



Public Interest Initiative

Recognition: Your commitment to public interest work is valued. It provides an opportunity to gain hands-on legal experience, while serving the public in accordance with your professional responsibility. The American Bar Association encourages every lawyer to perform *pro bono* legal services annually. See ABA Model Rule 6.1.

The Public Interest Initiative (PII) wants to recognize your *pro bono* service based upon the amount of time that you have contributed to public interest work while in law school. If you have volunteered sixty (60) hours in a public interest practice area while *you* are in law school, then you may be recognized at your commencement ceremony for *pro bono* distinction.

In order to be eligible for this recognition, your work must be *pro bono*, that is, you must receive neither money nor academic credit for the hours that you volunteer at “charitable, religious, civic community, governmental or educational organizations in matters which are designed to primarily address the needs of persons of limited means.”

Volunteer hours at a private law firm or court are not eligible unless you are specifically working on a project that benefits people of limited means or an underserved population or one that helps improve the law, the legal system or the legal profession. Please contact Dean Teplitz if you are unsure whether your hours will count towards satisfying the Public Interest Initiative. You must submit this form no later than April 15th of your graduating year (although earlier is preferred) in order to be recognized at commencement. If you cannot meet this deadline because you are still in the process of completing your hours, please contact Dean Teplitz.

To be eligible for *pro bono* recognition you must:

- Complete a minimum of 60 unpaid, non-credit bearing *pro bono* hours serving persons of limited means or an underserved population or working on a project that is helping to improve the law, the legal system or the legal profession;
- Complete the time log;
- Complete the Lessons Learned question at the end of this document; and
- Submit the completed packet to Dean Teplitz by April 15th of your graduating year.

Student Verification of Hours

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have completed a total of _____ hours of *pro bono* services in accordance with ABA Model Rule 6.1(a)(2).

Print Name

Student Signature

Date

Lessons Learned

Please briefly describe what you learned from your *pro bono* experience and how you will use this experience in your future legal career.