EMORY LAW

Center for Public Service

Pro Bono

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY



What is the Pro Bono Program?

Pro Bono service -- providing unpaid legal services to persons of limited means or organizations that serve underrepresented groups -- is a foundational underpinning of the legal profession. Emory Law encourages all students to do pro bono work during their law school careers. While students help others, they also hone valuable legal skills. Emory Law provides multiple avenues for students to do pro bono work and recognizes significant commitment to pro bono.

How can I volunteer?

Emory Law uses Paladin to post pro bono opportunities and track your hours. You'll receive login information by email. Log in here: **www.joinpaladin.com**

Simply browse the opportunities on the site and click to volunteer.

View a tutorial on using Paladin to find opportunities and track your hours here:

Can I volunteer outside Paladin?

Yes! Sstudents are encouraged to reach out to legal services organizations on your own to volunteer. Just be sure the work meets the standards on page 2, and be sure to log your hours.

How do the awards work?

- Record all hours **in the academic year when you serve them.**
- Record 25+ hours per year for the pro bono certificate
- Record 75+ hours total (JD/AJD) or 50+ hours total (LLM) **by March 1 of your graduation year** to earn a medal to wear at commencement

What Counts as Pro Bono?



Pro Bono hours must be:

- unpaid, law-related work,
- performed during the academic year,
- supervised by a judge or attorney, that
- assists in the provision of legal services without charge
    - o for persons of limited means, or
    - o for not-for-profit, nonpartisan (501(c)(3)) organizations or governmental organizations, or
    - o for other individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights.

"Law-related work" includes all activities that require **lawyering skills** -- such as legal research and writing, interviewing, counseling, or advocacy. Also included are public **legal education activities** for under-served communities, such as preparing for and delivering lectures on legal topics or writing informational brochures or web posts. **Training** to provide pro bono services can be counted as long as you go on to provide the services.

2026-27 Eligible Dates

August 17, 2026- May 10, 2027

Pro Bono Hours must be recorded in the year you work them.

Graduating students must record hours by March 1, 2027 to be recognized in the Commencement Program.

Where Can I Volunteer?



Volunteer with these Emory Law programs

- Emory Immigrant Legal Assistance (EILA)
- International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) - Emory Law chapter
- Jailhouse Lawyers Initiave - Emory Law hub
- Barton Center's Know Your Rights project
- Emory Law School Supreme Court Advocacy Program (ELSSCAP)
  - Work on an ELSSCAP brief qualifies if the client or issue involved meets our Pro Bono definition. Students should include a description of the client/project when logging ELSSCAP hours as pro bono.

Volunteer in person or remotely on Paladin

Legal services organizations throughout Georgia and nationwide post student opportunities on **Paladin**. Log in at **www.joinpaladin.com**, or scan this QR code, to browse current opportunities.

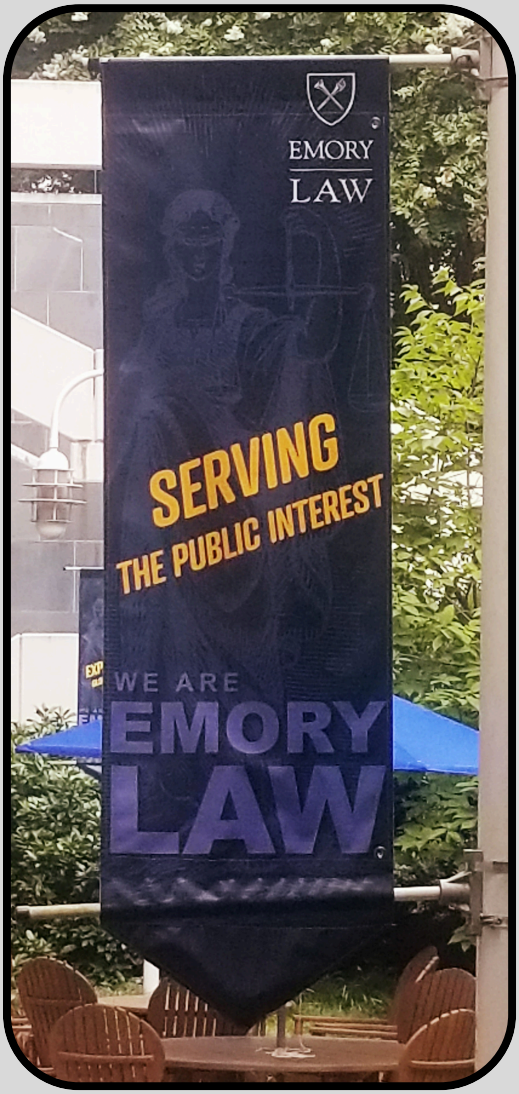
Serve extra clinic or externship hours

Excess hours you serve in school-year, academic-credit clinics or in public interest, prosecution, criminal defense, or government externships (other than judicial externships) can be logged as Pro Bono.

Connect with an attorney or legal services agency

Reach out to your favorite legal services organization to volunteer your time, or offer to help a law firm attorney with a pro bono matter.

If you have questions about whether a specific activity counts as pro bono, contact lawpublicservice@emory.edu.



What Does NOT Count?

These activities cannot be logged as Pro Bono:

- Partisan work
- Paid work
- Non-legal volunteering
- Work without attorney supervision
- Work during the summer
- Work for a judge in chambers
- Work for student organizations (tabling, board meetings, etc.)

What About NY Bar Hours?

New York requires 50 pro bono hours for bar admission. Emory Pro Bono hours will generally count, and other legal service hours may also count. Reach out to lawpublicservice@emory.edu to learn more, or find more information at the NY Board of Law Examiner's website: https://www.nycourts.gov/pro-bono-service/50-hour-pro-bono-bar-admission-requirements

Questions?

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