Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

Pro Bono Program

Pre-Approved Pro Bono Placements
The Aging Commission of the Mid-South (ACMS) is the designated Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AADD) for Fayette, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton Counties in West Tennessee. The ACMS spearheads planning efforts to ensure the state of Tennessee are ready to accommodate the growing aging population and undertakes advocacy efforts on behalf of older adults and adults with disabilities.

Alternative Spring Break – Public Action Law Society
http://www.memphis.edu/law/career/asb2015.php

The Public Action Society hosts Alternative Spring Break (“ASB”) annually. ASB began in 2010 when 15 Memphis law students traveled to Miami to help Haitians stranded in the US apply for temporary protected status. In Spring 2011, PALS brought ASB to Memphis and hosted 37 law students from 8 law schools in 3 areas: (1) Pro Se Divorce, (2) Advance Directives, and (3) Non-Profit Organizations. In 2012, year, PALS hosted 62 students (29 from Memphis) in four areas: (1) Pro Se Divorce, (2) Advance Directives, (3) Legislative Drafting, and (4) Immigration. In 2013, PALS continued to expand its program to allow for more student participation in different areas of the law and offered tracks in (1) Pro Se Divorce, (2) Advance Directives, (3) Immigration in Knoxville, (4) Immigration in Memphis, (5) Human Trafficking Research Track, (6) Public Interest Advocacy Research Track, and (7) Criminal with Street Court. In 2014, PALS offered additional tracks in Voter Restoration and Veteran’s Issues. In 2015, PALS is offering tracks in (1) Family Law, (2) Immigration, (3) Criminal Defense (both in juvenile and restoration of rights), (4) Research & Writing (LGBT rights), and (5) Elder Law.

American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee
www.aclu-tn.org

The ACLU of Tennessee (ACLU-TN) is dedicated to translating the guarantees of the Bill of Rights into realities for all Tennesseans. Some of the issues ACLU-TN fights for include: the right to free speech and expression; the right to freely practice any religion or no religion; the right to equal treatment; the right to reproductive freedom; and the right to privacy. Law student volunteers are involved in research and preparation of legal memoranda, fact investigations, client and witness interviews, discovery, pre-trial motions, handling expert witnesses, as well as accompanying lawyers at court appearances.
Center for Arkansas Legal Services  
http://www.arlegalservices.org/

Main office in Little Rock  
(501) 376-3423

Center for Arkansas Legal Services (CALS) is one of two free legal aid organizations in Arkansas (the other being Legal Aid of Arkansas) that provides civil legal assistance to low-income Arkansans. The types of issues CALS deals with include: consumer law, education law, employment law, family law, health law, housing law, individual rights law, public benefits, veterans/military benefits, and wills and estates. CALS has multiple offices in El Dorado, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Russellville, and Texarkana.

Community Legal Center  
http://www.clcmemphis.com/

Meg Jones, Executive Director  
megjonesclc@gmail.com  
(901)543-3395

Irene Hallett, Pro Se Clinic Supervisor  
clcprose@gmail.com  
(901) 222-3813

The Community Legal Center (CLC) offers legal services to thousands of lower income individuals and families in the Memphis area. Cases the CLC handles include: landlord/tenant disputes, garnishments, conservatorships & guardianships, commercial contract disputes, probate matters, non-contested divorces, adoptions, and obtaining child support. CLC also offers the following services to low-income immigrants: asylum, u-visas, t-visas, change of status, and voluntary departure. Law students can volunteer by contacting Meg Jones or volunteer with the Pro Se Clinic by contacting Irene Hallett.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)  
http://memphiscasa.org/

Reniere Hayes  
Coordinator of Recruitment & Training  
rhayes@memphiscasa.org  
(901) 405-8422

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don’t get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system. Volunteers stay with a case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. Law students can volunteer and will be thoroughly trained and well-supported by CASA staff. You must pass
a background check, participate in a 30-hour pre-service training course and agree to stay with a case until it is closed.

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**Criminal Justice Center**  
**Victim-Witness Ambassadors**

District Attorney Amy Weirich’s office  
201 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN  
**When:** Monday - Friday (except holidays) 8:30-1:30 or until courts are finished with their dockets.

Victim/witness ambassadors will perform much of the same functions that a receptionist does—welcoming victims and witnesses when they arrive, answering basic questions about the court process and layout of the building. When the witnesses are needed in court, the ambassadors will be notified by the District Attorney’s office and assist the witnesses in finding the court. Ambassadors will not be expected, and will be strongly discouraged from, to provide counseling to victims.

The majority of people subpoenaed are instructed to appear at 9 a.m. and there is no guarantee when their case will be handled, often resulting in them waiting all day. Victims and witnesses often find a confusing, cold and intimidating building when they arrive. There is no central location for witnesses to wait for their case to be handled. These deficiencies lead to inefficiency in locating witnesses when needed in court as well as victims sitting in court near the defendant or the defendant’s family.

State law requires that separate space be available for victims and witnesses of the District Attorney’s office. The District Attorney’s does not have sufficient personnel to cover victim/witness needs.

The county has located space for a victim/witness waiting room that should be available by **July 1, 2016**. The District Attorney’s office and the Crime Victim’s Center will provide training.
Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee
www.dlactn.org/

West Tennessee Office: (901) 458-6013
Middle Tennessee Office: (615) 298-1080
East Tennessee Office: (865) 670-2944

Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee (DLAC) advocates for the rights of Tennesseans with disabilities to ensure that they have an equal opportunity to be productive and respected members of our society. Some of the issues DLAC assists with include: abuse and neglect outside of the home; discrimination in housing, transportation, and employment; access to programs and services; access to education; obtaining and utilizing assistive technology; and access to vocational rehabilitation.

Families of Incarcerated Individuals
Doorways Re-Entry Program
http://familiesofincarcerated.org/

Jimmie McKinzie
jmckinzie@familiesofincarcerated.org
(901) 726-6191

Families of Incarcerated Individuals, Inc. (FII) is a non-profit organization that serves families who are affected by incarceration. FII goals and objectives include: to provide a forum for families to address concerns regarding incarceration; to provide incarceration prevention and intervention services to youth in affected families; and to assist families and inmates in re-adjusting to life free of incarceration. The Doorways Reentry Program provides one-on-one mentoring to female offenders from Mark Luttrell Correctional Center and assists with reintegration.

Hope Academy
http://www.mcsk12.net/schools/hope.aca/site/index.shtml

Michael J. Smith
(901) 405-8421

The Shelby County Juvenile Court partners with Memphis City Schools to provide juvenile education services and mentoring to youth in juvenile detention. Seventy-five percent of juvenile detainees will be allowed to re-enter Memphis City Schools, so Hope Academy fills the gap while youth are detained. Ninety-five percent of the students are males and need male mentors.
JAG Corps
Army: http://www.goarmy.com/jag.html
Coast Guard: http://www.uscg.mil/legal/
Navy: http://www.jag.navy.mil/

Each JAG Corps division has opportunities for students to intern during the summer. (Note that if you are hired for a paid internship, your hours cannot count towards the Pro Bono Program. However, if you continue to volunteer after your paid internship is complete, these hours will count towards the pro bono requirement.) JAG interns get hands-on experience in a wide number of legal fields, including civil, criminal and international law. Interns often get to draft briefs, conduct a claims investigation, interview witnesses, and assist in the preparation of courts-martial.

Justice for our Neighbors
http://tnjfon.org/

Nashville
Adrienne Kittos, TN JFON Legal Director
adrienne.tnjfon@gmail.com

Justice for our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our communities by providing free legal services, education, and advocacy. TN JFON offers monthly clinics to assist in different areas of immigration law including: advice and counsel, adjustment of status, family petitions, temporary protected status, naturalization applications, self-petitions under the Violence Against Women Act, T-Visas for victims of trafficking, special immigrant juvenile status, NACARA, and U Visas for victims of violent crime.

Juvenile Court’s Foster Care Review Board

Shelby County
thomas.coupe@shelbycountyttn.gov
(901) 405-8581

The foster care review board is composed of citizen volunteers appointed by the juvenile court judge. The board advises the court about the permanency process of each child in foster care. In order to serve on the board you must attend a two-hour monthly meeting, be able to interview people from various backgrounds and demonstrate an interest in child welfare.
Legal Aid of Arkansas
www.arlegalservices.org

West Memphis Office:
Kevin de Liban
kdeliban@arlegalaid.org
(870) 732-6370, ext. 2206
Simion Lucuta
slucuta@arlegalservices.org
(870) 732-6370, ext. 2204

Legal Aid of Arkansas (LAA) is one of two legal service organizations (the other being the Center for Arkansas Legal Services) that provides civil legal assistance for low-income Arkansans. LAA has offices in Batesville, Harrison, Helena, Highland, Jonesboro, Mountain View, Newport, Springdale, and West Memphis. LAA’s West Memphis office is located just 15 minutes from the law school. The types of issues LAA deals with include: consumer law, education law, employment law, family law, health law, housing law, individual rights law, public benefits, veterans/military benefits, and wills and estates.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee
www.laet.org

Terry Woods (Johnson City & Knoxville Offices)
twoods@laet.org
(865)637-0484
Charles E. McDaniel (Chattanooga Office)
cmcDaniel@laet.org
(423) 756-4013

Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET) serves over 26 counties from Chattanooga to Johnson City, providing a wide range of civil legal assistance and advocacy to people with low income. LAET has offices in Chattanooga, Cleveland, Knoxville, Johnson City, Maryville, and Morristown. Law students should contact the Pro Bono Project Director in the area they would like to volunteer.

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands
www.las.org

Legal Aid Society takes civil cases on behalf of low income clients. Legal Aid Society serves 48 counties and has offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge, and Tullahoma. Law students can intern at any of the 8 offices.
- Clarksville (931) 552-6656
- Columbia (931) 381-5533
- Cookeville (931) 528-7436
- Gallatin (615) 451-1880
Memphis Area Legal Services
http://www.malsi.org/

Linda Warren Seely
lseely@malsi.org
(901) 523-8822

Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. (MALS) is the primary provider of civil legal representation to low income families in western Tennessee. MALS assists clients in the areas of: domestic violence; mortgage foreclosure, eviction, or homelessness; wrongful denial of benefits; consumer fraud or predatory lending; child welfare; elder law; bankruptcy; and general advice and counsel on family law. MALS has two locations: Memphis and Covington. Law students can volunteer on different cases or get involved in a variety of projects such as the Saturday Legal Clinic, the Attorney of the Day Clinic, the Pro Se Divorce Project, the Bankruptcy Project or Conservatorship Project.

Memphis Bar Association
Law Rules Program
http://www.memphisbar.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=297

Anne Fritz
afritz@memphisbar.org
(901) 527-3573

The Memphis Bar Association has a community outreach program entitled “Law Rules: The Importance of the American Legal System.” The goal of the program is to put members of the MBA before classrooms, civic and church groups, and business organizations to educate the general public on the importance of a fair and impartial justice system and the rule of law. Law students can get involved by speaking to different groups with local attorneys.

Memphis City Attorney’s Office

Herman Morris, City Attorney
cityattorney@memphistn.gov
(901) 576-6614

The City Attorney’s Office, or Law Division, for the City of Memphis is headed by the City Attorney, Herman Morris, and his staff attorneys. Staff attorneys work in two basic areas: Service and Litigation. Attorneys working in the service area are assigned to provide legal advice to various divisions of City
government as well as a number of boards and commissions. City attorneys working in Litigation area defend lawsuits filed against the City. Note that externships with the City Attorney’s Office will not count as pro bono hours. However, if you continue your service after your externship is completed, these hours will count.

Memphis Immigration Advocates, Inc.
www.miamemphis.org/

Allison Wanamaker
258 N. Merton St.
Memphis, TN 38112
Phone: (901) 244-4367
Fax: (901) 284-0303

Memphis Immigration Advocates, Inc. is the only non-profit law firm in Memphis whose core mission is to provide low-cost immigration representation to low-income clients. MIA was founded by a group of experienced Memphis immigration attorneys who recognized a need in our community. Office doors opened October 7, 2013 at our start-up location on Union Avenue. MIA provides direct representation and legal consultations to low-income immigrants residing within the Mid-South. We also engage in community education and administrative advocacy in the Memphis metro area. In order to address the recent humanitarian crisis at the U.S./Mexico border, MIA has temporarily shifted its focus to meet the urgent needs of unaccompanied minors and young asylum seekers. On a temporary basis, MIA will be referring other immigration matters to partner agencies in the region. Although MIA may make limited exceptions to this temporary policy, referring “non-emergency” cases to other agencies will allow MIA to focus our resources on helping those who are seeking asylum or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Memphis Public Interest Law Center

Jamie Johnson
info@mpilc.org
(901) 406-0419

Memphis Public Interest Law Center is a non-profit public interest law firm that began conducting activities in 2012. MPILC’s mission is to fill a gap in the legal services available in the Memphis community - a gap is services between those who qualify for pro bono or subsized legal services and those who can afford typical, market rate legal fees. MPILC fills this gap through provision of legal support, education, and advocacy.

MPILC serves two groups of clients: 1) Underserved populations, i.e. individuals or groups who do not qualify for subsidized legal services and who also cannot afford private-market rate legal services, and individuals who do qualify for such services but are not selected to receive them, and 2) Those facing underserved issues, i.e. issues of significant public interest that are not politically popular, financially feasible, or, for reasons unknown, addressed by the current legal community in the Memphis area.
MPILC has identified the following program areas and their corresponding areas of law as underserved issues in the local community:
1. Livable Communities Project: Environmental, Environmental Justice, issues affecting neighbors and neighborhood groups
2. Consumer Project: Fair Housing, Disability, Predatory Lending, Tenant-Landlord, FDCPA, TCPA
3. Civil Rights Project: Education, Homelessness, GLBT, Special Need, Immigration, Juvenile Rights, Elder Abuse
4. Family Project: Domestic Violence, Child Support Enforcement, Stalking, Controlling Spouse/Ex-Spouse

In 2013, MPILC's work will focus on Housing.

Memphis and Shelby County Office of Planning and Development

Josh Whitehead
125 N. Main St. Suite 468
Memphis City Hall
Memphis, TN 38103-2084
Ph: (901) 576-7197
Fax: (901) 576-6603

The agency deals with public policy issues that include residential, commercial, and industrial land use development standards; transportation and service delivery; and capital improvements. Work performed by DPD involves the collection and evaluation of data, research and analysis of options and alternatives, and the selection and implementation of projects and programs. DPD also makes recommendations and suggestions to the Memphis City Council and Shelby County Board of Commissioners, citizen advisory groups, and other agencies on comprehensive land use policies and plans, zoning recommendations, special permits, hazard mitigation, and subdivision regulations. The division is also directly responsible for the administration of the Unified Development Code (the Zoning Code and Subdivision Regulations), special use permits, site plan approvals, and street mapping.

Memphis Urban Debate League
www.memphisdebate.org

(901) 604-5644

The Memphis Urban Debate League (MUBL) is a partnership between Memphis City Schools and a private group of civic leaders organized as the MUBL board. MUBL provides Memphis urban youth the opportunity to learn the literacy, critical thinking, and life skills they need to be successful. Over 23 MCS high schools currently participate in 6 citywide tournaments throughout the school year. Each summer, MUDL organizes a free debate institute to prepare students for the upcoming season. Law students can volunteer to be a judge at debates, coach a team, or give general help with league operations.
Peer Power

Malcolm Rawls, Director of Development
mvrawls@gmail.com

Peer Power is a non-profit organization that teaches public school students college and job readiness skills. Law students are needed to lead law-related programs, such as teaching basic advocacy or writing skills, and to counsel students on careers in the legal field. *Law Review* has developed a partnership with Peer Power to teach writing workshops and would like extend this partnership to other students within the law school.

Project Homeless Connect

Josh Spickler, PALS, MBA, & Community Alliance for the Homeless
joshspickler@gmail.com

Twice a year, the Memphis community comes together for a massive one-day event to provide homeless individuals in Memphis and Shelby County with all the resources and services needed to leave homelessness. One of the resources offered to homeless individuals is legal assistance through a civil advice clinic and a criminal Street Courts program. Law students are needed to help with organizing the program, client intake, file preparation, and can shadow attorneys during consultations. To get involved, contact Josh Spickler or the current PALS President.

Pro Se Divorce Project

Matt Macaw (Divorce Incorporated)
mrmacaw@divorceincorporatedonline.com
(901) 672-7745

Matt Macaw from Divorce Incorporated and MALS hosts a monthly Pro Se Divorce Project at the Shelby County Courthouse in Room 134. During the project, “clients” referred from MALS learn how to represent themselves in a divorce. Law student volunteers will be paired up with the pro se litigants and help them fill out pro se divorce forms. Each project takes approximately 2 hours.
Shelby County District Attorney's Office
http://www.scdag.com/

Steve Jones
Steve.Jones@scdag.com

The District Attorney General and her staff prosecute all criminal cases on behalf of Memphis and Shelby County. Law students can intern at the DA’s office to receive pro bono credit. Note that externship hours do not count as credit unless you take on additional work after your externship hours are completed.

Shelby County Head Start Program

John Lovelace
Executive Director
lovelace-j@scgheadstart.com
(901) 922-0712

Shelby County Head Start Program is a comprehensive child development program that serves preschool children ages 3-5 and their families. The program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. The Head Start program engages parents in the learning of their children and helps them make progress toward their educational, literacy, and employment goals.

Shelby County Pretrial Services

Richard Harrell
richard.harrell@shelbycountytn.gov

Pre-Trial Services is a comprehensive criminal justice agency offering programs that are alternatives to incarceration. Its operations range from bond settings immediately following the arrest process to providing supervision of offenders convicted and placed on county probation. Additionally, Pre-Trial Services also teaches classes on anger management, batterers’ intervention, job readiness, and parenting.
Shelby County Public Defender’s Office

Stephen C. Bush
Chief Public Defender
stephen.bush@shelbycountytn.gov
Phyllis Aluko

The Public Defender’s office provides legal representation to indigent clients in all criminal matters in the General Sessions Court, Criminal Court, and Circuit Court of Shelby County. Law students can intern at the PD’s office to receive pro bono credit. Note that externship hours do not count as credit unless you take on additional work after your externship hours are completed.

Shelby County Ryan White Program

Dorcas Young
dorcas.young@shelbycountytn.gov
(901) 379-7512

The Ryan White Program is a federally funded program that provides medical and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS who are low income, uninsured or underinsured and have no other resources available to meet these needs. The Ryan White Program Office is the unit for overseeing the legislative, programmatic, and fiscal compliance of federal funds. Although the office does not provide direct services to clients, it is responsible for subcontracting funds to area clinics and community based organizations for service delivery. The Ryan White Program Offices also ensures collaborative, comprehensive planning by key stakeholders, including people living with HIV/AIDS, in the design of a system of quality HIV care throughout the region.

Southern Migrant Legal Services
www.trla.org

The Southern Migrant Legal Services is federally-funded and handles the legal needs of migrant and seasonal workers statewide.

Southeast Tennessee Legal Services
www.selegal.org/

Southeast Tennessee Legal Services (STLS) is a Project of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. STLS is a public interest law firm seeking justice and opportunity for Tennesseans. Their programs are for victims of domestic violence and some consumer cases.
Special Education Advocate

Wendi Albert, Social Work Intern with MALS
wendikalbert@gmail.com

Students interested in Civil Rights or Education law have the unique opportunity to be a Special Education Advocate. Special Education Advocates will volunteer through Memphis Area Legal Services to be partnered with a child with needs and his or her parent to help them receive accommodations required in the public school system.

Tennessee’s Department of Children’s Services
http://www.tn.gov/youth/

Shelby County
901-578-4179

Southwest Region (Jackson, TN)
Regional General Counsel
LeAnn B. Rial
LeAnn.Rial@tn.gov
(731) 421-2032

The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services is the state’s public child welfare agency, overseeing child protective services, permanency, and juvenile justice. All volunteers must go through an extensive background check and clearance. To make your time at the placement worth it, they ask volunteers to commit a certain amount of time in the beginning. There are opportunities for interns to assist with drafting pleadings, interview witnesses, prepare cases for court, attend/observe court, prepare court orders and participate in post-court follow-up.

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
http://www.tnimmigrant.org/

The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) is a statewide, immigrant and refugee-led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights, and create an atmosphere in which they are recognized as positive contributors to the state. Students have volunteered with TIRRC in the past to help immigrants receive Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival and Naturalization.
The Tennessee Justice Center is a non-profit, public interest law and advocacy firm serving families in need. TJC gives priority to policy issues and civil cases in which the most basic necessities of life are at stake, and where their advocacy can benefit families statewide.

Unity Solutions is a faith-based, neighborhood-based, 501(c) non-profit legal services corporation. Unity Solutions is comprised of volunteer attorneys, law students, and others dedicated to providing faith-based legal solutions to not only existing problems, but also root causes. Among other partnerships, Unity Solutions works with Advance Memphis (www.advancememphis.org) and Christ Community Health Services (www.christcommunityhealth.org)

Students from Memphis Law are starting a VITA program under the supervision of Dean Kratzke. The VITA program provides free current year income tax preparation assistance for low-income taxpayers in Shelby County. From February until early April, the VITA program will operate on Wednesday afternoons. Students must go through training and pass an online test to volunteer.
West Tennessee Legal Services
www.wtls.org

- Main office/Jackson (731) 423-0616
- Dyersburg (731) 285-8181
- Huntingdon (731) 986-8975
- Selmer (731) 645-7961

West Tennessee Legal Services (WTLS) is a non-profit organization that provides civil assistance to individuals, families, and communities located in West Tennessee. WTLS serves 17 counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Decatur, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henry, Henderson, Lake, McNairy, Madison, Obion, and Weakley. WTLS handles the following types of cases: access to health/medical care, securing or retaining housing, ensuring compliance with Fair Housing laws, securing or retaining income, personal freedom and security rights, parental rights with state action, rights of persons in institutions, freedom of all persons from abuse, family issues, education rights, consumer rights, and community education.

Youth Court

Avis P. Lamar
avis.lamar@shelbycountytn.gov
(901) 405-8720

Youth Court is the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County’s first juvenile delinquency diversion and peer-justice program. Using restorative justice principles, Youth Court is dedicated to rehabilitating first-time nonviolent offenders by holding them accountable and educating them about citizenship. Volunteers help prepare high school students to prosecute, defend and to serve as bailiffs and jurors in “real” sentencing hearings of juvenile offenders. Law students (2L & 3L) are encouraged to volunteer by serving as jury monitors and court clerks. Court hearings are held at the Juvenile Court on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 5 to 7 pm. Only 4 law students will be able to volunteer per semester.