

2000

Pro Bono Students Florida

Nova Southeastern University

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Pro Bono Students Florida

**A member of the Pro Bono
Students America network**

**Made possible by a grant from
the Florida Bar Foundation to
the Shepard Broad Law Center
of Nova Southeastern University**

WHAT IS PRO BONO STUDENTS AMERICA?

Pro Bono Students America (P•B•S•A) is a growing national network of law school pro bono programs administered by the Public Interest Law Center at New York University School of Law. The mission is to encourage students to do volunteer work while in law school, to instill a pro bono ethic, to assist communities and organizations, and to provide a tool to assist students in making career choices. P•B•S•A began as Pro Bono Students New York, founded by NYU in 1991, with a grant from the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of New York.

WHAT IS PRO BONO STUDENTS FLORIDA?

P•B•S FL places law students from all six Florida law schools in volunteer public interest positions throughout the state. Shepard Broad Law Center of Nova Southeastern University serves as the administrative center for the state and is responsible for recruiting and following up with member organizations and providing back-up support to the P•B•S FL coordinators located at participating law schools. Placements are made during the school year and the summer. P•B•S FL is supported by the Florida Bar Foundation.

WHAT TYPES OF PLACEMENTS ARE CONSIDERED WORK IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

P•B•S FL defines public service as work in public interest organizations, the courts, and government agencies, with law school professors on non-scholastic legal issues, and at private firms with pro bono dockets.

WHAT KIND OF LEGAL WORK IS AVAILABLE?

Students participate in a wide variety of legal work, including research and writing, case preparation, client intake, and client representation in administrative hearings. P•B•S FL placements are available in the areas of civil rights, criminal, health, environmental, family, nonprofit, housing, alternative dispute resolution, and numerous other areas of the law. All legal work is done under the supervision of an attorney.

HOW DO STUDENTS FIND A PLACEMENT?

Interested students should contact the P•B•S FL coordinator at their law school, who is usually located in the placement office or public interest center. The P•B•S FL coordinator meets with the student and generates a list of possible placements based on the student's areas of interest. In addition, the student is provided information that explains the opportunities available. The coordinator then contacts the organization of the student's choice and arranges for the student to meet with the designated supervisor at the organization.

WHAT COMMITMENT DOES A STUDENT MAKE BY ACCEPTING A P•B•S FL PLACEMENT?

P•B•S FL encourages students to commit a minimum of fifty hours to a placement. Some organizations may request a greater time commitment, or a special project may require less time. The actual time commitment results

from an agreement between the organization and the student. Upon completion of their P•B•S FL placement, students must fill out an evaluation form.

HOW DO ORGANIZATIONS BECOME MEMBERS OF THE P•B•S FL NETWORK?

Membership in the P•B•S FL program is available at no cost to organizations. Organizations simply complete the P•B•S FL membership form and return it to the P•B•S FL director along with detailed information about the organization and the work that would be done by students.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE P•B•S FL NETWORK?

Organizations must agree to provide attorney supervision for students performing legal work and must provide students with substantive projects. Twice a year, organizations are required to complete and return a short form to the P•B•S FL director to assist in maintaining an up-to-date database. The P•B•S FL director is always available to assist organizations in defining projects for students.

WHAT DO STUDENTS GAIN FROM P•B•S FL?

Students acquire legal experience while working on issues they care about. Their work aids vastly underserved communities. Students work on impact litigation at civil rights organizations, gain exposure to criminal litigation at state attorney

and public defender offices, work on complex pro bono cases at private law firms, and work in governmental offices on such issues as housing, finance, tax, labor, and employment law. As the P•B•S•A network grows, students will have access to volunteer opportunities in many states.

WHAT DO ORGANIZATIONS GAIN FROM P•B•S FL?

Member organizations benefit from the volunteer services of highly qualified and committed law students. They can increase their case load, take on new cases, or attack old ones with renewed vigor. By matching student interests with organization needs and educating students about organizations prior to placements, P•B•S FL will be able to make many successful placements each year. In addition, the P•B•S•A national network allows organizations to receive the assistance of students who attend law schools across the country who may be in Florida during summers or vacations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF P•B•S FL, OR FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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The logo consists of the letters P, B, S, and A in a bold, serif font, with small black dots between each letter. The entire logo is centered within a dark grey rectangular background.

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