Hofstra Law Pro Bono Scholars Program Application

Overview of Program

Law students at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University can spend 12 weeks of their final spring semester in law school by providing 540 hours of pro bono legal assistance, including time spent in training and in a required 2-credit weekly seminar. In exchange, these students are permitted to take the New York Bar Exam in February of their 3L year and, assuming a passing score and successful completion of the Pro Bono Scholars Program and all graduation requirements, these students will graduate in May and be admitted to practice in New York in June of their graduating year.

Pro bono placements and supervising attorneys must be approved by the Law School. The pro bono legal assistance must be supervised by a licensed attorney and involve direct client contact in the provision of legal services for:

(a) Persons who are financially unable to pay for legal representation  
(b) Indigent clients of not-for-profit legal service providers that predominately address the legal needs of poor persons; or  
(c) A government entity, so long as the work performed is on behalf of identifiable individuals who are financially unable to afford representation or whose unmet legal needs prevent their access to justice.

Enrollment in the Hofstra Law Pro Bono Scholars Program is by application only.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate that they will have satisfied all of their graduation requirements by the end of the Fall semester, except for the remaining 12 credits of the Program. In addition, students must demonstrate that they have taken and passed the MPRE no later than February of their 3L year. Applicants must not be at risk of exceeding the limit of 23 non-classroom hour credits if they enroll in this program. Students must have a cumulative GPA above 2.8 at the time of their application to be considered for the Program. Enrollment is limited to 10 students. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate a commitment to pro bono legal services and/or public interest work.
Selection Process

To apply to the Pro Bono Scholars Program, you must submit this application form, a current resume, a writing sample of no more than 10 pages, and an academic transcript. Applications should be submitted to Franca Sachs by hand in room 203B or via email to franca.sachs@hofstra.edu. Applications must be submitted in mid-February of the 2L year.

Applicants will be notified if they are selected for an interview. Interviews will be conducted by one or more members of the faculty and/or administration. Once selected, students will work with the Office of Experiential Programs to locate an appropriate pro bono field placement. By September of the 3L year, Pro Bono Scholars must have their placement confirmed. In November selected students will submit their applications to sit for the bar. In February, selected students will take the bar exam. Beginning in March, students will begin their 12 week full-time pro bono placement. During that time, students will be expected to participate in a mandatory orientation program, provide pro bono legal assistance in the field placement, and participate in a 2-hour weekly class on Pro Bono Practice, all of which must total a minimum of 540 hours. Students will receive notification about whether they have passed the bar in early May. Successful bar passage will be conditional on successful completion of the Pro Bono Scholars Program requirements. For all successful participants, the Law School will notify the State Board of Law Examiners that the students have met all of the requirements for graduation and admission to the bar and those students should expect to be admitted to the New York Bar by the end of June.
PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICATION

Student Information

Name: ________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Expected Year of Graduation from Law School: ________

Are you a Full-Time or Part-Time Student? ______________

(Please note: If you are a part-time student, you must be prepared to seek permission to transfer into the full-time program for your final semester, which means you will be billed as a full-time student).

Number of credits expected at the end of 2L year: __________

Cumulative GPA at time of application: __________

Date you plan to take MPRE: __________

Please indicate on the chart below which Law School graduation requirements you have completed or which are pending in the Spring of 2L year:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass All 1L Courses</td>
<td>Pass Evidence (4 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Evidence (4 credits)</td>
<td>Pass Professional Responsibility (2/3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Professional Responsibility (2/3 credits)</td>
<td>Pass Constitutional Law I and II (6 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Constitutional Law I and II (6 credits)</td>
<td>Pass Foundational Lawyering Skills (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Foundational Lawyering Skills (3 credits)</td>
<td>Completed Writing I (C+ or higher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed Writing I (C+ or higher)</td>
<td>Completed Writing II (C+ or higher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed Writing II (C+ or higher)</td>
<td>Complete Experiential Course(s) (6 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Experiential Course(s) (6 credits)</td>
<td>Pass Wills, Trusts &amp; Estates (4 credits) (if applicable)</td>
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<td>Pass Wills, Trusts &amp; Estates (4 credits) (if applicable)</td>
<td>Pass Business Organizations (4 credits) (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Business Organizations (4 credits) (if applicable)</td>
<td>Pass Criminal Procedure I (4 credits) (if applicable)</td>
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Please identify any year-long programs (e.g., journals, student organizations), if any, that you participate in and whether you have made alternative arrangements if you are accepted in the program.

Please explain why you are interested in participating in the Pro Bono Scholars program and what you hope to achieve by participating in the program. Be sure to include any past pro bono and/or public interest work or activities.

Please describe your areas of interest and the kind of pro bono placement you are seeking. 
(Please note: we cannot guarantee that students will receive a field placement in their requested field).

Please provide the name, title, and contact information of two references with whom we can discuss your interest and qualifications for being admitted into the Pro Bono Scholars Program.

1. ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________

__________________________  ____________________
Student’s Signature                   Date