



EMORY
LAW

Pro Bono

Center for
Public Service

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.

What counts as pro bono?

- Unpaid, law-related work
- Supervised by a judge or attorney
- Performed during the academic year
- For persons of limited means or non-profit organizations

(See our full definition on Page 2)

How can I earn hours?

- Volunteer with a legal non-profit
- Serve in one of Emory Law's volunteer clinics
- Serve excess hours in a public interest or government externship or clinic
- Reach out to your favorite organization to volunteer, or [check out our list of opportunities here](#):



How do the awards work?

- Record all hours **in the Term when you serve them.** (As of August 2025, Emory Law is using Symplicity to log hours).
- Record 25+ hours per year for the pro bono certificate
- Record 75+ hours total (JD/AJD) or 50+ hours total (LLM) 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 school 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.

Eligible Dates

Pro Bono hours must be recorded during the Term you work them:

Fall 2025: Aug. 18, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026

Spring 2026: Jan. 5, 2026 - May 9, 2026

Graduating students must record hours by March 1, 2026
to be recognized in the Commencement Program

Where Can I Volunteer?



This is a non-exhaustive list of pro bono opportunities. If you have questions about whether a specific activity counts as pro bono, contact lawpublicservice@emory.edu.

Volunteer with these Emory Law programs

- Emory Immigrant Legal Assistance (EILA)
- International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
- 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 the community

Many community legal services agencies offer pro bono opportunities. Examples include:

- Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers' Foundation
- Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network (GAIN)
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Justice Project
- Catholic Charities, Inc.
- Truancy Intervention Project



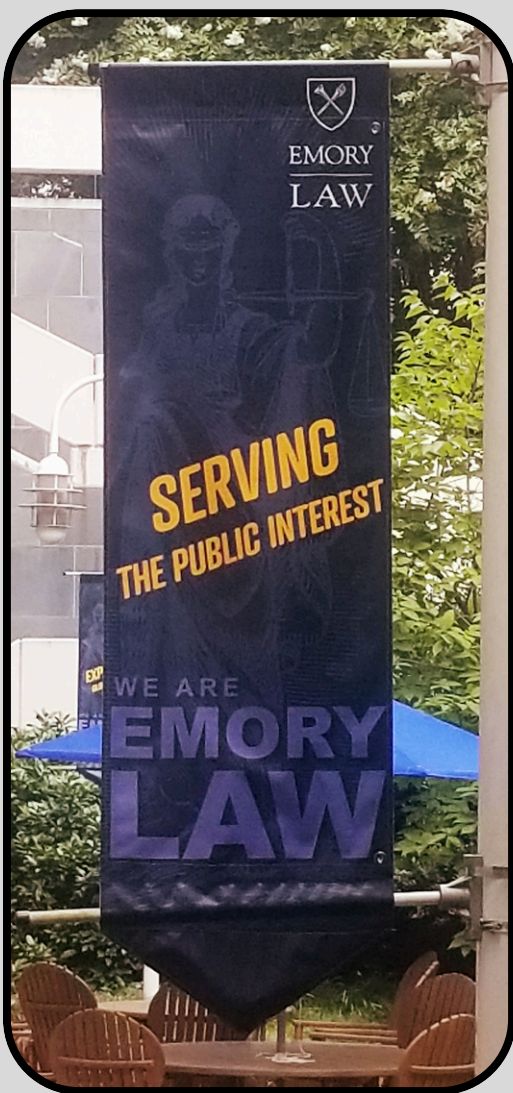
To view an updated list of volunteer opportunities and learn how to get involved, [click here](#) or scan the QR Code.

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.



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](#).

Questions?

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