or get an occupational driver's license.
- We help expunction applicants learn if they qualify to have an arrest record expunged, and if so, how to do so.

The staff of the Law Library & Self-Help Center care deeply about our county community and our court system. We welcome you to volunteer with us as we work to increase access to justice.

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WEEK 2 - MARCH 18-23

[American Gateways](#), *Austin*

Spanish language proficiency and ability to bring own laptop preferred. American Gateways is a nonprofit organization that provides immigration legal services and education to families in Central Texas. American Gateway's numerous programs provide assistance to the Central Texas immigrant community in the form of legal orientations and representation for asylum seekers detained in the following detention centers: Hutto, Karnes, and the South Texas Detention Center. American Gateways also represents affirmative asylum seekers; persons applying for immigration benefits on the basis of being victims of crimes and human trafficking; family reunification; and naturalization. Austin-based interns will work with the Hutto center. Supervised by attorneys, interns will work on individual cases in the various program areas, and have the opportunity to visit a Department of Homeland Security detention center, and to observe intake interviews and assist in preparing applications and petitions to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They may also be involved in removal (deportation) defense, including assisting with case research and documentation of claims for asylum and other relief from removal.

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[Catholic Charities](#), *Archdiocese of San Antonio*.

Catholic Charities provides help and support to individuals and families in need through its services and programs; we provide over 40 bilingual and culturally sensitive programs in 19 counties throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio; the week-long opportunity will involve working with the Caritas and Guardianship programs.

[Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program](#), *Dallas*

In-office assistance with drafting case summaries, observing case staffing, assisting with Continuing Legal Education programs and recruiting events, and assisting with intake and interviews at various legal clinics.

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____ [Human Rights Initiative of North Texas](#), *Dallas*

Spanish, French, or Arabic proficiency would be ideal (not required); ability to bring own laptop also ideal (not required). Must be passionate about human rights and committed to and enthusiastic about the mission and goals of HRI. Responsibilities include assisting the legal department with legal and country conditions research, drafting memos for the legal department and analyzing research findings, working with clients in relations to their legal cases, assisting with client intakes, and assisting with the preparation of in-house cases.

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<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Abilene</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ft. Worth – Family Unit</i>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Houston – Pro Bono Office</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Paris</i>

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____ [TMS-Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project](#), *Houston*

The project was created to provide legal services to low income Texans who are facing potential land loss. Its focus is to help economically disadvantaged communities retain and grow wealth through prevention of land loss as a result of failure to plan estates, foreclosures, clouds on title to property/land, and general inheritance issues. Students will have an opportunity to work on cases involving:

- Partition suits
- Reviewing real estate documents
- Removing Clouds on title
- Foreclosures Prevention (mortgage, property owners association, & tax)
- Adverse Possession
- Probate
- Nonprofit Formation
- Bankruptcy

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