



Justice for All:
Public Interest, Pro Bono and the Law

Sunday, August 18 | 1:30-3:00pm | Flynn Auditorium

- 1:30-1:55pm Introduction to Public Interest, Pro Bono, and Law for the Greater Good**
Overview of public interest law and culture of service at Vanderbilt Law School, the access to justice gap and the public responsibilities of lawyers, and the Vanderbilt Law Pro Bono Pledge.
- 2:00-3:00 pm Breakout sessions on pro bono/public interest work**
Discussion will include:
- What are the legal needs of individuals or entities served in this area of law?
 - What types of advocacy tools do attorneys use to meet those needs?
 - What is the most engaging and most challenging aspects of the work?
 - How can a student prepare for a career in this field?
 - What opportunities are there for Vanderbilt students to get involved?

Breakout Discussion Practice Areas

- **Actual Innocence:** This session will discuss the representation of incarcerated men and women making claims of actual innocence. This includes investigating and litigating actual innocence claims to obtain exonerations, training law students and attorneys how to litigate these cases and prevent future wrongful convictions, and effectuating changes that facilitate the discovery of wrongful convictions and provide remedies to the wrongfully convicted.
- **Civil Rights/Civil Liberties:** This session will discuss litigation around the rights enumerated in the U.S. Constitution, Federal statutes, and regulations. This can include the right to bodily autonomy, the right to protest, and the right to vote.
- **Criminal Defense:** This session will discuss representation of indigent clients in felony criminal court. This includes advising clients through all stages of a criminal case from arrest to jury trial.
- **Immigration Advocacy:** This session will discuss representation of individuals eligible for humanitarian forms of immigration relief including asylum seekers, victims of trafficking and other serious crimes, children who suffered abuse or neglect, applicants for lawful permanent residence based on a humanitarian visa or family member, and applicants for US citizenship. Clients may also be eligible for temporary forms of immigration relief like the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status.
- **Pro Bono Practice in a Law Firm:** This session will discuss the challenges and opportunities to do high-impact, meaningful pro bono work even in a large law firm setting. We will discuss the different models that law firms have for delivering pro bono services, how to balance pro bono with billable expectations, and how to build a practice that you are proud of and deeply care about.
- **Prosecution:** This session will discuss career paths in prosecution, and the wide spectrum of prosecution policies in this country. It will touch on the growing movement of prosecution committed to reducing incarceration and racial disparities.
- **Youth Advocacy:** This session will discuss representation provided to families in school meetings and discipline appeals with the goal of keeping students in school with high quality services and out of the juvenile court system.