THE GOALS OF THE PRO BONO PROGRAM:

1. To engage law students in pro bono services in the community;
2. To emphasize a lawyer’s role in providing access to justice to all citizens; and
3. To provide an opportunity for career development and skills development.

The Pro Bono Program is a manifestation of the commitment of the FIU Law and the faculty to pro bono service. It is also a mechanism for ensuring that our students learn about a lawyer’s role in providing access to justice by assisting in providing legal services to the poor, disadvantaged, and other individuals or groups unable to secure legal assistance to address critical problems. This commitment can be demonstrated not only by providing legal services, but also through legal educational programs for poor, disadvantaged, and other individuals or groups who can benefit from the services provided.

Finally, we strive to meet the goals of the Pro Bono Program by actively engaging all members of the faculty in leading and participating in many of the programs sponsored on campus and in the community. Many students have used the opportunity for pro bono service as a chance to explore options for employment.

THE STEPS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PRO BONO SERVICE REQUIREMENT:

1. Upon finding a placement or participating in a sponsored program, submit a Confirmation and Mutual Understanding Agreement. If your placement is not on the Approved Placement List, then you MUST submit a Proposal for Pro Bono Service form for approval by the Director or Coordinator.
2. Throughout your placement, keep track of your hours using the Student Time Log.
3. The final document you are required to submit upon completion of your placement is the Evaluation of Pro Bono Placement.
4. Your hours will not be processed and approved until ALL forms are submitted. Submit all forms upon completion to Zoraya Ledesma @ ledesmaz@fiu.edu or RDB 1010 (the Clinic).

* All forms/documents available at the Pro Bono Program website via http://law.fiu.edu *

If you continue your pro bono service BEYOND the 30 hour requirement, please continue to submit your forms for hours to be processed. We value your desire to give back and engage in the community and recognize those students who have engaged in exceptional pro bono service. Those who complete 130 hours and above will be honored at a Recognition & Award Reception.

2014-2015
PRO BONO PROGRAM

“Pro Bono is an example of the best that our legal profession can do to make equal justice under the law a reality”

- Justice Sandra Day O’Connor

Professor Phyllis Williams
Kotey Director of Externships
and
Pro Bono Program
**What is Pro Bono Service?**

Pro bono service is uncompensated legal service or legal education in conjunction with a lawyer, law firm, or legal organization to individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights or work on behalf of individuals, groups or causes that may otherwise lack access to the legal system. Pro bono service is also participation in legal or educational activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession with charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization’s economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate.

**How Many Hours of Pro Bono Service Are Required to Graduate?**

All FIU Law students must complete at least 30 hours of qualifying pro bono legal service. This requirement must be completed no later than the registration period of your penultimate semester in order to be able to register without having a hold placed on your account by the Registrar.

**What Happens If I Fail to Complete the Required Number of Hours?**

Your registration will be blocked and you will be prevented from registering until you have completed your pro bono service.

**How Do I Find Pro Bono Opportunities?**

There are three methods for completing your pro bono service:

1. You can visit the Pro Bono Program website and contact any of the agencies that appear on the **Approved Placement List**;
2. You can participate in any of the programs sponsored or advertised as approved by the FIU Law Pro Bono Program; and/or
3. You can find a placement or activity that falls within the definition of pro bono service and submit a **Proposal for Pro Bono Service**.

**What Kinds of Placements are on the Approved Placement List?**

Some of the offices approved by the Pro Bono Program include: Offices of Public Defenders, Offices of State Attorneys, 11th Circuit Self-Help Project, Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc., Catholic Legal Services, Human Services Coalition, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC), Guardian Ad Litem.

**What Are Some of the Programs Sponsored by the Pro Bono Program?**

The Office of Externships and Pro Bono Program has sponsored events such as a Spring Break Mock Trial Competition for High School Students, a Rights Restorations Clinic and a Math and Civics Summer Institute.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Professor Kotey, Director of Externships and Pro Bono Program at koteyp@fiu.edu or 305.348.5950 or Jessica Michelle Ciminero, Pro Bono Coordinator at jciminer@fiu.edu or 305.348.3157.

Also, please find a FAQs & Answers PDF on the Pro Bono Program website via http://law.fiu.edu where many of your questions may be answered.

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**Florida International University**

**College of Law**

**Office of Externships and Pro Bono Program**

**Phyllis Williams Kotey, Director**

**RDB 1030**

**Phone: 305.348.5950**

**Fax: 305.348.7293**