



 **Tulane**  
**University**  
LAW SCHOOL

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# SERVICE & COMMUNITY



OVER 300,000 HOURS OF  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

## TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL & THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Tulane Law School is committed to exploring meaningful ways to promote the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford a lawyer. Tulane is among the most progressive law schools in the United States, particularly in encouraging its students to further the public interest in and out of law school.

Our roster of public interest activities is lengthy. These activities encompass our clinical education program, Public Interest Law Foundation summer stipends for public interest work, extensive public service externship opportunities, our loan repayment assistance program, and most important, our role as the first law school in the country to require its students to perform community service as a condition of graduation.

### CLINICS AT TULANE LAW SCHOOL

The law school's clinical education program offers third-year students (and, in some cases second-year students) the opportunity to gain experience in representing actual clients in real situations under the guidance of Tulane professors, as well as to learn advocacy skills and the necessary substantive law. We have developed a multidimensional clinical program that should permit as many as 100 students to participate each year.

**Civil Litigation Clinic** Students are responsible for cases in federal and state court involving domestic relations, housing law, employment discrimination, and civil rights.

**Criminal Litigation Clinic** Students represent defendants charged with felonies and misdemeanors in the criminal district court and also brief and argue appeals in the state appellate courts.

**Domestic Violence Clinic** Students provide legal representation to indigent victims of domestic violence in a wide range of matters implicated by relationship violence, including protective orders, victim compensation, divorce, child custody and visitation, spousal and child support, community property, housing, employment, public benefits, tax, and consumer debt.

**Environmental Law Clinic** The first of its kind among law schools in the South, this clinic is designed to train students to be effective environmental lawyers. Students represent clients in judicial and administrative proceedings and provide legal assistance to otherwise unrepresented individuals and citizen organizations that want to protect and restore the natural environment of Louisiana.

**Juvenile Litigation Clinic** Students represent children or parents in cases involving child abuse and neglect, delinquency, status offenses, adoptions, child support, and termination of parental rights.

**Legislative & Administrative Advocacy** Students participating in the legislative and administrative advocacy program of The Public Law Center, supervised by staff-attorneys, represent disadvantaged clients in the legislative and administrative processes of government, as well as nonprofit organizations in transactional matters. In addition, TPLC conducts a variety of international training events, both domestically and abroad, for legislative-drafting staff, public officials, and non-governmental organizations.

## Sample Academic Year Externship Placements

### Government

Attorney General, State of Louisiana  
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
Federal Public Defenders  
Housing Authority of New Orleans  
I.R.S. – Office of Chief Counsel  
National Labor Relations Board  
New Orleans City Council  
Orleans District Attorney  
Orleans Public Defenders  
Port of New Orleans  
U.S. Attorney  
U.S. Probation Office

### Judicial

Civil District Court  
Criminal District Court  
Family Court  
Louisiana Supreme Court  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
U.S. District Court  
U.S. Magistrate Court  
U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals

### Public Interest

ACLU of Louisiana  
Advocates for Environmental Human Rights  
The Advocacy Center  
AIDS Law of Louisiana  
Capital Appeals Project  
Capital Post Conviction Project of Louisiana  
Children's Hospital  
Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives  
Domestic Court Pro Se Help Desk  
Fair Housing Action Center  
Gulf Restoration Network  
Health Law Advocates of Louisiana  
Immigration Legal Services – Catholic Charities  
Independent Police Monitor  
Innocence Project  
Juvenile Justice Project  
Juvenile Regional Services  
New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice  
Orleans Public Defender & Families in Need of Supervision  
Pro Bono Project  
Project SAVE  
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services  
Southern Poverty Law Center

## PUBLIC SERVICE EXTERNSHIPS

We offer a year-long externship program for third-year students and a summer externship program for both rising 2Ls and rising 3Ls. Field placements fall into three categories: judicial, government service, and public interest. Judicial field placements take place in federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels. Government service field placements are with government offices at the federal, state, and local levels. Public interest field placements are with legal services providers or advocacy groups in a wide variety of non-profit organizations. Field placements may be pre-approved, which means that they are initiated and confirmed by Tulane Law School. The list is not static, and new placements are regularly approved and added to the list. Alternatively, field placements may be student-initiated; students may generate their own proposals for field placements for either the summer or academic year externships. Field placements in distant locations, whether in the U.S. or abroad, are limited to the summer externship. Students earn 5 credits for the academic year externship which includes both the fall and spring semesters, and 3 credits for the summer externship.

Our externships enable our students to receive course credit as they develop lawyering skills, professional responsibility, and promote public service and social justice. Some placements offer high client volume, heavy caseloads, and frequent court appearances; others have a small caseload of selected cases and infrequent court appearances. Some field placements represent their clients almost exclusively through litigation, while others are more oriented to formulation of policy and advocacy in the legislature or through community education. Field placements may offer a wide range of client contact. Judicial externships, of course, focus heavily on legal research and writing and also offer opportunities to observe proceedings.

## MANDATORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

In September 1987, Tulane Law School became the first U.S. law school to require its students to perform community service in order to graduate. Each student completes a minimum of 50 hours of legal service on behalf of indigent clients in the New Orleans metropolitan area or, during vacation periods, in the student's home or summer community. The required hours are ungraded, but appear on the student's transcript as "pro bono" credit.

The decision to begin this pro bono program grew out of concern for the unmet legal needs of the poor as well as concern for the educational enrichment of law students. The essential premise of the program is the "trickle-up" theory of moral obligation. An ideal way to shape attorneys' attitudes is from the ground up, by instilling in law students a sense of their responsibilities before they become members of the bar. Drawing upon this experience, Tulane graduates should be more willing to seek pro bono opportunities in their law practices and more confident in their ability to provide assistance to those who desperately need it.

The range of pro bono placements is extensive. Our students work with dozens of organizations providing legal services to under-served populations. This training is now an essential part of our program of legal education.

### A list of some of our local pro bono partners through which Tulane law students fulfill the community service requirement:

- ACLU of Louisiana
- The Advocacy Center
- Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
- AIDS Law of Louisiana, Inc.
- Alliance for Affordable Energy
- The Capital Appeals Project
- Capital Defense Project of Southeast Louisiana
- Capital Post-Conviction Project of Louisiana
- C.A.S.A. – Court-Appointed Special Advocates
- Common Ground Legal Clinic
- Conservation Force
- Critical Resistance
- Domestic Violence Pro Se Help Desk at Civil District Court
- EEOC
- Entertainment Law Legal Assistance (ELLA)
- Fair Housing Action Center
- Federal Public Defenders
- Foundation to Support Animal Protection/PETA
- Gulf Restoration Network
- Health Law Advocates of Louisiana
- Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP)
- Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO)
- Immigration Clinic-Loyola Law School
- Immigration Legal Service, Associated Catholic Charities
- Innocence Project New Orleans
- Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
- Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana
- Juvenile Regional Services
- Lawyer Referral Service, New Orleans Bar Association
- Lawyers without Borders
- Louisiana Bucket Brigade
- Louisiana Capital Assistance Center
- Mental Health Advocacy Service
- NAACP
- The Nature Conservancy
- New Orleans City Attorney's Office
- New Orleans City Council Offices
- New Orleans District Attorney's Office
- Orleans Parish Public Defender
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
- The Pro Bono Project
- Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)
- Project SAVE, Associated Catholic Charities
- Public Defender Boards in various Louisiana parishes
- Resurrection After Exoneration
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS)
- Street Law
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Workers' Compensation Court, State of Louisiana District



# MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY WORK

## CURRICULUM

“Public interest” law can include many fields of law, as illustrated by the wide variety of experiences that our students have undertaken in fulfillment of our community service requirement. Tulane offers both depth and breadth in the variety of course offerings that might be considered a part of a “public interest” curriculum. Certainly, our clinics are a significant example of public interest law at Tulane. Courses that students wishing to pursue public interest law might take at Tulane, depending on their interests, include the course listed below. For a complete list of courses offered at Tulane Law School, see our website.

### Constitutional Law

Constitutional & Religion Seminar  
Constitutional Criminal Procedure:  
Adjudication  
Constitutional Criminal Procedure:  
Investigation  
Constitutional Law I  
Constitutional Law: 14th Amendment  
Constitutional Law: Freedoms of  
Speech & Press  
Constitutional Law: Religious Freedoms  
Constitutional Theory Seminar  
Federal Courts  
Foreign Affairs & the Constitution

### Consumer Law

Commercial Law: Bankruptcy  
Commercial Law: Civil Law  
Security Rights  
Commercial Law: Secured Transactions  
Products Liability  
Torts  
Toxic Tort Litigation Practice  
Toxic Tort Theory & Practice

### Criminal Law & Procedure

Constitutional Criminal Procedure:  
Adjudication  
Constitutional Criminal Procedure:  
Investigation  
Criminal Law  
Criminal Law: Federal  
Criminal Law: International  
Criminal Litigation Clinic  
Criminal Practice, Advanced  
Criminal Procedure Seminar  
Domestic Violence Clinic  
Domestic Violence Law & Advocacy  
Environmental Criminal Law  
Juvenile Advocacy Seminar  
Juvenile Litigation Clinic

### Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
International Commercial Arbitration  
Mediation Seminar  
Negotiation & Mediation Advocacy

### Environmental & Energy Law

Administrative Law  
Disaster Response & Recovery:  
Legal & Social Implications  
Energy Regulation  
Environmental Criminal Law  
Environmental Law Clinic  
Environmental Law: Clean Air Act  
Environmental Law: Coastal &  
Wetlands Seminar  
Environmental Law: Endangered  
Species & Biodiversity Seminar  
Environmental Law: Hazardous  
Wastes & Substances  
Environmental Law: Historic  
Preservation Seminar  
Environmental Law: International  
Environmental Law: Natural Resources  
Environmental Law: Pollution Control  
Land Use Planning  
Law of the Sea  
Marine Pollution  
Oil & Gas Law  
Oil & Gas Law, Advanced

Sustainable Energy Law & Policy  
Tax: Natural Resources Tax  
Toxic Tort Litigation Practice  
Toxic Tort Theory & Practice  
Water Resources Policy

### State & Local Government

Fair Housing Law & Litigation  
Land Use Planning  
Legislative & Administrative Advocacy  
Tax: State & Local Taxation

### Family Law

Community Property  
Domestic Violence Clinic  
Domestic Violence Law & Advocacy  
Family Law  
Juvenile Advocacy Seminar  
Juvenile Litigation Clinic  
Successions, Donations & Trusts  
Tax: Gift & Estate Tax Planning  
Trusts & Estates

### Labor Law

Employment Discrimination  
Employment Discrimination Seminar  
Labor Law  
Mediation

### Other Areas

Animal Law Seminar  
Health Care Law & Regulation  
Immigration Law  
Legal Profession  
Public Interest Externships  
Public International Law  
Remedies  
Trial Advocacy



## TULANE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION

The Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), one of the law school's largest and most active student organizations, promotes interest and opportunities in public interest law at Tulane. Founded in 1983, PILF was created as a student-run organization with three main goals:

- To encourage students to participate in public interest activities;
- To help fund summer grants; and
- To provide inspiration and support to those seeking careers in public interest law.

PILF promotes the belief that members of the legal profession have a responsibility to provide legal services to traditionally unrepresented individuals and, sometimes, unpopular interests. PILF acts on that belief by awarding grants to many of its talented student members so that they can engage in summer employment with public interest legal organizations.

In addition to raising money to fund grants, PILF promotes public interest work in the law school by inviting public interest attorneys to speak to law students, encouraging pro bono work among students, and collaborating extensively with the Career Development Office to make sure that public interest-minded students are informed with regard to available summer employment, fellowships, grants, federal loan forgiveness programs, loan repayment assistance, internships, and, of course, post-graduation employment. Finally, PILF facilitates the involvement of law students in the greater New Orleans community by volunteering in local schools through the Street Law program and organizing community service projects.

Tulane's PILF provides several students each year with stipends to travel to the Equal Justice Works annual conference and career fair. In conjunction with this conference, PSLawNet sponsors an annual Public Service Mini-Conference and presents Pro Bono Publico awards to recognize law students for outstanding pro bono commitment. (PSLawNet is a network of law schools, including Tulane, and thousands of law-related public interest organizations in the U.S. and around the world.) Two Tulane Law students have received national recognition at this conference for their public service activities.

## SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST JOBS

Funds raised by PILF are used to fund summer grants to Tulane law students who wish to work for public interest organizations or state and local governmental agencies that cannot afford to pay wages comparable to private law firms. Each year PILF raises funds through various fundraisers and makes grants to 20 or more students. Grant recipients are selected by a committee of faculty and PILF members; awards are based on the nature of the proposed public interest work, the applicant's demonstrated commitment to public interest work, and participation in PILF activities. Since 1990, hundreds of grants have been awarded to students working in over 40 U.S. jurisdictions and 16 countries.

Students with grants usually work for 10 to 12 weeks for organizations that perform legal work in a wide variety of fields, including environmental protection, refugees, housing and public benefits, employment, AIDS, battered women, government whistle-blowers, adoptions, and juveniles. Grant recipients may also work in public defender offices, district attorneys' offices, the Tulane Law Clinics, and other legal services programs.

## OTHER STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

In addition to our Public Interest Law Foundation, there are other student organizations with public interest involvement. These include:

- ACLU Student Chapter
- Alianza del Derecho
- Criminal Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Human Rights Law Society
- Lambda Law Alliance
- National Lawyers Guild – Tulane Chapter
- Public Interest Executive Committee of the Student Bar Association
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Tulane Child Advocates
- Tulane Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)
- Tulane Legal Assistance Program (TULAP)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Tulane law students are well known for mobilizing to address particular needs. Most famously, in 2005, shortly after Hurricane Katrina, even while still evacuated, Tulane law students created the Student Hurricane Network. The organization became a national association of law students working to support legal aid entities in the storm-affected areas and monitor the rebuilding process.

## CAREERS

Tulane's Career Development Office (CDO) is firmly committed to supporting students interested in public service. The CDO provides information about networking and job opportunities, as well as educational panels and seminars focusing on public interest jobs. Two professional staff members of the CDO are dedicated to the public interest and government sectors: one counselor specializes in providing support and guidance to students interested in pursuing non-profit careers and fellowships, and another counselor provides assistance to students interested in government and environmental law careers.

All career counselors at Tulane use a variety of print, on-line, and alumni resources to assist students with their job searches. Tulane subscribes to PSLawNet.org, a national public interest law database that allows students access to the job postings and profiles of several thousand organizations. PSLawNet.org features current opportunities for volunteer and paid internships and jobs in a variety of public interest and government practice settings, a complete catalog of post-graduate fellowship opportunities, and a variety of other helpful resources. The CDO subscribes to many other job search sites and online databases.

Tulane has many distinguished alumni serving in the public interest arena who are willing to mentor and serve as resources for current law students considering public service careers.

Between 15 and 20 percent of the students in recent graduating classes have gone into public service after receiving the J.D. from Tulane. Graduates have pursued government employment as prosecutors, as public defenders, and in a variety of government agencies at all levels. Others work at a wide range of traditional public interest organizations in environmental law, criminal justice, civil rights, housing, health care, and more. On a regular basis, Tulane Law School graduates have been awarded public interest fellowships from organizations including Equal Justice Works, Georgetown University





### Entertainment Law Legal Assistance (ELLA)

ELLA is an initiative of Tulane Law School's pro bono program, the Tipitina's Foundation, and the Arts Council of New Orleans. The organization was formed in January 2005 in response to the overwhelming need for legal services by artists and entertainers who could not otherwise afford to hire attorneys to protect and enforce their rights. A Tulane Law graduate entertainment law attorney who is an expert in intellectual property issues supervises Tulane law students as they help provide pro bono legal advice. ELLA provides continuing legal advice and education to its clients, who may avail themselves of a variety of legal services. ELLA has assisted local artists with life rights issues, copyright issues, sync licenses, mechanical licenses, and master use licenses for film and soundtracks. Scores of artists have also benefited from ELLA research and assistance with issues outside of the entertainment industry, such as landlord-tenant disputes and successions to help clients establish the documentation needed to secure post-Katrina housing settlements.

### Tulane Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)

POPS was established at Tulane Law School in 1989 to address the problems of prisoner overcrowding and the rapidly growing geriatric inmate population in Louisiana's prisons. The primary mission of POPS is to aid elderly and infirm inmates in seeking parole. Members of Tulane POPS travel to one of five state prisons and conduct interviews of inmates who may be eligible for POPS representation at a future parole hearing. Law students gather data, contact relevant resources, and analyze cases so that they may advocate for the selected inmate before the State of Louisiana Board of Parole. POPS offers an excellent opportunity for Tulane law students to obtain experience in interviewing and in oral advocacy under the supervision of an experienced practitioner. This program has gained national attention and has served as a model for similar programs across the nation.

(Prettyman Fellowship), and New Voices. These fellowships have made it possible for Tulane graduates to work for such entities as Florida Institutional Legal Services, the Texas Civil Rights Project, the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Greater Chicago, the Georgetown Criminal Justice Clinics, and the Innocence Project, among others.

### LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Tulane's loan repayment assistance program can be a significant economic incentive for students who opt to pursue certain public service careers. The program helps eligible graduates pay off a portion of their law school educational loans for a specified period of time. As the program is currently structured, graduates are eligible to apply for loan repayment assistance benefits if they: (a) earn less than a specified annual amount and (b) work full-time as lawyers for certain types of public interest legal service organizations. The program requires that eligible graduates devote a certain percentage of their income toward repayment of non-family law school loans. Tulane Law School reimburses students for their loan repayments above this amount for up to five years. Details concerning salary level, type of eligible employment, percentage of income to be devoted to loan repayment, and applicable caps can be obtained from the Law School Financial Aid office.

In addition, Tulane has received a grant from the Kendall Vick Foundation to provide loan repayment assistance to individuals pursuing public service work, including government employment, in the state of Louisiana.

The federal College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which went into effect in 2009, also provides income-based repayment and loan forgiveness options to individuals pursuing public service employment.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH TEACH FOR AMERICA AND TEACH FOR CHINA

Tulane Law School is pleased to partner with Teach for America and the similar Teach for China program in the following ways:

- (1) Waiver of Application Fee - The law school will grant a waiver of the application fee to any current Teach for America or Teach for China member or alumnus applying for admission.
- (2) Two-Year Deferral - Upon request from Teach for America or Teach for China participants who have been offered admission, the law school will offer a two-year deferral to enable admitted students to begin a two-year commitment to the corps in the year in which law study was to have commenced.
- (3) Tulane Scholarship - Tulane Law School will award a \$10,000 annual scholarship to each Teach for America and Teach for China alumnus accepted.

