

Satisfying Your Public Service Requirement Via an Eligible Volunteer Legal Experience

All law students must satisfy the Public Service Requirement (PSR) to graduate. Each student must perform a minimum of 50 hours of supervised, uncompensated, legal public service work.

You can satisfy the requirement in one of four ways:

- 1) Registering for, and passing, an externship for credit at a government agency, judicial chambers, or nonprofit organization via the Legal Externship Office; provided no financial compensation of any kind, whether from the employer or outside source, was received for the externship. This means students who are enrolled in paid externships are NOT ELIGIBLE to satisfy their public service requirement through such externships.
- 2) Registering for, and receiving a grade of C or better, in a clinic via the Student Law Office; OR
- 3) Registering for, and receiving a grade of C or better, in an eligible course. Eligible courses currently include: Animal Activist Legal Defense, Live Client Lab, Poverty and Low Wage Work in America, Public Interest Lawyering Lab, the Graduate Tax Program's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, Trial Practice III: Instructor's Practicum, Trial Practice III: Mentor's Practicum, the International Criminal Law Practicum, Youth Rights Workshop, Homeless Advocacy Seminar, Movement Lawyering Lab, and Wills Lab. Other courses may be eligible. These courses are not offered every semester. Please email afreeman@law.du.edu to confirm.

Your Academic Progress Report will reflect that your PSR is satisfied at the end of the relevant semester.

- 4) **Volunteering, and engaging in 50 hours of supervised, uncompensated legal work, at a government agency, judicial chambers, nonprofit organization, or private firm, as long as the work at the firm is pro bono, and provided no financial compensation of any kind, whether from the employer or outside source, was received for the externship. Your work must be supervised by someone who has been licensed to practice law in any state or combination of states for at least 3 years for your work to be eligible. This is called a Volunteer Legal Experience.**

To satisfy the requirement via option #4 (Volunteer Legal Experience), please follow these instructions:

- 1) Complete this online [Student Certification and Evaluation Form](#).
- 2) Ask whomever supervised your work to complete this [Supervisor Certification and Evaluation Form](#)

Notes:

- We recommend that you check in with Prof. Alexi Freeman who oversees the PSR to determine whether your work is eligible as a Volunteer Legal Experience (afreeman@law.du.edu). Your supervisor cannot be a family member.
- When completing the evaluation, keep confidential any information about clients or cases, anything that might violate the attorney client privilege, or any information the Supervisor has reasonably asked be kept confidential.
- Email is the primary notification method regarding the work; students should check their law school email.
- You may use your Lexis/Westlaw passwords for research needs while doing work to satisfy the Requirement.
- Students may not receive any monetary compensation for the work performed for the Public Service Requirement.
- All students are expected to conform to the standard of the Code of Professional Responsibility and the Judicial Code, as applicable. Be sure to read and agree to be bound by the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct.
- Student must disclose to their Supervisor the name of any current employer of the student and any current legal externship, volunteer legal work, and clinic legal representation in which the student is engaged (through either current enrollment in a clinical program or through completion of cases in a prior enrollment). The student is responsible for discussing any potential conflict of interest with the Supervisor as Denver Law does not conduct conflict checks. Update your supervisor if anything changes while completing the work. Students must also disclose their volunteer work to their employer, clinical program director, externship mentor, and volunteer supervisor. All disclosures must be in writing.