

PRO BONO GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Western New England University School of Law has a long tradition of service in Springfield and surrounding communities. In the spring of 2011, the faculty of WNE Law acknowledged the importance of this service by adopting a pro bono graduation requirement. In order to graduate, students must complete 20 hours of pro bono service. Mindful of their position as role models, members of the faculty agreed to fulfill a similar requirement.

I) DEFINITION OF PRO BONO SERVICE.

"Pro bono service is uncompensated. Pro bono service is defined as the provision of law-related services to:

- (1) persons of limited means.
- (2) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters which are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means.
- (3) individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights.
- (4) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental or 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.

Pro bono service also includes:

- (5) activities for improving access to the law, improving the legal system or improving the legal profession.
- (6) educational activities for improving the public's understanding of the law, the legal system or the legal profession."

II) PRO BONO SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES.

Pre-vetted opportunities

Students may apply to participate in a number of preapproved pro bono opportunities through Symplicity, the Law School's on-line jobs database.

Student-secured pro bono opportunities

Student-secured pro bono projects must receive *prior approval*. An important question to be considered in the approval process will be whether the student is appropriately supervised. All students engaged in legal work must be supervised by a licensed attorney.