



Pro Bono Program

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW

Rural Outreach Initiative, Fall 2011 Application

Part I. Trip Information

Through the Rural Outreach Initiative (ROI), UT Law students will travel to the cities of Goliad, Cuero, and Port Lavaca, Texas to participate in community outreach under the supervision of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA).

TRLA provides free civil and criminal legal services to low-income residents in sixty-eight counties of Southwest Texas. ROI participants will conduct outreach in rural communities in the TRLA service area that do not have a local TRLA office. The ROI will employ a community lawyering model, driven by the needs of the communities it serves, to identify systemic issues where legal remedies could change conditions for significant clusters of local residents. Through community dialogues, the ROI will establish ongoing relationships with community leaders and residents to encourage future communication about systemic issues. As issues are identified, TRLA will work with residents to determine a course of action to improve conditions for the community as a whole.

Student Participation:

TRLA will collaborate with the UT Law Pro Bono Program to train law students to participate in this initiative. Students will travel to a target city twice in a 2-week period. Each trip will require a one-night stay. Prior to the first trip, students will conduct research about the target city, its demographics and the institutions that touch the lives of the low-income community. During the first trip, students will work with TRLA attorneys to conduct outreach to assess the unmet legal needs of the community, including meeting with organizations and low-income community leaders, and analyzing community institutions. During the second trip, students and TRLA attorneys will conduct follow-up interviews of community leaders and host a community meeting to discuss the community's legal issues and needs. After the group discussion, students and TRLA staff may conduct individual intakes and provide individual legal advice and counseling.

Participant Expectations:

The trip is open to all 2L, 3L and LLM students, but space is limited. To apply, please submit a completed Application, Trip Commitment, and resume to the Pro Bono Office (CCJ 1.324) by **Sept. 8, 2011**. Participants are expected to attend a mandatory training on **Sept. 15, 2011**, from 5:30-7pm in the Eidman Jury Room. Trip packets will be distributed at this training.

Spanish ability is NOT a requirement to participate. However, the selection committee will consider students' language abilities when reviewing applications. Students will be reimbursed for the following trip expenses:

- Fuel costs for those selected to drive carpools.
- Meals (up to \$20/day)
- Lodging costs for the two nights spent in the target city. (One per trip.)

Trip participants will be expected to stay at the designated lodging site and to share a room with up to three other participants. If space is available, participants may choose to stay in a single room in the group lodging at their own cost. The Pro Bono Program will arrange carpools and lodging; expect lodging to be modest.

Selection:

Students selected to participate will be assigned to a target city and will be expected to participate in both trips to that city. Students should plan to arrive in their city by 12 pm on the Thursday of each trip. Students selected will be notified of their assignment via email **by Sept. 12, 2011**, and will have 48 hours to confirm their participation. There will be a waitlist and students who choose to remain on the waitlist may participate if others withdraw. If you are not committed to participating, please do not apply. For questions, please contact Pro Bono Administrator, Elena Yujuico at: eyujuico@law.utexas.edu.



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Part II. Application

Name: _____ Class year: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Have you taken the Pro Bono Pledge? Yes/No

Are you able to drive your own car to the trip location? Yes / No

If so, are you willing to take passengers? Yes / No If yes, how many? _____

Do you speak Spanish? Yes / No

If yes, please indicate your speaking ability:

_____ Basic Conversational _____ Proficient Conversational _____ Fluent Conversational

Please rank your trip preferences in order: [1 as most desired; 3 as least desired]

Goliad: September 22-23 and October 13-14 _____

Cuero: October 6-7 and October 27-28 _____

Port Lavaca: October 20-21 and November 10-11 _____

Will you be able to attend a mandatory training on Thursday, September 15th from 5:30-7pm? Yes / No

If you are not selected, would you like us to put your name on a waiting list? Yes / No

Please briefly explain why you wish to participate in the Rural Outreach Initiative:

Do you have specialized skills or experience that might be relevant to this trip?

Please submit this application, a signed trip commitment, and a copy of your resume to the Pro Bono Office (CCJ 1.324) by **Sept. 8, 2011**.

Questions? Contact Pro Bono Program Administrator Elena Yujuico at (512) 232-1989 or eyujuico@law.utexas.edu.



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Part III. Trip Commitment

I have read this Application in its entirety and have indicated my information and preferences where applicable. If selected to participate, I will attend both trips to the target city, arriving at the target city at the designated time on the Thursday of each trip. I will attend the pre-trip orientation and will work on my assigned project(s) for the time required while I am in the designated city.

I understand that students will provide their own transportation or carpool to the trip location. I understand that the Law School will reimburse fuel costs for those who are selected to drive their own cars and who provide transportation to at least one other person. I will stay at the group lodging and understand that the Law School will pay for lodging costs for the Thursday night of each trip and will provide a modest daily stipend for meals. I understand lodging will be modest and I will either share a room with up to three other students or, if I have indicated on my application form, and if space is available, pay for a single room at the group lodging at my own expense.

I will participate in a mandatory pre-trip training on September 15th from 5:30-7pm and will complete a post-trip survey to be distributed after the second trip. I understand that the Law School or TRLA may post information about the trip and trip photographs on its website. I give the Law School, the William Wayne Justice Center, the Pro Bono Program, and TRLA permission to post and otherwise disseminate my photograph and information about my participation in the trip.

If I am selected to participate in the trip, or choose to remain on the waitlist, I will submit required forms, including a copy of a state-issued ID, health, and auto insurance, if applicable, by the designated due date.

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____