Dear Friends,

Thank you. Your collective contributions over the past year were key to our enormous growth and success.

Dean Raymond and the faculty gave us an excellent start in unanimously supporting the creation of the Pro Bono Society, which recognizes students who provide outstanding levels of pro bono service. The student response was impressive: In the past year, UW law students performed 2,300 hours of service, and 27 students earned the honor of graduating with pro bono distinction.

Clearly, this never would have been possible if our attorney partners hadn’t first committed to supervising the students eager to work with them. We were pleased to add a dozen new partners this year. While the students helped expand the attorneys’ capacity to provide legal services to those in need, the attorneys provided opportunities for our students to gain practical work experiences and learn how to incorporate pro bono service into their busy lives.

Of course, it never hurts to receive support and encouragement from the judiciary, and we were honored to have a number of court officials participate in our events throughout the year.

Excitement is building for the year ahead. Our Annual Fall Reception is on September 13, and the Veterans Law Center launches in November. We invite you to join us in providing more pro bono services in the coming year.

With gratitude,
Ann Zimmerman, J.D.
Director, UW Law School Pro Bono Program
About the Pro Bono Program

The UW Law School Pro Bono Program provides students with opportunities to deliver law-related services to underrepresented community members. Students are assisted and supported by Pro Bono Program staff with placements in private and nonprofit law firms, legal aid groups, in-house programs and other organizations, where their pro bono work is performed under supervision. In keeping with the law school’s law-in-action tradition, students develop legal and professional skills, gain practical, hands-on experience in real work environments, and explore their ethical responsibility to provide pro bono service.

Program History
The Pro Bono Program (formerly the Pro Bono Partnership Project) began as a pilot project in 2007. Its basic structure involved pairing law students with local Dane County attorneys to provide legal assistance in civil matters to persons otherwise unable to secure legal representation. Initially, the project utilized a volunteer law student to assist Clinical Professors Ben Kempinen and Marsha Mansfield in administering the program. In the spring of 2011, the Project hired its first Director, Ann Zimmerman, and was renamed the UW Law School Pro Bono Program.

The Pro Bono Program & AmeriCorps VISTA
In 2009, the Pro Bono Program received a three-year renewable AmeriCorps VISTA grant from Wisconsin Campus Compact, partnering with Legal Action of Wisconsin to increase the pro bono activities of UW law students in service to underrepresented individuals. The VISTA program focuses on building capacity in nonprofit organizations, schools, and communities toward the end goal of poverty alleviation. The VISTA member’s role at the Pro Bono Program is not only to ensure the ongoing operation of the program, but to establish long-term project sustainability beyond the three-year grant cycle.

The Pro Bono Program formed a Student Advisory Committee to further collaborate with law student organizations that coordinate student pro bono activities.

Consider donating!
Gifts made to the Pro Bono Program support UW law students as well as the community organizations and individuals served through student efforts. Donate to the Pro Bono Program via check or online payment through the Economic Justice Institute: law.wisc.edu/fjr/eji/giving.html.

Dean Margaret Raymond and the law school faculty approved the creation of the Pro Bono Society, an institutional honor for students participating in pro bono service during their tenure at UW Law School.

Over 100 law students, faculty members, and community members attended the Pro Bono Program’s Annual Fall Reception in September. Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and Dean Margaret Raymond spoke to students about the importance of pro bono service.

The Pro Bono Program received two State Bar of Wisconsin Pro Bono Initiative Grants totaling $10,000 to fund the UW Law School Pro Bono Society and the Veterans Law Center.

Twenty-seven students were inducted into the Pro Bono Society, receiving awards of pro bono distinction and an honor cord worn at graduation.

“The Pro Bono Program helps our law students become better lawyers and helps the community by assisting those with unmet legal needs. I’m delighted that so many of our students are enthusiastic about pro bono service and plan to make it a part of their legal careers.”

— Dean Margaret Raymond
Partner Organizations

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG)
Student volunteers work closely with CWAG attorneys on a variety of legal research and community outreach projects, particularly through the Nursing Home Quality Improvement Project and the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center.

Community Immigration Law Center (CILC)
Law students conduct intake interviews on behalf of CILC attorneys with walk-in immigrant clients seeking legal information. Coordinated by the Latino Law Student Association.

Dane County Court Appointed Special Advocates
Student advocates meet with families and children in Dane County and submit reports to advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who are under the legal protection of the Dane County Court System.

Dane County Foreclosure Mediation Program
Student volunteers assist individuals in financial distress with much-needed legal services in preparation for their foreclosure mediations. Students explain the mediation process and review necessary paperwork with homeowners.

Disability Rights Wisconsin
As part of the Medicare Part D Hotline Project, law students provide telephone assistance to low-income individuals choosing a prescription drug plan. Students also advocate on behalf of callers to resolve Medicare Part D problems.

Dodge County Detention Facility Visits
In collaboration with the National Immigrant Justice Center, students conduct one-on-one interviews with detained immigrants at the Dodge County Detention Facility, screening them for possible relief from deportation. Coordinated by the Latino Law Student Association.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
Working one-on-one with a supervising attorney, student volunteers provide assistance on cases addressing a range of legal issues for victims of domestic violence.

Easter Seals Wisconsin
Under the supervision of a managing attorney, students provide legal counseling in the preparation of financial and health care powers of attorney to aging and disabled individuals who are not able to afford legal help in this area.

Foley & Lardner Internship
During fall semester, three students participated in a pro bono internship assisting Foley & Lardner attorneys preparing for a death penalty case on behalf of an Arizona woman challenging her conviction.

Student Hurricane Network
Students travel to a location that has recently suffered from a major natural disaster, offering volunteer assistance to first responders at one-day clinics throughout the state.

Student volunteers are bright, receptive to suggestion, responsive to direction, and think on their feet as they blend their academic training and clinical skills into their interaction with clients.”

—Wes Taylor, Foley & Lardner, LLP

Unemployment Appeals Clinic
In collaboration with local volunteer attorneys, law students help community members prepare for an unemployment insurance hearing, with the option of appearing as an advocate on behalf of community members at administrative hearings.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
Law students assist low-income individuals in preparing their tax returns, gaining exposure to a variety of tax issues as well as the financial difficulties faced by low-income populations. Coordinated by the Business and Tax Law Association.

Voter Registration Project
Students are trained to serve as Special Registration Deputies for the City of Madison, registering voters in advance of election periods at locations throughout the city.

Wills for Heroes
Law students assist attorneys with preparing wills and other estate-planning documents free of charge for eligible first responders at one-day clinics throughout the state.

If you are interested in supervising UW law student volunteers working on pro bono matters or if you have an idea for a pro bono project, visit law.wisc.edu/probono/projects.html to learn more!
The Student Experience

100% of students would recommend the Pro Bono Program to other students.
97% of students report that their pro bono experience has increased their substantive knowledge of an area of law.
97% of students report that their pro bono experience has increased their understanding of the problems faced by underrepresented populations.
91% of students report that their pro bono experience has made it more likely that they will perform pro bono work in the future.

“I enjoyed my pro bono experience. It has been a fantastic way to practice and use the substantive law and legal skills I have learned in school in real life situations. I enjoy having the opportunity to give back to the community and use my legal skills to make a difference.”
—Jessica von Reyn, Class of 2013

Volunteers of the Semester

Fall 2011: Jessica Moeller (2L)
Jessica contributed over 50 hours of pro bono service toward a pro bono internship at Foley & Lardner, LLP and assisted first responders throughout Wisconsin with wills preparation through the Wills for Heroes program.

Spring 2012: Patrick O’Neill (1L)
Patrick contributed over 120 hours of pro bono service during a pro bono internship at ABC for Health, a public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring health care access for children and families, particularly those with special needs or who are at risk.

Pro Bono Society Members

Inducted December 2011 and May 2012

Graduates reported pro bono service hours from all three years of law school, from September 2009 to May 2012.

Roya Bahrami
Christina Balistreti
Annaliene Beaman
Andrew Conner
Taylor Cope
Adria Croyce
Erik Didrikson
Timothy Dorr
Nneka Colleen Egbujobi
Brendan Fischer
Paul Fredrickson
Elia Garcia
Benjamin Jones
Trevor Jones
Leslie Kuhn Thayer
Edward Minser
Michael Queensland
Joseph Ricker
Joleen Rivera
Lindsay Rosenquist Burns

Volunteers of the Semester

2011-2012 Student Volunteers
Total Reported Hours: 2,300

*Inducted into the Pro Bono Society in the 2011-2012 Academic Year.
**Has met the requirement for induction into the Pro Bono Society in a future year.

Bennet Acker
Jeri Adams
Lauren Adams
Jair Alvarez
Julie Anderson**
Oguchiaku Anokwute
Roya Bahrami*
Christina Balistreti*
Alexis Blanco
Cary Bloodworth
Chelsea Brenegan
Melissa Burchell**
Abigail Carney
Andrew Christopherson
Erin Clark
Andrew Conner*
Taylor Cope*
Jennifer Cunha**
Rachel Cychoos*
Aaron Dumas
Nneka Colleen Egbujobi*
Lauren Fangmann
Kathryn Finley**
Paul Fredrickson*
Brendan Fischer*
Elizabeth Fischer**
Elia Garcia*
Grant Gardner**
Kenny Ho
Elizabeth Hoffman**
Mary Hovancik
Douglas Huemlik*
Lisa Jacobson
Benjamin Jones*
Grant Koeber
Iga Fikayo Keme
Natalie Kirk
Kevin Layde
JungGun Lee
Jennifer Limbach
Mary Luu
David Maes
Sarra Marie
Thomas McDonell**
Cony Mehlos
Jennifer Miller
Edward Minser*
Jessica Moeller**
Lia Ocasio
Patrick O’Neill**
Ian Prust*
Jason Reed
Erik Splett*
Laura Steigerwald
Luis Valdez
Jessica Von Reyn**
Alyssa Wassink**
Henry Weiner
Nicole Wells*
Jackie Wilcox
David Williams
Nicole Williams

“Above all else, the Pro Bono Program allows law students to serve individuals in our community that need help the most. This program instills the value of pro bono service, something that all of us can take with us into the legal profession following graduation.”
—Kathryn Finley, Class of 2013