



Public Service Pledge

Frequently Asked Questions for Employers

Q: What is the Public Service Pledge Program?

A: The Public Service Pledge program is a commitment by students to complete 50 hours of law-related public service work, not for credit or other compensation, during their time at the Law School.

Q: How does work count towards the pledge?

A: To count toward the Pledge, work must be law-related, must not be done for credit or other compensation, and must be supervised by an attorney or a Law School faculty member.

Q: Do I have to be a licensed attorney to request assistance?

A: Yes. Students are only able to work under the supervision of a licensed attorney because students are not licensed to practice law. You may also be a law school faculty member and request student assistance.

Q: May students take on legal research or cases on their own for individual members of the public?

A: No. Students may not engage legal work on their own; this would be an unauthorized practice of law. Student cannot accept cases from the public and cannot give legal advice and assistance with the supervision of a licensed attorney. Students must be supervised by a licensed attorney.

Q: Are student limited to projects that only require 50 hours of work?

No. 50 hours is the number of hours necessary in order to fulfill the pledge. Students are welcome and encouraged to complete more than 50 hours. Commitments can be as little or as large as you have a need.

Q: Must projects require a minimum number of hours worth of work?

No. There is no minimum number of hours of work that a project must require.

Q: What types of work qualify?

A: Qualified activities include those that require lawyering skills (such as legal research and writing, interviewing, counseling, oral or written advocacy, or representation of individuals in court, administrative, or other hearings), public education activities (such as preparing for and delivering lectures on legal topics or writing informational brochures or web information on legal topics for under-served communities), and service to the legal profession or legal institutions.

Examples include: Denver legal nights, Colorado Legal Services, work for legal government entities, bar association sponsored community service, research for non-profit legal organizations.

Q: Is there work that does not qualify?

A: Work that does not qualify includes non-legal public service such as community service that does not involve service to the legal profession.

Examples include: volunteering for a homeless shelter, habitat for humanity, park clean ups.

Q: If training is required for the student to volunteer, will this training count?

Training sessions do count towards the pledge hours as long as the trainings are to prepare students for the law-related pro bono work

Q: Are students recognized for completing this program?

A: Students who fulfill their pledge will be recognized at graduation, and their public service will be reflected on their transcripts.

Q: Will you post opportunities for students?

A: Yes. At any time throughout the year, we can post both one-time opportunities and on-going projects.

Q: Who can I contact with more questions?

A: You can contact the Karen Trojanowski at probonolaw@colorado.edu or (303) 492-5911 with any questions or opportunities.