PRO BONO COLLEGE OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Guidelines for Law Students in the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas

Requirements for Admission into the Pro Bono College:

1. Be a student enrolled in a Texas law school and be in good academic standing;
2. Complete at least 50 hours of pro bono work per year (September 1 – August 31); and
3. Complete an application documenting all hours performed.

Pro Bono Work Defined:

1. The services must be law-related and be provided free of any charge to:
    a. A person who qualifies as indigent under the federal poverty income guidelines;
    b. Charitable, public interest organizations with respect to matters or projects designed predominantly to address the needs of poor persons; or
    c. The State Bar or any other body or organization in furtherance of the rights of indigent persons.
2. With the exception of travel time, any time spent working on the pro bono projects counts, including training sessions and research for the project.
3. Pro bono work does not qualify if it:
    a. Resulted in monetary compensation to the student above and beyond reimbursement for expenses incurred in the delivery of pro bono services;
    b. Was performed as part of a course or other activity for which the student received any academic credit; or
    c. Was performed in connection with fundraising activities.

Benefits of Pro Bono College Membership:

Bronze Membership: (1st year of Membership)

1. Certificate signed by the State Bar President and Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court;
2. Recognition in the program for the New Lawyer Induction Ceremony; and
3. Pro Bono College pin.

Silver Membership: (2nd year of Membership)

1. The Bronze perks plus 1 year of access to TexasBarCLE Online Library after graduation.

Gold Membership: (3rd year of Membership)

1. Silver perks plus a reduced registration fee to the Guide to Basics of Law Practice up to 50 students with the most pro bono hours accrued; or
2. Silver perks plus one-time free tuition to the Poverty Law Conference.

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