Letter from the Program Director

The UNC School of Law Pro Bono Program has faced a year unlike any other. In the midst of a global pandemic, our program has adapted, created new projects, placed projects on hold, and found new ways to engage our community online. Despite the hardships of this year, our board, our students, and our partners have remained committed to serving those with unmet legal needs.

Our unifying goal this year was to provide equal access to justice for all. We refocused our program and were determined to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in everything that we do.

Our program has made it a priority to respond to the legal needs in our community. Due to COVID-19, the eviction crisis in North Carolina became unwieldy and our partners and students quickly provided help. As the election came to the forefront of everyone’s minds, our partners and students staffed hotlines and participated in other non-partisan projects to ensure that voting was accessible and rights were upheld. Our students participated in projects related to expunctions, parole, driver’s license restoration, and others that directly impact our inequitable system of justice.

Carolina Law has a history of exceptional pro bono service and this year was even more remarkable. When we had to place projects on hold, new projects were created. When we were unable to sign up in person, we created a more inclusive virtual system that gave students from all backgrounds easy access to involvement. This year allowed us to reevaluate our practices and because of that, we are propelling forward into a future of even more exceptional service.

This report highlights the year’s accomplishments and celebrates our achievements. It has been incredible to see our community and board come together to respond to ever changing needs. I am grateful for our program’s flexibility and dedication. I am excited to celebrate our students and partners and I am honored to have worked with them this year. Not only has UNC School of Law’s graduating class reached 100% pro bono participation for the fourth year in a row, but we have also created many new projects and formed new partnerships. Without the help of our students, administration, partners, and community, we would not be able to accomplish all that we have this year. Thank you for your continued support and thank you for your service.

—Chloe Altieri 3L
Student Director, Pro Bono Program

2020–2021 College Cup

This Year’s College Cup Has Two Winners!

The 1L class competed in the College Cup to determine which college had the highest involvement in pro bono—measured by both total hours and participation in projects and program events. This year, thanks to a college reshuffling before the second semester, we are awarding the cup to both College D (first semester) and College A (second semester). Congratulations to both colleges, and thank you for your commitment to pro bono service throughout the year!

Annual Report 2020–2021

Pro Bono At-a-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Classes</th>
<th>3L</th>
<th>2L</th>
<th>1L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93% Participation</td>
<td>100% Participation</td>
<td>88% Participation</td>
<td>85% Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,948 Hours in ’20–’21</td>
<td>12,322 Total Hours</td>
<td>7,092 Total Hours</td>
<td>6,009 Total Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>$297,785*</td>
<td>$335,158*</td>
<td>$192,902*</td>
<td>$163,445*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New and Adapted Special Projects Take Center Stage

Winter Break Projects
Our Winter Break pro bono process changed significantly this year. We moved from our traditional in-person sign-up, where students would sometimes wait in line for hours to get the project they wanted, to a completely online sign-up through Sign Up Genius. Given the pandemic, we were blown away by both the number of projects submitted by attorneys and the number of students who participated in pro bono. There were multiple projects related to addressing police violence after the protests last summer and a host of projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expunction Project
In collaboration with Legal Aid of North Carolina, the Pro Bono Program developed a new project aimed at addressing the expunction needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus of the project is two-fold: (1) obtain feedback from former clients who previously applied for a criminal record expunction using Legal Aid’s services and (2) provide expunction information for prior clients who were previously ineligible to receive one. Through the Pro Bono Program, students have been contacting North Carolinians to inform them of the newly enacted laws and expanded relief available. Students are being met with an overwhelming response of joy, as previous Legal Aid clients are finally able to expunge their records and regain a sense of security as they move forward with their lives. UNC School of Law students reached out to over 1,000 clients during the 2020-21 academic year.

“Several people mentioned how they wished they had known that they could get an expunction sooner and how simple the process was with Legal Aid’s guidance. Others were hopeful that the Second Chance Act would provide them some relief and indicated they would be reaching out to Legal Aid immediately. The Expunction Project is a reminder of how even the simplest pro bono projects can make a big impact in someone’s life.”
—Kelsey Cullinan Reed 3L

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—Kelsey Cullinan Reed 3L

Winter Break Projects
290 Student Opportunities
114 Projects
245 Students Participated

“T I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Southern Environmental Law Center on an impactful project over my winter break. Putting together research to help protect threatened species under the Endangered Species Act gave me insight into the type of work environmental lawyers do every day, and really got me excited to continue working with the SELC in my summer job.”
—Will Metcalf 2L

“I was thrilled with Will’s work on this time-sensitive project. In fact, Will went above and beyond in creating a resource with utility beyond the specific task and deadline with which he was initially helping.”
—Ramona McGee ’14, Staff Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center
Special Trips Thrive in Virtual Format

**Driver’s License Restoration Project**
The inability to pay traffic fees and court costs and the license suspension that results can have dire consequences for drivers and their families. This is particularly true for North Carolinians who are already economically vulnerable and those who live in rural areas without reliable public transportation.

The North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center’s Driver’s License Restoration Project provides relief to people with these license suspensions through District Attorney-led remittance of court fines and fees. For this project, law student volunteers spent a weekend in the fall and another in the spring reviewing driving records for people who have requested help through this program. In doing so, volunteers learned to read driving records and court records, and identified the cause(s) of the client’s license suspension. The Pro Bono Program was fortunate to work with the Driver’s License Restoration Project for both fall and spring trips.

**Winterfest with the Compass Center**
The Community Legal Project run by the Compass Center in Chapel Hill provides clients with free access to legal information needed to make informed choices on issues involving family law & landlord-tenant law. For this project, students had the unique opportunity to meet and talk to clients, as well as receive feedback from a practicing attorney. Students completed a 30-minute Zoom meeting with their clients to discuss their case, then researched the most relevant legal issues to create a memo for the client’s use. Students received feedback on that memo from an attorney supervisor, and students subsequently incorporated the supervisor’s suggestions. After completing all of their work, students were able to return two weeks later and meet with their client to present and explain their memo—which included information only, no legal advice—and give the client resources to manage their situation moving forward. Students then reflected on the impact and importance of their work in the lives of their clients and received feedback on their client interactions.

“Volunteering with the Compass Center was a fantastic experience. It was the first pro bono opportunity where I actually got to interact with a client, listen to their story, and decide which issues to address. It was memorable, practical, and an experience I got to bring up in interviews for summer positions.”

—Marissa Flack 2L

**Parole Data Collection with North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services**
In partnership with North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, our students conducted research centering on the parole system in NC. Thousands of people have been eligible for parole here in the last 40 years, but we know very little about who has been released and why. For this project, students researched the over 4,000 people who appeared to be eligible for parole who were no longer in prison. The new information gained from this research, completed by students, will be combined with other data and used to map existing conviction, age, and race data to gain valuable insight into parole practices in NC.

“I greatly enjoyed working with the Pro Bono Program to organize the first Winterfest for the Community Legal Project...The students and coordinators were extremely professional and worked to provide our clients with high-quality services.”

—Madison Burke, Director of Court Advocacy and Community Response, Compass Center for Women and Families

**57 Students Participated**

**330 Virtual Hours Completed**

**20 Fall Driver’s License Restoration Trip**

**11 Winter Break with Compass Center Trip**

**10 Spring Driver’s License Restoration Trip**

**16 Spring Parole Data Collection Trip**

“The pandemic brought many challenges both at the law school and in all of our homes. As Special Trip Co-Coordinate[s], we had to think creatively about adapting trips to this new virtual environment. To offer significant projects that provided impactful work during the pandemic, we sought out projects that specifically touched on different issues that have been especially relevant in the past year, including the coronavirus and social justice issues...To coordinate connections in a virtual world, we set up discussions where students could meet with each other and the attorneys to discuss how the project related to contemporary issues and why the work was so important.”

—Sabrina Greer 2L & Gabrielle James 2L
Special Trips Coordinators, Pro Bono Program
The Pro Bono Program partners with attorneys, non-profits, and agencies to create opportunities for law students to participate in projects throughout the year. This year’s projects included analyzing municipal budgets, assisting public defenders with compassionate release during the pandemic, eviction diversion projects, and much more.

“This year we had to adjust how we advertised projects to students and how students signed up for projects. The sign-up part was easy with a simple Sign-Up Genius and creating a link to share with students. Figuring out how to advertise projects was a bit harder. I started by making a PowerPoint with all of the information and included a “Project Highlight” every week in the Pro Bono Newsletters that informed students what was unique about different projects. As the year went on, posting open projects across our social media platforms proved to be a really effective way to promote these projects and engage students throughout the law school.”

—Julie Leopold 2L, Attorney Projects Coordinator, Pro Bono Program

**Creating Engaging Projects**

The following student groups created pro bono opportunities throughout the year and proved to be an excellent opportunity for students to come together and make a difference.

**Black Law Students Association:**
- COVID-19 Prison Conditions
- Letter Review Project

**Broun National Trial Team:**
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training

**Child Action:**
- Child’s Day in Court

**Hispanic/Latino Law Students Association:**
- Employment Contract Translation Project
- Refugee Family Reunification Project

**Innocence Project:**
- Clemency Petition Project
- Jailhouse Informant Research Project
- Case Review Project

**Lambda Law Students Association:**
- Name Change Clinic

**Law Students Against Sexual and Domestic Violence:**
- Jail Call Project

**National Lawyers Guild:**
- Legal Observing
- N.C. Justice Center Budget Review Project
- Police Accountability Scorecard Project

**Veterans Advocacy Legal Organization:**
- Military Discharge Upgrade Project

**Women in Law:**
- Election Protection Hotline

“**Lambda’s Name Change Clinic provides insight into the process of changing one’s name and gender marker on official documents in North Carolina. This invaluable service, which connects local residents with law students and attorneys on an annual basis, offers clients the opportunity to learn about the name change process, spot potential issues, and access helpful resources in a safe, affirming environment.”

—David “J” Hallen 2L, President, Lambda Law Students Association

**Attorney Projects Provided Consistent Opportunities**

The Pro Bono Program partners with attorneys, non-profits, and agencies to create opportunities for law students to participate in projects throughout the year. This year’s projects included analyzing municipal budgets, assisting public defenders with compassionate release during the pandemic, eviction diversion projects, and much more.

“**The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants is better able to represent asylum seekers because of the help of UNC Law student volunteers. By working to prepare extensively researched country conditions reports, these students help our applicants have the best chance of success in winning their case. Thank you, UNC Law students!”**

—Paul Sloderbeck, Staff Attorney, Nuevo Comienzo Program

"Lambda's Name Change Clinic provides insight into the process of changing one's name and gender marker on official documents in North Carolina. This invaluable service, which connects local residents with law students and attorneys on an annual basis, offers clients the opportunity to learn about the name change process, spot potential issues, and access helpful resources in a safe, affirming environment."

—David “J” Hallen 2L, President, Lambda Law Students Association
Pro Bono Publico Awards

The Pro Bono Program is pleased to celebrate the extraordinary commitment shown this year by students, faculty, student groups, alumni, and partnering organizations. Award recipients are nominated by members of the UNC School of Law community, and this year’s celebration was hosted virtually in April. The Pro Bono Program is grateful to the following award recipients for their willingness to make a difference through pro bono.

Sylvia K. Novinsky Award
Sarah Ammons 3L
For her dedication to pro bono work over the last three years, Sarah participated in more than 30 projects, including serving in immigration clinics, calling Legal Aid clients, and spending her school breaks volunteering in communities across North Carolina.

3L Students of the Year
Nicole Angelica
For her work on multiple projects, including the Driver’s License Restoration Project and the Cancer Clinic, and for consistently encouraging her classmates to participate in pro bono.

Jasmine Washington
For her meaningful contributions to projects with numerous organizations, including the Good Solar Organization, Democracy N.C., and the Earth Law Center.

Faculty Member of the Year
Donna Nixon, Clinical Professor of Law & Electronic Resources Librarian
For playing an integral role in Election Protection efforts during the 2020 election, where she not only worked multiple shifts on the phone line but also drove to polling places across the state, and for helping foster students’ lifelong commitment to pro bono service.

2L Student of the Year
Megan Kahane
For logging more than 350 hours of pro bono during her 2L year and for her leadership of the Law Students Against Sexual and Domestic Violence’s Jail Call Project.

Alumnus of the Year
John Noor ’11, Partner at Roberts & Stevens
For leading efforts to create a legal hotline that provided free legal information and guidance to Western North Carolina residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1L Student of the Year
Rich Nguyen-Le
For completing more than 120 hours of pro bono, consistently signing up for projects throughout his 1L year, and encouraging his classmates to engage in pro bono service.

Student Group of the Year
Hispanic/Latino Law Students Association
For providing and participating in multiple projects, including the Refugee Family Reunification project with Church World Service.

Partner Organization of the Year
Land Loss Prevention Project
For providing students the opportunity to participate in projects that help curtail the loss of Black-owned land in North Carolina.
Student Recognition

Class of 2021

300+
Sarah Ammons
Nicole Angelica

200+
Gina Balamucki
Maria Carisetti
Sarah French
Sabrina Gamero
Athina Hinson-Boyte
Sarah Hoffman
Zachary Tooman
Shannon White

100+
Chloe Altieri
Andrew Benton
Jordan Briggs
Alessandra Carlton
Joshua Cole
Chennell Coleman
Ryan Collins
Dale Davis
Lauren Davis
Jonathan Dickerson
Robert DiDomenico
Hannah Dionne
John Fallon
Joseph Gerber
Laurena Grissett
Rachel Grossman
Sterling Gutierrez
Holden Hughley
Samantha Jackson
Elisabeth Jones
Sarah Kirschbaum
Olivia Koontz
Michelle Marchand
Anastasia McKettrick
Julia Meister
Noëlle Mouton
Marissa Mugan
Carly O’Dell
Frank Qin
Caroline Reinwald
Logan Rigsbee
Kendra Roberts
Cayla Rodney
Isabelle Stevens
Sydney Teng
Salonika Tiwari
Jasmine Washington
Kelsi Williams
Nathan Wilson
Janet Witchger
Carleigh Zeman

75+
Lindsay Byers
Chandler Farris
Shayshari Potter
Nisha Shah
Anastasia Urian
Merriwether Vaughan
Jamison Wynn

50+
Christopher Armistead
Caitlin Bell-Butterfield
Jacob Brannon
Clarissa Cashmore
Vincent Doa
Lilian Faulconer
Alexandra Franklin
Maureen Gleason
Kevin Goldman
George Griffin
William Harris
Justin Kim

400+
Nicole Litvan
Allison Shaughnessy
Hannah Simmons

300+
Jaazaniah Catterall

200+
David “J” Hallen

100+
Shauna Baker-Karl
Sarah Benecky
Courtney Goldston
Sabra Greer
Elise Jamison
Julie Leopold
Avery Locklear
Mitchell Lucas
Olivia Perez
Sasha Telyukov

75+
Rowan Conybeare
Jacob Farrell
Laura Johnson

Class of 2022

400+
Megan Kahane

300+
Jaazaniah Catterall

200+
David “J” Hallen

100+
Shauna Baker-Karl
Sarah Benecky
Courtney Goldston
Sabra Greer
Elise Jamison
Julie Leopold
Avery Locklear
Mitchell Lucas
Olivia Perez
Sasha Telyukov

75+
Rowan Conybeare
Jacob Farrell
Laura Johnson

50+
Elizabeth Bryan
Hannah Caison
Hahn Choi
Caroline Christman
Courtney Cohen
Trey Ellis
Samantha Lejune
Dakota Lipscombe
Roger Love
Adhitya Mahesh
William Metcalf
Dreshawn McFadden
Caroline Randive
Rebecka Reibe
Adreanna Sellers
Gabrielle Supak
Alec Suttle
Haley Tanner
Montana Vaughn

Class of 2023

400+
Hannah Marion

100+
Enzo Codella
Hannah Daigle
Sawyer Davis
William Dorsett
Margaret Hay
Sarah Henning

75+
Nina Ganti
Katie Giduz
Katherine DeAngelis
Gabrielle Delgado Tally
John Gray
Brianne Megahan
Michael Wilson

50+
Marcus Brown
Courtney Coppage
Alexa Frades
Audra Goldstein
Lillian House
James Huey
Sara Margolis
Richard-Vinh Nguyen-Le
Juan Pacheco
Elizabeth Poole
Kendall Williams
Agency, Firm and Organizational Partners

Advancement Project
Advocates for Justice
Alemann Law Firm
American Forest Foundation
Arthur D. Begun, Attorney
Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP
Browner Law, PLLC
Buncombe County Public Defender’s Office
Cancer Rights Advocacy and Research
Carolina Common Enterprise
Carteret Community College
Catawba County District Attorney’s Office
Center for Death Penalty Litigation
Center for Policing Equity
Center for Responsible Lending
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
Chatham County Public Defender’s Office
Children’s Advocacy Centers of North Carolina
City of Charlotte – Charlotte Douglas International Airport
City of Durham
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Compass Center for Women and Families
Conserving Carolina
Council for Children’s Rights
Death Penalty Information Center
District Court Judge Kimberly Best
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Legal Assistance Office
Emancipate NC
Energy Justice Network
Environmental Justice Committee – National Lawyers Guild
Environmental Justice Initiative
Everett & Everett
Georgia Capital Defender – Middle Georgia Regional Office
International Association for Property and Evidence
International Justice Mission
John Adcock Law LLC
JusticeMatters
Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs
Land Loss Prevention Project
Law Office of Bruce Ellison
Law Office of Howard W. Anderson III
Law Office of Kathleen M. Joyce
Law Office of Shirin Buckman
Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Battered Immigrant Project
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Charlotte
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Expungion Project
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Greensville
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Pembroke
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Senior Law Project
Legal Aid of North Carolina – Medical Legal Partnership Links, Inc.
Lively Law Firm
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
Manning Fulton & Skinner
Mark Montgomery, Attorney
Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
N.C. Asian Americans Together
N.C. Center on Actual Innocence
N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence
N.C. Department of Justice
N.C. Department of the Secretary of State
N.C. Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources
N.C. Division of Public Health
N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission
N.C. Justice Center
N.C. Office of Indigent Defense Services
N.C. Poverty Research Fund
N.C. Prisoner Legal Services
N.C. Pro Bono Resource Center
N.C. State Bar Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel
N.C. State University Student Legal Services
National Health Law Program
National Police Accountability Project
New America
Northeastern University School of Law
Health in Justice Action Lab
Office of the Capital Defender
Premature Millionaires, Inc.
Quaker House of Fayetteville
ReHealth Collaborative, Inc.
Replacements, Ltd.
RiverBank Conservation, LLC
Robinson Bradshaw
Sean Lew, PLLC, Attorney at Law
Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan LLP
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Law Office of Derrick J. Hensley, PLLC
The Law Office of John T. Orcutt
The Law Office of Sarah Holladay
The Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History
Tin Fulton Walker & Owen, PLLC
Triage Cancer
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
UNC Center for Media Law and Policy
UNC Civil Legal Assistance Clinic
UNC Domestic & Sexual Violence Clinic
UNC Immigration Clinic
UNC School of Government Development Finance Initiative
Uniform Law Commission
Vigoda Law Firm
Wake County District Court
WakeMed
Wanjohi & Muli Law Firm
WildTrack

Note From the Director of Pro Bono Initiatives

UNC-Chapel Hill is a university steeped in tradition, and the UNC School of Law Pro Bono Program certainly has many traditions of its own. While the pandemic put a halt to many traditional events and in-person activities, the spirit of what we do and why we do it has carried us through another successful year of pro bono service. Students did not line the hall this year early on a November morning for winter break project sign ups. Instead, they signed up online in record-setting numbers. Students did not have the opportunity to go on trips across North Carolina, but instead they collaborated in virtual “trips” where they counseled clients over Zoom, reviewed driving records, and performed data research. There have been no bagels in the Rotunda this year, no in-person Pro Bono Week events, no bulletin board sign-ups, and no opportunities to shake a client’s hand. But, in place of tradition there has been adaptation. Our students have found ways to engage in pro bono work more than ever before and have been meeting the needs of our legal community from their homes. This year proved that the Pro Bono Program is not about the events, in-person clinics, or free pizza lunches—it’s about our commitment to service, concern for our community, and desire to help.

—Allison Constance ’09
The 2020-2021 Student Pro Bono Board

Chaired by Jared Smith and Erika Jones, the Pro Bono Alumni Board (PBAB) has continued to provide critical support and guidance to the student board and the wider student body despite the ongoing challenges of this year.

PBAB members David Boaz, Ashley McAlarney, Jared Smith, and Ramona McGee provided students with pro bono opportunities, and supervised them as they completed projects. Megan Bishop and Erika Jones met virtually with current students to talk about their careers and the intersection between their work and their pro bono experiences as professionals. As a whole, many members dedicated time to support students and promote the importance of pro bono.

PBAB continued to develop the Transition to Practice Guide, a resource for graduating students that outlines why new attorneys should do pro bono and that provides resources to help graduating students navigate doing pro bono as legal professionals. As a board, we are extremely grateful for the support PBAB provides us, and we are looking forward to another successful year!

Pro Bono Alumni Board Provides Support for Students

Chair: Jared Smith ’16, NC Equal Access to Justice Commission
Vice Chair: Erika Jones ’12, NC Department of Justice
Past Chair: Lauren Cranford Katzeff ’12, Sidley Austin
Katherine Asaro ’12, NC Pro Bono Resource Center
Megan Bishop ’18, NC Bar Foundation
Rachel Blunk ’11, Forrest Firm, P.C.
David Boaz ’12, Replacements, Ltd.
Amanda Colley ’15, McGuire Woods LLP
Yolanda Fair ’13, Buncombe County Public Defender’s Office
Beth Froehling ’92, UNC-Chapel Hill
SJ Hightower ’14, Legal Aid of NC, Wilson
Nihad Mansour ’16, Pro Bono Institute
Ashley McAlarney ’14, Legal Aid of NC, Senior Law Project
Ramona McGee ’14, Southern Environmental Law Center
Sarah Hill McIntyre ’14, Two Families Law
LaToya Powell ’05, N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts
Jamie Rudd ’16, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Note from the PBAB Chair

The Pro Bono Alumni Board remains an important way for the Carolina Law alumni community to remain connected to pro bono activities at UNC, an especially needed role during the pandemic. While the board was unable to convene in person, remote meetings allowed the group to explore opportunities in pro bono legal service related to emerging needs due to COVID-19; diversity, equity, and inclusion; statewide trends in civil legal needs and technological developments; and assessment and evaluation. The board also continued to support the Pro Bono Program through its project recruitment, outreach, recognition, mentorship, and fundraising efforts.

—Jared Smith ’16, Chair of the Pro Bono Alumni Board