

Practical Skills Through Public Service Program

The Oregon New Lawyers Division ("ONLD") is excited to announce its new program Practical Skills Through Public Service. This community service program is designed to give inexperienced and unemployed new attorneys the opportunity to receive training and perform pro-bono legal work through participating programs. The program accomplishes two important goals: it provides legal representation to populations in need and provides irreplaceable work experience for new attorneys eager to serve.

The program connects volunteer attorneys to existing opportunities with legal aid programs that provide basic civil and family law representation and with new volunteer opportunities designed for this program with criminal representation organizations. Free CLEs for volunteer attorneys will be provided either by the ONLD or the programs for education on relevant areas of law.

All partnering programs provide professional liability coverage for volunteer lawyers otherwise exempt from Professional Liability Fund (PLF) coverage.

Participating programs include City Attorney's Office for the City of Beaverton, City of Salem, Juvenile Rights Project, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Metropolitan Public Defender, Multnomah Defense Inc., and St. Andrew's Legal Clinic.

Legal Aid Services and Saint Andrews Legal Clinic have established clinics for volunteer attorneys that offer a wide variety of legal services in the Portland and outlying areas for the underserved populations. Legal Aid Services also offers volunteer opportunities throughout Oregon. Both programs are in need of many volunteers.

The remaining programs have a limited number of positions for volunteer attorneys. Due to the substantial training and potential assignments, volunteers must be selected for a position with a program and must be able to commit to several hours a week for several weeks or more depending on the program. See program details for more information. The ONLD will facilitate the application and selection of attorneys for these programs.

Application Process

Complete the application form ranking preference of programs. Submit it with your resume and cover letter expressing your interest, region and availability to ONLD@osbar.org by MAY 19, 2011.

Program Details

City Attorney's Office for the City of Beaverton is in-house counsel providing high quality, cost-effective legal advice and representation to the City, its Council and administration. The City Attorney's office manages all legal relations for the City, a municipal corporation. The staff attorneys and support personnel provide a broad range of services: provide legal advice as necessary to the City, its Council, official boards and commissions and all City departments; prosecute all code violations, traffic offenses and misdemeanor criminal cases in the City's Municipal Court; and represent the civil litigation not covered by insurance, land use and employment law.

The volunteer will perform a mix of criminal and civil work. Criminal case-related work may include court appearances and jury trial preparation. Civil case-related work may include review of the City's Board and Commission's bylaws for compliance with City Code and State Law. Other civil projects may arise. This is a 4 week commitment, 30-40 per week.

Salem City Attorney's Office is in-house counsel for the City of Salem. The City manages all legal matters for the City, including misdemeanor prosecutions. The position will be 15-20 hours per week from Tuesday through Thursday. The volunteer will review police reports for filing of criminal charges, research and draft motions and briefs regarding evidentiary matters, assist assistant city attorneys in trial preparation, attend court proceedings (may include trials depending on aptitude and interest of applicants). The civil work may include reviewing discovery, assisting assistant city attorney in trial preparation, research and draft motions and briefs.

Juvenile Rights Project (JRP) serves children and youth, primarily those in foster care, who are abused, neglected or in trouble, students who face challenges at school, and parents who need help keeping their families intact. Volunteer work would include court appearances at preliminary hearings in juvenile delinquency and dependency matters, work on Formal Accountability Agreements, assist in assessing merits of relief from sex offender registration cases for people adjudicated when they were under 18, or possible work on appeals in dependency and delinquency cases, and other work as assigned and as it interests the volunteer. This is an 8 week commitment, 25 hours per week beginning approximately August 2011.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) is a non-profit organization that provides representation on civil cases to low-income clients throughout Oregon. There are currently 7 clinics in need of volunteer attorneys. Training materials and CLEs are available online. Time commitment varies on the clinic and cases.

Because LASO provides legal aid services throughout Oregon, some but not all clinics have volunteer opportunities outside the Portland Metro area. When applying, please indicate your preferred county to be matched with the most convenient regional office.

LASO Clinic Opportunities:

Bankruptcy Clinic: Volunteers staff monthly clinics that alternate locations among Beaverton, East Portland, and downtown Portland. Clinic hours are 6:15-9:00 pm. Cases require between 5-20 hours.

Domestic Violence Project: Volunteers are assigned a case for specific hearing date. Each case may require 5-10 hours. Online CLEs and written training materials available.

Legal Aid Night Clinic: Volunteers staff clinics held alternating Tuesdays. Attorneys screen cases and provide legal continuing legal representation to clients of meritorious cases which include consumer law, small claims advice, criminal record expungements, landlord/tenant damage claims, social security disability appeals cases, estate planning, uncontested guardianship, and uninsured motorist defense. Clinic shifts are 2 hours and additional hours may be necessary depending on the case.

ProBonoOregon Listserv: Attorneys take case assignments posted to the Listserv on a variety of legal issues. Case assignments vary as do hours.

Pro Se Assistance Project: Volunteers staff clinics held Tuesday and Thursday at the Multnomah County Courthouse. Clinic hours are 2:30 to 5:00 pm. Clinical procedural manual provided online and training to be handled by LASO.

Senior Law Project: Volunteers staff clinics held at over 25 locations monthly to help seniors with consultations on any civil legal issue. Clinic shifts are 3 hours and additional hours may be necessary depending on the case. Monthly Elder Law Discussion Group (via email) is available to volunteers for legal education by LASO. There will be an additional free CLE sponsored by ONLD will be held in Portland.

Statewide Tax Clinic: Volunteers staff clinic assisting low-income tax payers with tax controversies with the IRS or Department of Revenue, ranging from collections, audits, innocent spouse claims, and tax court cases. Cases require between 5-20 hours. LASO will provide training to participants.

Metropolitan Public Defender (MPD) is a private, non-profit law firm committed to providing high-quality criminal defense for indigent clients in Portland and Hillsboro. MPD represents clients in court-appointed cases ranging from misdemeanor to felony cases including capital defense, in addition to juvenile cases and civil commitment proceedings. Volunteers would also assist in building the criminal law library which is an online library of briefs, motions, legal arguments, essays and updated case law.

Attorneys will assist with trial preparation, court appearances, plea negotiations and trial work depending on the case. This is a 16 week commitment with limited positions available. Training and mentoring will be provided as appropriate.

Multnomah Defenders Inc. (MDI) is a private, non-profit law firm in Portland committed to providing high-quality criminal defense for indigent clients. MDI represents clients in court-appointed cases ranging from misdemeanor to felony cases.

Attorneys will assist with trial preparation, court appearances, plea negotiations and actual trial work depending on the case. This is an 8 week commitment with limited positions available. Training and mentoring will be provided as appropriate.

St. Andrew's Legal Clinic (SALC) is a community-based non-profit organization that provides quality legal services to nonprofits and low-income families who might not otherwise have access to them. SALC provides legal representation on child custody, child support, divorce, family abuse prevention, guardianship, paternity, spousal support, step-parent adoption, and visitation/parenting time.

At weekly clinic nights, potential clients meet with volunteer attorneys under the supervision of a SALC staff attorney for a 30-minute consultation. The volunteer interviews the individual, and with the assistance of the staff attorney, advises him/her of their rights, procedures, court costs, and the cost of retaining the clinic. Clinics run from 6 to 9 on Wednesday nights and positions will begin in September and end in December with a time commitment of at least once per month. Clinics are located in Portland, Oregon City, and Hillsboro. The greatest need for volunteers is in the Hillsboro office.



Practical Skills Through Public Service Program Application Form

Thank you for your interest in our program. Please complete this application and submit it with your resume and cover letter expressing your interest, region and availability to ONLD@osbar.org by MAY 19, 2011.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Bar Number: _____

Please rank your top three programs:

_____ City Attorney's Office for the City of Beaverton

_____ Salem City Attorney's Office

_____ Juvenile Rights Project

_____ Legal Aid Services of Oregon *County of Service* _____

Clinic Preference _____

_____ Metropolitan Public Defender

_____ Multnomah Defense, Inc.

_____ St. Andrew's Legal Clinic

Please tell us how you heard about this program:
