

A blue-tinted photograph of a man and a woman in an outdoor setting. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark baseball cap with a logo and glasses, and is looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, has curly hair and is wearing a dark top and hoop earrings. She is holding a notepad and a pen, looking back at the man. The background shows a building with a staircase.

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL ♣ NEW ORLEANS

PUBLIC INTEREST



OVER 185,000 HOURS OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL & THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Tulane Law School is committed to exploring meaningful ways to promote the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford a lawyer. Tulane is among the most progressive law schools in the United States, particularly in encouraging its students to further the public interest in and out of law school.

Our roster of public interest activities is broad. These activities encompass our clinical education program, our summer stipends for public interest work, our loan repayment assistance program, and most important, our role as the first law school in the country to require its students to perform community service as a condition of graduation.

MANDATORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

In September 1987, Tulane Law School became the first US law school to require its students to perform community service in order to graduate. Each student must now complete a minimum of 30 hours of legal service on behalf of indigent clients in the New Orleans metropolitan area or, during vacation periods, in the student's home or summer community. The required hours are ungraded, but appear on the student's transcript as "pro bono" credit.

The decision to begin this pro bono program grew out of concern for the unmet legal needs of the poor as well as concern for the educational enrichment of law students. The essential premise of the program is the "trickle-up" theory of moral obligation. An ideal way to shape attorneys' attitudes is from the ground up, by instilling in law students a sense of their responsibilities before they become members of the bar. Drawing upon this experience, Tulane graduates should be more willing to seek pro bono opportunities in their law practices and more confident in their ability to provide assistance to those who desperately need it.

Numerous other factors contributed to the adoption of mandatory pro bono service. The poverty visible in New Orleans and the myriad associated legal problems that inundate existing legal service agencies were paramount. In the post-Katrina environment, the community need is greater than ever. So is the need of the students for:

- the chance to experience firsthand the circumstances and viewpoints of some of the tens of millions of Americans who cannot afford lawyers;
- the opportunity to step back from the abstract world of the law library, the hypothetical question, and the sterile appellate setting, and become immersed in reality, and to realize that facts are often ambiguous and impossible to pin down precisely;
- the growth that comes from being personally responsible not merely for doing one's homework and being prepared to recite in class, but also for extending one's time and professional expertise to those in need of assistance, and performing tasks in a competent fashion on behalf of a client who depends on that performance;
- the development of a lifelong commitment to serve those who cannot afford a lawyer by working on a full-time basis as a legal services lawyer or a public defender or by regularly seeking pro bono opportunities.



These are the explicit goals of mandatory pro bono service. If some can be achieved for most students, Tulane will have added an important dimension to legal education. While not as profound or prolonged as clinical experience, the mandatory pro bono experience undoubtedly affects many more students. It touches every student and alters the attitudes of many while providing a unique educational opportunity.

The range of pro bono placements is extensive. Our students work with over 50 different organizations providing legal services to under-served populations. This training is now an essential part of our program of legal education.

CLINICS AT TULANE LAW SCHOOL

The Law School's clinical education program offers third-year students the opportunity to gain experience in representing actual clients in real situations under the guidance of Tulane professors, as well as to learn advocacy skills and the necessary substantive law. We have developed a multidimensional clinical program that should permit as many as 90 students each year to participate.

Civil Litigation Clinic Students are responsible for cases in federal and state court involving domestic relations, housing law, employment discrimination, and civil rights.

Criminal Litigation Clinic Students represent defendants charged with felonies and misdemeanors in the criminal district court and also brief and argue appeals in the state appellate courts.

Juvenile Clinic Students represent children or parents in cases involving child abuse and neglect, delinquency, status offenses, adoptions, child support, and termination of parental rights.

Domestic Violence Clinic Students provide legal representation to indigent victims of domestic violence in a wide range of matters implicated by relationship violence, including protective orders, victim compensation, divorce, child custody and visitation, spousal and child support, community property, housing, employment, public benefits, tax, and consumer debt.

The Public Law Center – Legislative & Administrative Students handle legislative matters and administrative rulemaking proceedings for under-represented groups, such as the elderly and the handicapped.

Environmental Law Clinic The first of its kind among law schools in the South, this clinic is designed to train students to be effective environmental lawyers. Students represent clients in judicial and administrative proceedings and provide legal assistance to otherwise unrepresented individuals and citizen organizations that want to protect and restore the natural environment of Louisiana.



EXTERNSHIPS

The Public Interest Externship is a one-semester skills training course encompassing a classroom component and a weekly field placement. Students are assigned field placements at one of eight different sites, including Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, ACLU of Louisiana, and Orleans Indigent Defender Service.

The Law School offers year-long externships in several different settings. A judicial externship program permits selected third-year students to serve as externs to Federal District Court Judges, US Magistrates, a US Bankruptcy Judge, and Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Two externships in labor law are available with the National Labor Relations Board regional office, and another in maritime law is offered with the Office of Administrative Law Judges at the regional office of the US Department of Labor. Externships have also been established at the Justice Center, a New Orleans coalition of non-profit entities, including the Innocence Project and an office dedicated to indigent capital defense.

A list of some of the entities through which Tulane law students fulfill their pro bono requirement follows:

ACLU of Louisiana	Juvenile Justice Project
AIDSLaw of Louisiana	Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center
Bonnabel High School Litigator Program	Mental Health Advocacy Service
CASA - Court-Appointed Special Advocates	New Orleans Pro Bono Project
Consumer/Foreclosure Legal Advice Program	New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation
Covenant House Legal Advice Program	Preservation Resource Center
Cuban Detainee Program	(Operation Comeback)
Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund	Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)
EEOC	Street Law Program
Fair Housing Action Center	Teen Court of Greater New Orleans
Family Legal Advice Program	Seafarers Institute, NYC
Federal Public Defender	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Immigration and Refugee Services	Louisiana Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Indigent Defender Program	YWCA Courtroom Advocate and
The Innocence Project	Battered Women's Program



MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY WORK

CURRICULUM

“Public interest” law can include many fields of law, as illustrated by the wide variety of experiences that our students have undertaken in fulfillment of our community service requirement. Tulane offers both depth and breadth in the variety of course offerings that might be considered a part of a “public interest” curriculum. Certainly, our clinics are a significant example of public interest law at Tulane. Courses that students wishing to pursue public interest law might take at Tulane, depending on their interests, include:

Constitutional Law

Constitutional Criminal Procedure:

Adjudication

Constitutional Criminal Procedure:

Investigation

Constitutional Law I

Constitutional Law: 14th Amendment

Constitutional Law: Freedoms of
Speech & Press

Constitutional Law: Religious Freedoms

Constitutional Theory Seminar

Federal Courts

Foreign Affairs

Consumer Law

Commercial Law: Civil Law

Security Rights

Commercial Law: Secured Transactions

Commercial Law: Payment Systems

Consumer Transactions Seminar

Products Liability

Torts

Toxic Tort Litigation Practice

Toxic Tort Theory & Practice



Criminal Law & Procedure

Constitutional Criminal Procedure:
Adjudication
Constitutional Criminal Procedure:
Investigation
Criminal Advocacy Seminar
Criminal Law
Criminal Law: Federal
Criminal Law: International
Criminal Litigation Clinic
Criminal Practice, Advanced
Criminal Procedure Seminar: Death Penalty
Domestic Violence Clinic
Domestic Violence Law
Environmental Criminal Law
Juvenile Advocacy Seminar
Juvenile Litigation Clinic

Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution
International Commercial Arbitration
Mediation Seminar
Negotiation & Mediation Advocacy

Environmental & Energy Law

Administrative Law
Advanced Oil & Gas Law
Animal Law Seminar
Disaster Response & Recovery:
Legal & Social Implications
Energy Regulation
Environmental Criminal Law
Environmental Law Clinic
Environmental Law: Clean Air Act
Environmental Law: Coastal &
Wetlands Seminar
Environmental Law: Endangered
Species & Biodiversity Seminar
Environmental Law: Hazardous
Wastes & Substances
Environmental Law: Historic
Preservation Seminar
Environmental Law: International
Environmental Law: Natural Resources
Environmental Law: Pollution Control

Land Use Planning
Law of the Sea
Marine Pollution
Oil & Gas Law
Sustainable Energy Law & Policy
Tax: Natural Resources Tax
Toxic Tort Litigation Practice
Toxic Tort Theory & Practice
Water Resources Policy

State & Local Government

Fair Housing Law & Litigation
Land Use Planning
Legislative & Administrative Advocacy
Tax: State & Local Taxation

Family Law

Community Property
Domestic Violence Clinic
Domestic Violence Law
Elder Law
Family Law
Family Law: All 50 States
Juvenile Advocacy Seminar
Juvenile Litigation Clinic
Successions, Donations & Trusts
Tax: Gift & Estate Tax Planning
Trusts & Estates, Common Law

Labor Law

Employment Discrimination
Employment Discrimination Seminar
Employment Law
Labor Law
Mediation Seminar

Other Areas

Animal Law Seminar
Health Care Law & Regulation
Immigration Law & Procedure
Legal Profession
Public Interest Externships
Public International Law
Remedies
Trial Advocacy: General Litigation

TULANE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION

Among the most active and well-supported of the student organizations at Tulane Law School is the Tulane Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), founded in 1983 to promote interest and opportunities in public interest law. Fundraising by this student organization for summer public interest stipends has become an integral part of the life of Tulane Law School students, staff, and faculty. The organization sells breakfast items each morning, and its other fundraisers include an auction so unique that it is a traditional and anticipated part of the social life of the Law School community. In addition, PILF is active in both the Law School and New Orleans communities. Each year PILF hosts visitors, such as Ralph Nader and Judge Ginger Berrigan, who speak to students about public interest issues. In 2000 PILF started the Street Law Program, which sends law student volunteers into urban high schools and middle schools to teach these students about their Fourth Amendment rights. PILF has also organized student donations of criminal procedure textbooks for inmates at Louisiana's Angola State Prison.

Tulane's PILF provides several students with stipends to travel to the Equal Justice Works annual conference and career fair each year. In conjunction with this conference, PSLawNet sponsors an annual Public Service Mini-Conference and presents Pro Bono Publico awards to formally recognize law students for outstanding pro bono commitment. (PSLawNet is a network of 160 law schools, including Tulane, and more than 12,000 law-related public interest organizations in the US and around the world.) Over the past several years, two Tulane Law students have received national recognition at this conference for their public service activities as law students.

SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST JOBS

The funds raised by PILF are partially matched by the Law School, and the total is used to fund summer grants to Tulane law students who wish to work for public interest organizations or state and local governmental agencies that cannot afford to pay wages comparable to private law firms. Each year PILF raises close to \$40,000 through various fundraisers, and the Law School adds sufficient funds to make grants to as many as 30 students. Grant recipients are selected by a committee of faculty and PILF members; awards are based on the nature of the proposed public interest work, the applicant's demonstrated commitment to public interest work, and participation in PILF activities. Since 1990, close to 400 grants have been awarded to students working in over 35 states and eight countries.

Students with grants usually work for 6 to 12 weeks for organizations that perform legal work in a wide variety of fields, including environmental protection, refugees, housing and public benefits, employment, AIDS, battered women, government whistle-blowers, adoptions, and juveniles. Grant recipients may also work in public defender offices, district attorneys' offices, the Tulane Law Clinics, and other legal services programs.



Summer PILF Grants 1992-2009

Alabama

Legal Aid
Tuscaloosa County Public Defender
Wildlaw

Alaska

Alaska Legal Services, Nome
Alaska Legal Services, Juneau
Alaska Public Defender Agency
Trustees for Alaska

Arizona

Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment
Pima and Gila Legal Aid
Pima County Attorney
Pima County Public Defender

California

AIDS Foundation of San Diego
AIDS Project
California Attorney General
California Rural Legal Assistance
Capital Appeals Project
Central American Resource Center
City of L.A. Department of Emergency Management
Communities for a Better Environment
Department of Justice –
 Environmental Enforcement
District Attorney – Counties of Los Angeles,
 San Francisco
Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Law Foundation
Homepage
Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach
Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County
Legal Services
 San Gabriel, Pasadena, Pomona
 Northern California
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.
National Lawyers' Guild
Next Door: Solutions to Domestic Violence
Public Advocate
Public Counsel Law Center
Public Defender – Counties of Contra Costa,
 Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, San Diego,
 San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara
Public Law Center
Resources Agency of California
San Francisco Department of Child
 Support Services
Schonbrun, DeSimone, Seplow, Harris,
 and Hoffman LLP
Sierra Club
US Attorney for the Southern District of California
Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity
Women's Law Center
Working People's Law Center
Youth Law Center

Colorado

American Civil Liberties Union
Colorado Rural Legal Services
Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. David Lane, Attorney at Law

Connecticut

Disaster Accountability Project
Hartford State Attorney
Women's Education and Legal Fund

Delaware

Department of Justice

Florida

Bay Area Legal Services
Center for International Human Rights
Dade County State Attorney
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Public Defender
Guardian Ad Litem Program
Health Rehabilitation Services of Florida
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Legal Services – Homeless Advocacy
Palm Beach County Public Defender
Sexual Abuse Unit – Florida State Attorney

Georgia

Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Catholic Social Services, Inc.-Immigration Services
Fulton County Conflict Defender's Office
Georgia Capital Defender
Georgia Department of Natural Resources:
 Coastal Division
Georgia Legal Services
Georgia Public Defender Standards Council
Georgia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Lambda Law/SE Regional Office
Project SAFE
Southern Center on Human Rights
Southern Environmental Law Center
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Illinois

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Center on Wrongful Convictions
Cook County Public Guardian
Cook County State's Attorney's Office
Lake County Public Defender
Lawyers for the Creative Arts
Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago
Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center

Indiana

American Civil Liberties Union

Iowa

Help Legal Assistance



Kentucky

Appalachian Research and Defense
Fund of Kentucky
Kentucky Refuge Ministries
Kentucky Resource Council

Louisiana

A.C.O.R.N.
Advocacy Center for the Elderly & Disabled
Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
AIDS Law of Louisiana
ALERT
Alliance for Affordable Energy
American Civil Liberties Union
Associated Catholic Charities – Project SAVE
Associated Catholic Charities – Immigration
Legal Services
Capital Appeals Project
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Department of Social Services – General Counsel
District Attorney's Office – East Baton Rouge,
New Orleans
Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund
Entertainment Law Legal Assistance
EEOC
Fair Housing Action Center
Farm Sanctuary
Federal Public Defender
Friends' Alliance for the Mentally III
Guardian Ad Litem
Gulf Restoration Network
Howell and Snead
Humane Society of Louisiana
Indigent Defender – Plaquemines Parish,
Orleans Parish
Innocence Project New Orleans
Jackson Avenue Task Force
Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court
Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana
Legal Advocate, YWCA
Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center
Louisiana Department of Justice
Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Louisiana State Attorney General
Louisiana Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Loyola Death Penalty Clinic
Mental Health Advocacy Service
National Labor Relations Board
New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation –
Housing Unit, Family Justice Project,
Road Home Unit
New Orleans Pro Bono Project
Preservation Resource Center –
Operation Comeback
Rape Crisis Center – YWCA
Smith, Jones & Fawer
St. Charles Wetlands Loss
St. Thomas Community Law Center
Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

Maine

Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Natural Resources Council of Maine

Maryland

Animal Legal Defense Fund
Maryland State Attorney's Office
for Montgomery County
Office of the Public Defender

Massachusetts

Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
Committee for Public Counsel Services
Conservation Law Foundation
Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Department of Social Services – Legal Department
District Attorney – Boston
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
Harvard Legal Services Center
Irish American Legal Council
Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination

Michigan

Community Immigration Legal Services,
Archdiocese of Detroit
Freedom House
Migrant Legal Assistance Project

Mississippi

Mississippi Justice Center
Robert B. McDuff, Esq.

Missouri

Circuit Attorney of the City of St. Louis
Transgender Law & Policy Institute/GLBT Justice
Project

Montana

State of Montana Environmental Quality
Montana Legal Services Association

Nebraska

Omaha Trial Court

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Public Defender
New Hampshire Bureau of the Environmental
Protection Agency

New Jersey

Atlantic County Improvement Authority
Elderly Ombudsman
Rutgers Constitutional Litigation Clinic

New Mexico

New Mexico Legal Aid Society
Southern New Mexico Legal Services, Inc.–
Centro Legal Campesino
Western Environmental Law Center

New York

American Jewish Committee
Association for New Americans
Brooklyn Legal Services



District Attorney – Brooklyn, Albany, Kingston,
Manhattan, Suffolk, Westchester
Capital Defender Office
Center for Seafarers' Rights
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Legal Aid Society – Brooklyn Office for the Aging
Capital Division, Juvenile Rights, Family Law,
and Indigent Defense
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
NY Attorney General – Environmental
and Civil Rights
NY Lawyers for the Public Interest
NY Legal Clinic for the Homeless
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
New York Civil Liberties Union
New York Legal Assistance Corporation
Prisoners Legal Services of New York
SEPA Mujer – Advocacy for Immigration and
Battered Women
US Attorney, SDNY, Criminal Division
Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

North Carolina

North Carolina Attorney General's Office
Juvenile Court of Cumberland County
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont
North Carolina Department of Justice –
Environmental Enforcement Division,
Education Division
North Carolina Death Penalty Resource Center
North Carolina State Legal Services
North Carolina Civil Liberties Union
Patterson, Harleavey and Lawrence
Southern Environmental Law Center

Ohio

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services

Oregon

Audubon Society of Portland
Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide
Multnomah County Legal Aid Services
Oregon Law Center
Oregon Natural Resources Council
Sorenson Law Office

Pennsylvania

Centre County District Attorney
Community Legal Services in Philadelphia
Defender Association of Philadelphia
District Attorney of Philadelphia (Family Violence
and Sexual Assault Unit)
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Federal Public Defender
HIAS and Council Migration Service
of Philadelphia
Kairys, Rudovsky, Epstein, and Messing LLP

Neighborhood Legal Services Association
Women's Law Project

Rhode Island

Child Advocates of Rhode Island

South Carolina

Richland County Public Defender

South Dakota

The Lakota Nation

Tennessee

Bring Urban Recycling to Nashville Today
Metropolitan Public Defender
Nashville Public Defender
West Tennessee Legal Services

Texas

Attorney General – Natural Resources Division
Capital Trial Project
District Attorney, Environmental Section,
Harris County
Federal Public Defender
Henry, Lowerre and Taylor
Justice for Children
Juvenile Court
Juvenile Public Defender
Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund
Legal Services of North Texas
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
US Attorney – Western District

Virginia

Environmental Defense Fund
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Honorable Dale Harris
United Mine Workers of America
Virginia Justice Center

Washington

Environmental Protection Section,
Seattle City Attorney
Evergreen Legal Services
Seattle City Attorney – Community Court
Seattle Law Department - Criminal Division
Domestic Violence Unit
Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons
Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney
Whatcom County Public Defender's Office

Washington, DC

ABA Commission on Immigration
American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Asian-American Justice Center
Ayuda, Inc. (Domestic Relations)
Bazon Center for Mental Health Law
Bread for the City Legal Clinic
Center on Budget and Policy
Center for Children's Law & Policy
Central American Refugee Center
Central and East European Law Initiative,
American Bar Association



Childrens' Defense Fund
Children's Law Center
Childrens' Rights Counsel
Commissioner for Refugees
Council on Environmental Quality
D.C. Federal Public Defender's Office
Defenders of Wildlife
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of Justice
- Antitrust Division
- Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section
- Environmental & Natural Resources/
Environmental Crimes
- Environmental & Natural Resources/
Environmental Enforcement
- Overseas Prosecutorial Development
Department
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Disabilities Law Project
Environmental Protection Agency - Office of
Enforcement and Compliance
Executive Office of the President - Council of
Environmental Equality
Guatemalan Embassy
Indian Law Resource Center
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law
Legal Aid Society for the District of Columbia
Meyer & Glitzenstien
National Health Law Program
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Whistleblower Center
National Wildlife Federation
Organization of American States

Project S.A.V.E. (Spousal Abuse Empowerment
Network)
Public Defender Services of Washington, DC
Public Employees for Environmental
Responsibility
Trial Lawyers for Public Justice
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Office of
the General Counsel
U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on
Investigations
World Organization for Human Rights USA

Wisconsin

Milwaukee County District Attorney

International

Argentina CECOPAL

Australia – Environmental Defender's Office

Cambodia – Documentation Center of Cambodia

Costa Rica – CEDARENA – Environmental and
Natural Resources Law Center

El Salvador – Center for Labor Studies and Support

England – Friends of the Earth

Ghana – Legal Aid

Haiti – Fonkoze Foundation

Hungary – Regional Environmental Center for
Central and Eastern Europe

India – Human Rights Law Network

Netherlands – Association of Defence Counsel
appearing before the International Criminal
Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

South Africa – Southern African Environment
Project National Institute for Public Interest
Law and Research Legal Resource Center

Thailand – United Nations Office on Drugs



MANDATORY **PRO BONO**
PROVIDES A **UNIQUE** EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCE

OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to our Public Interest Law Foundation, there are other student organizations with public interest involvement. These include the Criminal Law Society, which addresses all aspects of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, defense work, and prosecution. Activities include field trips that illustrate what happens to individuals who are escorted from the courtroom to prison, “ride-alongs” with the New Orleans Police Department, and a variety of speakers. Other relevant student organizations include the Tulane chapter of the ACLU, American Constitution Society, Cuban Detainee Program of La Alianza, Environmental Law Society, Human Rights Law Society, Project for Older Prisoners (POPS), Tulane Child Advocates, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, Tulane Legal Assistance Program, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Student organizations regularly join forces to sponsor programs of interest to the law school community, including recent programs on Legal Issues in Adoption and a Symposium on the International Human Rights of Women.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, even while still evacuated, both students and faculty of Tulane Law School became fully involved in public service activities. The *Student Hurricane Network* (SHN) became active within weeks after the storm; it is a national association of law students working to support legal aid entities in the hurricane-affected areas and monitoring the rebuilding process. SHN is coordinating pro bono legal work, remote research projects, and educational events across the country. *From the Lake to the River: The New Orleans Coalition for Legal Aid & Disaster Relief* developed through the efforts of Tulane Law School faculty, students, and alumni. The Coalition serves as a contact point and clearinghouse for legal information designed to assist Hurricane Katrina victims, wherever they may be located. The Coalition also serves as a watchdog and oversight group to ensure that public and private resources are distributed on an equitable basis.

CAREERS

Tulane’s Career Development Office (CDO) is firmly committed to supporting students interested in public service. Along with PILF, the Career Development Office offers information about networking and job opportunities, as well as educational panels and seminars focusing on public interest jobs. Two professional staff members of the CDO are dedicated to the public interest and government sectors: one counselor specializes in providing support and guidance to students interested in pursuing non-profit careers and fellowships, and another counselor provides assistance to students interested in government and environmental law careers.

All career counselors at Tulane use a variety of resources both in print and on-line to assist students with their job searches. Tulane subscribes to PSLawNet.org, a national public interest law database that allows students access to the job postings and profiles of several thousand organizations. PSLawNet.org features current opportunities for volunteer and paid internships and jobs in a variety of public interest and government practice settings, a complete catalog of post-graduate fellowship opportunities, and a variety of other helpful resources. The CDO subscribes to several other job search sites and online databases. Students also have full access to an array of printed career resources in the CDO library.





FIRST LAW SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY
PERFORM **COMMUNITY**





TO REQUIRE ITS STUDENTS TO
SERVICE AS A CONDITION FOR GRADUATION





Tulane Law Students & Katrina Recovery

Tulane Law students became involved in helping the city and its citizens recover from Hurricane Katrina within days after the storm hit in August 2005. While students have been involved in physical gutting and rebuilding of homes and schools, they are also doing legal work. Much of the low income population of the New Orleans metropolitan area is still facing obstacles attributable to Katrina damage and/or painfully slow and inadequate recovery programs. Here are some examples of the Katrina-related pro bono work our students perform during the academic year:

Tulane Law School/ NOLAC Consumer Advocacy Project

Students staff a weekly mini-clinic at NOLAC where they do intake, interviews, client follow-up or court filings related to pressing consumer issues. Most urgent for many clients now are contractor fraud issues, involving contractors who have collected for work not done and otherwise defrauded those trying to rebuild their homes after Katrina. Other issues addressed in this program are home mortgage issues and bankruptcy.

Entertainment Law Legal Assistance (ELLA)

This program is jointly sponsored by the Tulane Law School Pro Bono Program, the Arts Council of New Orleans, and the Tipitina's Foundation. Many musicians and artists suffered the loss of their instruments or their creative works during the storm and are re-establishing the local music industry and arts community. Students address trademark and copyright issues, incorporation and contractual issues, as well as housing issues.

AIDSLaw

The incidence of AIDS and AIDS-related problems did not decrease post-Katrina, but the resources to address these problems are fewer than ever. At AIDSLaw of Louisiana, students participate in drafting wills and counseling about employment rights and legal entitlements, as well as assist in giving legal advice concerning insurance and housing discrimination issues.

COMMON GROUND Free Legal Clinic

This clinic was established in the Ninth Ward immediately after Katrina in order to meet the variety of legal needs presented by the disenfranchised populations nearby. Rotating volunteer attorneys are assisted by Tulane law students in client screening and advice concerning a wide range of issues.

New Orleans City Council

Students work in the chambers of several council members where they assist with critical legal issues which have arisen post-Katrina. For example, there are blighted housing problems, zoning questions, issues relating to the permitting process, and questions concerning the extent of the legislative power of the City Council.



Tulane has many distinguished alumni serving in the public interest arena who are willing to mentor and serve as resources for current law students considering public service careers. Such alumni include Stacy Seicshnaydre, who was awarded a prestigious Skadden Fellowship upon her graduation from Tulane Law School. As a fellow, Ms. Seicshnaydre worked on fair housing litigation and legislative advocacy issues at the National Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, DC. She then became the first Executive Director of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, where she was responsible for the organization's fair housing education and enforcement programs. She is now a supervising attorney and Director of Tulane's Civil Litigation Clinic.

Approximately 20% of the students in recent graduating classes have gone into public service after receiving the JD from Tulane. Graduates have pursued government employment as prosecutors, as public defenders, and in a variety of government agencies at all levels. Others work at a wide range of traditional public interest organizations in environmental law, criminal justice, civil rights, housing, health care, and more. On a regular basis, Tulane Law School graduates have been awarded public interest fellowships from organizations including Equal Justice Works, Georgetown University (Prettyman Fellowship), and New Voices. These fellowships have made it possible for Tulane graduates to work for such entities as Florida Institutional Legal Services, the Texas Civil Rights Project, the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Greater Chicago, the Georgetown Criminal Justice Clinics, and the Innocence Project, among others.

Tulane Law School is a sponsor-level member of Equal Justice Works and participates in the Equal Justice Works Career Fair and Conference in Washington, DC annually. Tulane covers the school's registration fee, which allows all Tulane students entry into the Career Fair free of charge. The Career Fair hosts more than two hundred organizations and agencies that gather together from across the country to interview students for summer clerkships and permanent attorney positions. The Conference features nationally recognized speakers who discuss cutting-edge legal issues and skill-building tools.

LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Tulane's loan repayment assistance program can be a significant economic incentive for students who opt to pursue certain public service careers. The program helps eligible graduates pay off a portion of their law school educational loans for a specified period of time. As the program is currently structured, graduates are eligible to apply for loan repayment assistance benefits if they: (a) earn less than a specified annual amount and (b) work full-time as lawyers for certain types of public interest legal service organizations. The program requires that eligible graduates devote a certain percentage of their income toward repayment of non-family law school loans. Tulane Law School reimburses students for their loan repayments above this amount for up to five years. Details concerning salary level, type of eligible employment, percentage of income to be devoted to loan repayment, and applicable caps can be obtained from the Law School Financial Aid office.

In addition, Tulane has received a grant from the Kendall Vick Foundation to provide loan repayment assistance to individuals pursuing public service work, including government employment, in the state of Louisiana.

The federal College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which went into effect in 2009, will also provide income-based repayment and loan forgiveness options to individuals pursuing public service employment.



PARTNERSHIP WITH TEACH FOR AMERICA

Tulane Law School is pleased to partner with Teach for America in the following ways:

(1) Waiver of Application Fee for Current Teach for America Corps Members - The Law School will grant a waiver of the application fee to any current Teach for America member applying for admission to the Law School.

(2) Two-Year Deferral - Upon request from Teach for America participants who have been offered admission, the Law School will offer a two-year deferral to enable admitted students to begin a two-year commitment to the corps in the year in which law study was to have commenced. The Law School will also grant a two-year deferral to exiting corps members who wish to pursue other endeavors before attending law school, provided they apply for the deferral while they are still corps members.

(3) Teach for America/Tulane Scholarship - Tulane Law School will award a \$10,500 scholarship to each Teach for America alumnus accepted into the Law School. One sixth of the award will be credited to the student's tuition bill at the beginning of each of the six semesters of enrollment at Tulane Law School. This will represent the minimum Tulane Law School scholarship awarded to each alumnus of Teach for America. As is the case with all candidates to Tulane Law School, Teach for America alumni will receive full consideration for all other need- or merit-based financial assistance

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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