

PRO BONO RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Mission Statement:

The Pro Bono Recognition Program, founded in 1990 by a group of law students, improves access to and understanding of the legal system among members of underrepresented groups, helps law students develop competence, conscience and compassion, and encourages students to become life-long volunteers, recognizing pro bono work as an integral part of a balanced lifestyle. The Pro Bono Recognition Program directs interested students towards general pro bono opportunities, facilitates a student-attorney network to provide students with individual pro bono projects, and recognizes students for their contributions to the community through pro bono work.

Eligibility:

1. In order to qualify under the Pro Bono Recognition Program, *pro bono* activities are defined as:
 - a. representing/assisting person(s) of limited financial means, OR person(s) with limited access to legal representation; and/OR assisting nonprofit, civic, community, religious, or governmental organizations;
 - b. supervised by an attorney, faculty member, or other qualified individual working in a supervisory capacity;
 - c. uncompensated (this include any compensation received from grants or fellowships);
 - d. not for course credit (any hours beyond those needed to receive credit can qualify);
 - e. generally, MUST NOT be work/research done for a Professor, University department or activity;
 - f. not used to satisfy any other academic requirements (with the exception of the satisfaction of the pro bono requirement for the Public Interest Social Justice Certificate)
2. Examples of qualifying activities include, but are not limited to:
 - a. work with nonprofit organizations
 - b. work with governmental agencies and offices
 - c. judicial internship (if not for credit)
 - d. political or election-based organizing
 - e. community education and mentorship programs and activities
 - f. legal advice and referral clinics or hotlines
 - g. provision of translation services
 - h. volunteer work with churches and other community organizations

3. A few activities that will not qualify include, but are not limited to:
 - a. general club leadership on campus (although organizing and/or participating in group service or pro bono projects may qualify)
 - b. attendance at any law-related symposiums, conferences, and panel discussions
 - c. fundraising activities related to Santa Clara University student organizations
 - d. work/research done for a Professor, University department or activity
4. The following time may be included in the hours requirement:
 - a. actual time volunteering with organization
 - b. travel time in excess of 30 minutes in each direction
 - c. hours spent training for pro bono activity

Structure of Award:

1. Bronze Recognition:

First year of recognition for performing 50 or more hours of pro bono service in one calendar year.

2. Silver Recognition:

Second year of recognition for performing 50 or more hours of pro bono service in one calendar year and have achieved Bronze Recognition a previous year.

3. Gold Recognition:

Third year of recognition for performing 50 or more hours of pro bono service in one calendar year and have achieved Silver Recognition a previous year.

4. Additional Awards:

a. Santa Clara Law Pro Bono Graduating Student of the Year Award

- i. 3L or 4L student who has achieved Gold Recognition.
- ii. Award recipient will be determined by the amount of time contributed to the community, the student's dedication and commitment, and evidence of a lasting contribution to the community. A candidate for this award may be contacted and further documentation that demonstrate these criteria may be requested.

b. Santa Clara Law Pro Bono Student of the Year Award

- i. Open to students recognized at any level of the program.
- ii. Award recipient will be determined by the amount of time contributed to the community, the student's dedication and commitment, and evidence of a lasting contribution to the community. A candidate for this award may be contacted and further documentation that demonstrate these criteria may be requested.