

AU Washington College of Law
Office of Career & Professional Development
Matthew Pascocello Fall, 2016

NY BAR PRO BONO REQUIREMENT

The project that you select for the NY Bar pro bono requirement must be the type of work that only a law student or lawyer could complete, *e.g.*, work as a student attorney in clinic, interviewing witnesses, researching and preparing legal memos and pleadings, and other types of direct service legal work. This requirement is quite different than that which constitutes "pro bono" for AUWCL's Pro Bono Honors Program. If you have questions about these parameters, you should email ProBonoRule@nycourts.gov. You can also access FAQs about the rule here: <http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf>.

If you participated in one of the ten AUWCL clinics during your time at the law school, you probably already have enough hours to count toward the requirement and would just need your clinic professor to complete the Form Affidavit of Compliance (http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/AppForAdmission_Pro-BonoReq_Fillable.pdf).

Unlike with the AUWCL Pro Bono Pledge, work completed while in clinic would count toward the NY Bar pro bono requirement. If you did not participate in a clinic, there are several options for how you might fulfill the requirement. First, I would look at the list of public interest organizations with whom AUWCL has worked in the past, and see if any of them need assistance. You can access the list here:

<https://www.wcl.american.edu/publicinterest/documents/dcprobonoorgs.pdf>. Depending on your availability, you might be able to fulfill the requirement in a week or so, if you were able to volunteer full-time. Alternatively, if you may want to contact one of the organizations where we have alumni, and you could make the request directly, as some of them have offered projects for the NY Bar in the past. These include:

- Neighborhood Legal Services Project
- Whitman Walker (Name and Gender Change or Naturalization Clinic)
- Open City Advocates
- Public Justice Center
- Homeless Persons Representation Project
- CAIR Coalition
- The DC Courts Family Self-Help Center
- Hogar Immigration Services (They do naturalization clinics on the weekends)

Finally, you may wish to contact one of the AUWCL centers like the War Crimes Research Office or the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project to see if they need immediate assistance that fits within the parameters for the pro bono requirement.