



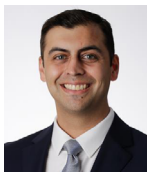
# Annual Report

2023 - 2024



## Letter from the Student Director

Alex Goodin '24  
Student Director,  
Pro Bono Program



For the UNC School of Law Pro Bono Program, this past year has been a time of growth, learning, and renewal. We started the fall semester without a Director of Pro Bono Initiatives, and the Pro Bono Board dug deep to fill the gap, keep the program running full steam, and fulfill our mission to serve unmet legal needs in our community. During this time, we welcomed a passionate and hard-working class of 1Ls, traveled to Lumberton to complete wills and power of attorney documents with members of the Lumbee Tribe, and ran over twenty-five attorney projects. We were supported during this transition by an incredible team of professors and

administrators who helped behind the scenes to keep the program running smoothly, including Professor Kaci Bishop, Emily Schuman, Rebecca Howell, and Dean Kelly Podger Smith. Thank you all so much for your support!

Once Meghan Moran joined us as the new Director of Pro Bono Initiatives, things were really off to the races. Meghan jumped right in, quickly got up to speed, and provided the board with incredible support and guidance. She helped to plan an amazing spring break trip to Charlotte, spearheaded a new monthly pop-up pro bono project, and organized countless events, projects, and ceremonies. Meghan also guided the board in difficult conversations around how to quantify our values and measure

success. Meghan has proven to be a thoughtful and inspiring leader, and we are so excited that she's joined the team!

Most of all, I want to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow students on the board. You have invested so much of yourselves into this work, and I am in awe of each and every one of you. From reimagining old projects, to starting new initiatives, to refreshing out-of-date systems, you have all brought so much thoughtfulness and care to your positions, and that commitment reverberates throughout North Carolina with every person that our program serves. It has been an incredible honor to work with each of you, and I can't wait to see where you all take the program in future years!

## Pro Bono At-A-Glance

### ALL CLASSES IN '23-'24 ACADEMIC YEAR

Total Hours  
**5,462**  
Monetary Value of Time  
**\$173,691.60**

### CLASS OF 2024

Total Hours	Value of Time
<b>10,675</b>	<b>\$339,465</b>
<b>56%</b> Students Completed Over 25 Hours	<b>97%</b> Class Participation

### CLASS OF 2025

Total Hours	Value of Time
<b>5,744</b>	<b>\$182,659</b>
<b>36%</b> Students Completed Over 25 Hours	<b>73%</b> Class Participation

### CLASS OF 2026

Total Hours	Value of Time
<b>2,936</b>	<b>\$93,364</b>
<b>22%</b> Students Completed Over 25 Hours	<b>63%</b> Class Participation

Monetary value of time based on national value of volunteer time (\$31.80/hour) from Independent Sector and University of Maryland's Do Good Institute's 2023 Value of Volunteer Time report.

# Student Group Projects

This year, student groups continued long-standing projects and implemented brand new ones. Student groups propose projects that pertain to an area of the law that corresponds to their interests. These projects help students gain experience in practice areas that interest them while also giving back to their community.

- **Black Law Students Association (BLSA):** Expunction Project;
- **Anti-Death Penalty Project (ADPP):** Center for Death Penalty Litigation Project, Louisiana Capital Assistance Center Project, Justice 360 & Grose Law Firm/Nettles Law Firm Project;
- **Environmental Law Project (ELP):** SELC NC Supreme Court Decision Review Project, Brooks Pierce Legal Representation Project;
- **Immigration Law Association (ILA):** CeBonds Project;
- **Law Students Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (LSASDV):** Ex Parte Project, Beacon Project;
- **National Lawyers Guild (NLG):** Legal Monitoring Project;
- **Veterans Advocacy Legal Association (VALOR):** Fort Liberty Wills Project.

## THE BEACON PROJECT



The Beacon Project is a pro bono project launched in 2023 by LSASDV through which UNC Law students can assist in legal research to support the work of UNC Hospitals' Beacon Program, which provides trauma-informed, coordinated care services to patients experiencing interpersonal violence (IPV). Since the project's inception this academic year, students have engaged in research

projects on a variety of topics, such as legislative research on a proposal to mandate IPV education for physicians, research for a Title XI case regarding transcript withholding, research on child custody procedures for people experiencing IPV, and the creation of a one-pager in plain language on how to file for a Domestic Violence Protective Order in North Carolina.

## New Project

### NAME CHANGE CLINIC

This year, the UNC Pro Bono Board partnered with Equality NC to host a name change clinic, with the goal of helping LGBTQ+ folks in the local community navigate changing their name to affirm their gender identity. Over the course of one day at the Chapel Hill Public Library, 10 students and 5 attorneys helped explain the name change process and provide individualized support to 20 clinic attendees.

“

The name change clinic was a fun way to connect with LGBTQ members of my community. It was fulfilling to be able to walk folks through an otherwise complicated and daunting process and break it down into smaller parts. I really enjoy projects that bring me to meet people in person.”



Sarah Dobbs,  
Class of 2025

# Special Projects

## WINTER BREAK PROJECTS

Students have the opportunity to elect to work on pro bono projects specifically intended to be completed over winter break. These opportunities are especially valuable to students who have competing commitments or limited time during the academic year.

Over the course of the fall semester, the UNC Pro Bono Board solicits projects from attorneys and organizations, and students sign up for projects that interest them before winter break starts. Throughout winter break the students work closely

with their supervising attorneys to produce work that is helpful to the attorney, any clients, and the broader community. Winter break projects span over many practice areas, and the work completed by the student can be client-focused work, complex legal research, or anything in between.

**52** Winter Break Projects

**127** Student Participants

**132** Winter Break Project Slots Filled

## ATTORNEY PROJECTS

Attorney projects are pro bono projects that students work on during the course of the academic year. Attorneys and organizations who would like student assistance on pro bono work submit projects to the UNC Pro Bono Board, who connect them with interested students.

Attorney projects take all shapes and sizes, from 50-state surveys to researching novel legal topics to assisting in the drafting of motions for litigation.

“Working with Legal Aid to build a logic model for will drafting was a wonderful experience. I really enjoyed delving into the will drafting process to help create a tool that will make it easier for Legal Aid’s pro bono volunteers to provide such an important service to clients in the future.”



Lauren Pless  
Class of 2024

**38** Attorney Projects

**80** Student Participants

## EXPUNCTION PROJECT

Students continue to work with Legal Aid of North Carolina’s Second Chance Project to assist clients seeking expunctions. This year, the project transitioned into a semester-long format, allowing students to be involved in the expunction process from beginning to end.

“

Working on a pro bono project with the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center over winter break was an immensely formative experience for me.

By reviewing a capital trial transcript, focusing specifically on how a particular judge responded to motions raised by defense counsel, I gained greater familiarity with the trial process.

This takeaway, coupled with the knowledge that the memorandum I prepared would directly assist LCAC’s litigation team as they craft strategy for an upcoming capital trial before the same judge, served as a tangible reminder of why I came to law school in the first place.”



Griffin Lamb  
Class of 2025



# Trips

## FALL BREAK

### DEAR “Better Together” Expungement Project

This year, the UNC Pro Bono Program collaborated with Durham Expungement and Restoration (DEAR) for the second annual “Better Together” Project. As part of this project, student-volunteers had the opportunity to help complete expungement petitions in collaboration with participants from other Triangle-area law schools, namely Duke Law and NCCU Law.



For their work on the Better Together Expungement Project, UNC Law, Duke Law, and NCCU Law won this year’s North Carolina Bar Association Pro Bono Committee’s Law School Pro Bono Award.

### Robeson County Wills Trip

In collaboration with Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC), students had the opportunity to service a smaller, more rural community by traveling to Pembroke, North Carolina in Robeson County to assist clients at a wills clinic. Participants collaborated with attorneys and other students and gained practical experience in document drafting and client interviewing. The participating students served 8 clients from start to finish, executing 29 documents in the process.

## SPRING BREAK

### Safe Alliance Spring Break Trip

This year, the UNC Pro Bono Program collaborated in a new partnership with Safe Alliance, a domestic violence agency in Charlotte, N.C., and their Victim’s Assistance Court Program. For the project, students traveled to Charlotte, where they assisted attorneys by reviewing clients’ Complaints for Domestic Violence Protective Orders for sufficiency, prior to the Complaints being filed. Students were also able to attend domestic violence court at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse to better understand the process of obtaining a Domestic Violence Protective Order.

# Alumni

This year, the Pro Bono Board held 6 “coffee chats” with alumni who are engaged in pro bono work as practicing attorneys. Students were able to learn about the day-to-day aspects of each alum’s job and how each alum incorporates pro bono work into their job.

These chats were great opportunities for students to network while also promoting the truth that continuing to make pro bono work a priority is possible no matter what career path someone takes.

The Pro Bono Alumni Board, led by Chair Ramona McGee (‘14) and Vice Chair S.J. Hightower (‘14), supported the work of the Pro Bono Board this year through attending quarterly meetings with the Pro Bono Board, connecting students with pro bono opportunities, and engaging in fundraising efforts, among many other actions.



# New Project

## POP-UP PRO BONO

This Spring, the UNC Pro Bono Program provided students with a number of pop-up pro bono opportunities. This initiative sought to offer concise summaries of relevant cases from the NC Court of Appeals, intended to aid Pisgah Legal Services in case

management and client support endeavors. Students were assigned new opinions released bi-monthly, focusing on civil legal services, especially family law. With a cap of 10 participants per pop-up, the project ensured manageable engagement!

3

Pop-ups

16

Student Participants

19

Cases Summarized

# Student Recognition

## CLASS OF 2024

### 600+

Emily Zoffer

### 400+

Deonta Woods

### 200+

Cecilia Barreca  
Katherine Bock  
Allison Cronin  
Sunny Frothingham  
Alex Goodin  
Morgan Schrinier

### 100+

Hayfa Ayoubi  
Robin Bleiweis  
Amelia Brown  
Libby Brown  
Kayley Carpenter  
Taylor Culver  
Xavier Dyer  
Kacie England  
Jess Errico  
Laura Fisher  
McKenna Fono  
Ariel Friedman  
Annalise Graves  
Katrina Hauprich  
Jodie Jackson

Kate Kozain  
Allison Kraynek  
Halie Mariano  
Kasey Moraveck  
Dvimidha Muniappan  
Amy Price  
Meghan Rankins  
Blythe Riggan  
McGee Roman  
Jack Salt  
Caitlin Sarpal  
S.J. Smith  
Alex Spratley  
Nebraska Stainkamp  
Hillary Stroud  
Elisa Sturkie  
Benjamin Wood

### 75+

Daniel Gaynor  
Sofia Hnatzuk-Escobal  
Melanie Kennedy  
Wheels Moyer  
Catherine Ransom  
Sonam Shah  
Mallory Verez

### 50+

Alexis Benson  
Kayla Chargois  
Connor Green

Nicholas Hatcher  
Olivia House  
Lauren Hubbard  
Aidan Kelley  
Yasmin Khodaei  
Ruth Kintzele  
Amber Knepper  
Emily Kocher  
Andrew Kragie  
Juliette Lafargue  
Ashley Loveless  
Sharis Manokian  
Becca Pearson  
Abigail Perdew  
Lauren Pless  
Reece Porath  
Robert Porter  
John Schengber  
Melissa Zalenski

## CLASS OF 2025

### 300+

Juliana Bird

### 200+

Caleb Karnes  
Mandy Mericle  
Gabrielle Schust  
Brynn Story

### 100+

Drew Alexander  
Sarah Dobbs  
Dylan Silver  
Emma Shambach  
Katharine Smyth  
Aprie'la Warren  
McLean Waters

### 75+

Paul Brown  
Eve Chung  
Madeline Clahane  
Taylor Cole  
Aubree Cosper  
Jessica di Lustro  
Morgan Lee  
Ellie McIntyre  
Andrew Parco  
Emma Poole  
Lexie Seigel

### 50+

Madeline Bauer  
Manasi Deorah  
Jalota Alexander  
Aparna Konde  
Eliana Lavine  
Chloe Nichols  
Noah Raftogianis  
Grace Roberts

Mackenzie Roche  
Erica Shimmel  
Gabrielle Sigmon  
Mia Thillet  
Kathryn Turk  
Mikayla Zummo

## CLASS OF 2026

### 200+

Casey Buttke  
Griffin Lamb  
Will Etringer

### 75+

Erin Namovicz  
Zach Griffith

### 50+

Helen Wilson  
Robby Fensom  
Temple Shepherd  
Sarah Daugherty  
Isabella Parsons  
Lilly Winfree  
Rebecca Feldman  
Kalysta Strauss  
Rebecca Jackson  
Jackson Fisher  
Emily Kaplan

## COLLEGE CUP

The 1L College Cup is a competition between the four 1L colleges to see who can complete the most pro bono hours over the year.

The winner of the 2023-2024 College Cup was College B. With 61.36% voluntary participation and 1016 total hours logged, the win was certainly well-deserved. The students of College B were rewarded with a breakfast celebration in April.

This year, the three students in every college who completed the most pro bono hours were recognized at the College Cup Celebration as "College Cup MVPs."

**College A MVPs:** William Etringer; Erin Namovicz; Kalysta Strauss

**College B MVPs:** Casey Buttke; Griffin Lamb; Zach Griffith

**College C MVPs:** Rebecca Feldman; Christine Park; Catherine Southwick

**College D MVPs:** Helen Wilson; Robby Fensom; Sarah Daugherty



## PRO BONO TO PRACTICE DINNER

This May, the Pro Bono Program hosted the Pro Bono to Practice Dinner (formerly known as the Practically Transitioned Dinner) to celebrate graduating students who completed over 75 hours of pro bono work while in law school.

Students, as well as alumni, faculty, staff, and community members

engaged in pro bono work, gathered at Mez Restaurant for a banquet with keynote speaker The Honorable Judge Amanda Maris of Durham County District Court. Judge Maris discussed the importance of pro bono work throughout history and the importance of finding a personal connection to pro bono work.

## PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARDS



**Top** Winners of this year's Pro Bono Publico Awards received plaques to commemorate their achievements.

**Bottom Left** Incoming Student Director of the Pro Bono Board ('24-'25) Jessica di Lustro ('25) speaks at this year's annual Pro Bono Publico Awards.

**Bottom Right** Community Services Coordinator of the Pro Bono Board ('23-'24) Chantrisse Howard ('25) presents the Faculty Member of the Year Award to Clinical Professor and Associate Dean of Experiential Education Kaci Bishop ('04).



The Pro Bono Program was pleased to celebrate the outstanding pro bono service of members of the UNC Law community at the Pro Bono Publico Awards Reception in April. Below are this year's winners.

**Emily Zoffer '24** *Sylvia K. Novinsky Award*  
For completing over 600 pro bono hours and encouraging classmates to get involved in pro bono work.

**Alex Goodin '24** *Sylvia K. Novinsky Award*  
For his leadership on the Pro Bono Board and building a community around pro bono work at the law school.

**Morgan Schriner '24** *3L Student of the Year*  
For her dedication to pro bono work supporting criminal justice work.

**Brynn Story '25** *2L Student of the Year*  
For her dedication to pro bono work supporting reproductive rights.



**Will Etringer '26** *1L Student of the Year*  
For his involvement in a wide array of different pro bono projects.

**Anti-Death Penalty Project** *Student Group Project of the Year*  
For providing several impactful pro bono opportunities for students.

**Kaci Bishop '04** *Faculty Member of the Year*  
For her commitment to supporting the Pro Bono Board and law school community as a whole.

**Jessica Luong '08** *Alumna of the Year*  
For her help in organizing the DEAR "Better Together" Expunction Project and making it accessible for students.

**Safe Alliance** *Partner/Organization of the Year*  
For working with students on an engaging spring break project focused on assisting survivors of domestic violence.



# Agency, Firm & Organizational Partners

ACLU Capital Punishment Project  
Advancement Project Education Fund  
AEquitas  
American Bar Association  
Army JAG  
Best, Lawrence Law, P.A.  
Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
Capital Area Teen Court  
Carolina Abortion Fund  
Carolina Common Enterprise  
Catawba County District Attorney's Office (District 36)  
Center for Death Penalty Litigation  
Center for Justice and Accountability  
Chatham County Public Defender's Office  
Christopher J. Heaney Law Office  
Church World Service- Jersey City  
Colorado Lawyers Committee  
Colorado Office of the Attorney General  
Compass Center for Women and Families  
Cumberland County District Attorney's Office  
Democracy NC  
Duke University School of Law Pro Bono Program  
Durham City Attorney's Office  
Durham Expungement and Restoration (DEAR) Program  
Durham Housing Authority  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Legal Assistance Office  
Emancipate NC  
Equality NC  
Federal Public Defender - Eastern District of North Carolina  
Federal Public Defender- Western District of North Carolina  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
Foundation for Individual Rights in

Education  
Gerber Animal Law Center  
Grose Law Firm  
Guardian ad Litem - North Carolina  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Guardian Ad Litem District 15B  
Judge Christine Walczyk  
Justice360  
Land Loss Prevention Project  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Battered Immigrant Project)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Carrboro)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Charlotte)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Durham)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Expunction Project)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Greensboro)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Fair Housing Project)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Pembroke)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Raleigh)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Right to Education Project)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Senior Law Project)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (The Child's Advocate)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina (Wilson)  
Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.  
LGBTQ Center of Durham  
Louisiana Capital Assistance Center  
Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command  
Marion Cheek Jackson Center  
Mark Montgomery, Attorney  
McGuireWoods  
National Health Law Program

National Lawyers Guild- National Police Accountability Project  
National Lawyers Guild- North Carolina  
NC Bar Association  
NC Bar Foundation  
NC Center on Actual Innocence  
NC Central University (NCCU) School of Law Pro Bono Program  
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
NC Department of Justice  
NC Department of the Secretary of State  
NC District Court, 10th Judicial District  
NC Innocence Inquiry Commission  
NC Justice Center  
NC Museum of Art  
NC Office of the Capital Defender  
NC Prisoner Legal Services, Inc.  
NC Pro Bono Resource Center  
NC School Policing Accountability Project  
NC Supreme Court  
Nettles Law Firm  
Orange County District Attorney's Office - North Carolina  
Orange County VITA  
Pisgah Legal Services  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Professor Deborah Weissman  
Professor Maria Savasta-Kennedy  
Robert Orr  
Rwanda Ministry of Justice  
Safe Alliance  
Sasha Telyukov, Esq.  
Scharff Law Firm  
Smith Anderson LLP  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
The Institute for Justice  
Tin Fulton Walker & Owen, PLLC  
Town of Garner  
Triage Cancer

Triangle ArtWorks  
UNC - Black Law Students Association  
UNC - Anti-Death Penalty Project  
UNC - Environmental Law Project  
UNC - Faculty/Staff  
UNC - Innocence Project  
UNC - Immigration Law Association  
UNC - Law Students Against Sexual and Domestic Violence  
UNC - National Lawyers Guild (NLG)  
UNC - Sports and Entertainment Law Association  
UNC - VALOR  
UNC Hospitals  
UNC Hospitals- Beacon Program  
UNC Law Clinical Program - Civil Legal Assistance Clinic  
UNC Law Clinical Program - Immigration Clinic  
UNC Law Pro Bono Alumni Board  
UNC SOGIESC Human Rights Initiative  
US Bankruptcy Court, Western District of North Carolina  
US Department of Justice  
US Department of Justice- Environment and Natural Resources Division  
US District Court, District of Maryland  
US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan  
US District Court, Western District of North Carolina  
Wake County Covenants Project  
Wake County Public Defender's Office  
Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey PLLC  
Warrior Legal Services

# Letter from the Director of Pro Bono Initiatives

**Meghan Moran '19**

*Director,  
Pro Bono Initiatives*



As an alum of UNC Law ('19), I was honored to return to the law school to serve as the Director of Pro Bono Initiatives in November 2023. Pro bono work was very meaningful to me during my time in law school, and my primary goal in this position is to ensure that the Pro Bono Program will continue to connect students with meaningful pro bono opportunities that address the evolving needs of the people of our state and beyond. This year, the Pro Bono Program did just that through the power of partnership.

The Pro Bono Program was able to offer dozens of dynamic pro bono opportunities for students from an array of dedicated partners. These projects dealt with novel legal issues that spanned multiple practice areas, from housing law to immigration law, to more niche practice areas like animal law and art law. This variety of projects underscores the truth that, no matter a student's interest or expertise, they can use their skills to help someone in need, hopefully promoting a lifelong commitment to pro bono work.

In addition to coordinating and facilitating pro bono projects from our partners, the Pro Bono Program was also able to take an active role in developing new opportunities for students. These opportunities included an impactful project with Equality NC and the LGBT Center of Durham to host a name change clinic, as well as a trip to Charlotte to assist Safe Alliance in serving the legal needs of survivors of domestic violence seeking protective orders. These pro bono projects blossomed from the desire to address unmet legal needs in our state and transformed through partnership and collaboration with organizations and individuals who best understand those legal needs and the populations to be served.

The Pro Bono Program is grateful to our supporters, partners, and student volunteers for their tremendous work this year and I look forward to seeing what we can all accomplish together in the future.



## 2023-2024

# Pro Bono Board

Director of Pro Bono Initiatives **Meghan Moran '19**

Student Director **Alex Goodin '24**

1L Class Coordinator **Casey Buttke '24**

2L Class Coordinator **Ellie McIntyre '25**

3L Class Coordinator **Taylor Culver '24**

Alumni Outreach Coordinator **Jessica di Lustro '25**

Attorney Projects Coordinator **Dylan Silver '25**

Break Projects Coordinator **Juliana Bird '25**

Community Services Co-Coordinators

**Aprie'la Warren '25**

**Chantrisse Howard '25**

Public Relations Coordinator **Allison Cronin '24**

Special Trips Co-Coordinator **Mandy Mericle '25**

Special Trips Co-Coordinator **Xavier Dyer '24**

Student Groups Coordinator **Mady Clahane '25**



SCHOOL OF LAW

Pro Bono Program

Van Hecke-Wettach Hall,  
160 Ridge Rd., CB 3380, Chapel Hill, 27599  
[law.unc.edu/probono](http://law.unc.edu/probono)