#### Alternative Spring Break Participant Application

Thank you for showing interest in becoming a participant in Alternative Spring Break 2019! Applications are due **no later** than **5pm on Friday, January 25, 2019**. Please fill out and submit this application electronically via email to Joshua Lester at jllester@memphis.edu

**I. Personal Information\***

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Law School:

Year in law school (Rising 2L, 3L, Part time):

Emergency Contact:

Relation:

Address:

Phone:

\*Please note that all emergency contact information will be kept private.

**II. Personal Statement**

* Please attach a brief statement answering the following questions in 500 words or less

1. Why do you want to participate in Alternative Spring Break?
2. If you are extremely interested in a particular track, please explain your interest and any experience related to the track.

**III. Track Preference**

* Please rank from 1 to 8, with 1 being your first choice. Please see pages 3–4 for track descriptions.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Criminal Law Track**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Juvenile Law Track**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Immigration Track**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Elder Law Track**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Veterans Track**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Family Law Track**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Research and Writing Track**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Health Law Track**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Track**

**IV. Additional Information**

1. Are you willing to participate in ASB, even if we cannot accommodate your track choice? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No
2. Do you authorize the Public Action Law Society to use your name, photo, personal statement and/or likeness in promotional materials for Alternative Spring Break, which may be distributed by the University of Memphis and local news sources?  \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No
3. If selected to participate in Alternative Spring Break, are you aware that you have to pay a non-refundable deposit[[1]](#footnote-1) in order to secure your spot? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

* If you believe you cannot afford to pay the deposit due to any extraordinary financial hardships, please attach a separate sheet explaining your circumstances.
* Please note that you are not required to make a deposit until you have been officially selected to participate in Alternative Spring Break.

**V. Signature**

By signing my name and the date, I certify that I am a student in good standing, with a minimum grade point average of 2.0, at an accredited law school in the United States of America. If selected for Alternative Spring Break, I am aware that I will be required to provide a non-refundable deposit to secure my spot. I also agree to abide by the rules of confidentiality and the rules of professional responsibility as outlined in the Tennessee Rules of Court ([www.tncourts.gov/rules/supreme-court/8](http://www.tncourts.gov/rules/supreme-court/8); www.tncourts.gov/courts/rules) and the University of Memphis Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities ([saweb.memphis.du/judicialaffairs/pdf/csrr.pdf](http://saweb.memphis.du/judicialaffairs/pdf/csrr.pdf)).

Signature     Date ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joshua Lester **jllester@memphis.edu**.You can also learn more about Alternative Spring Break on our website: https://www.memphis.edu/law/current-students/pals.php

On behalf of the Public Action Law Society and The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, thank you for your interest and your application!

**Alternative Spring Break Tracks[[2]](#footnote-2)**

1. Criminal Law Track

Students will have the opportunity to interview clients and file petitions for criminal court cost waivers before a General Sessions judge, under the supervision of attorneys from the Shelby County Public Defender’s Office. Volunteers will also screen eligible clients for expungement of past offenses.  Cost waiver petitions consist of an affidavit of indigency stating the client's financial situation and a motion and order for each of the client's outstanding costs and fines.  Expungement is available for misdemeanors more than three years old and qualifying non-violent felonies more than five years old.  Criminal records and outstanding court debt from long-past offenses where the client has already served time can disqualify them from renewing a driver's license, opening a bank account, or finding a job. All Memphis students chosen to participate should be prepared for preliminary work in preparation for this track.  This track may also offer voting rights restoration. All legal services offered in the criminal defense track are made possible with the support of Shelby County Courts and are subject to change with judges’ discretion.

1. Family Law Track

This track provides students with the opportunity to guide clients from the Community Legal Center (CLC) and Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. (MALS) through the pro se divorce process. Clients who meet certain income requirements and have no children or assets can apply for an uncontested divorce using forms promulgated by the Tennessee Supreme Court.  Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, students will help clients fill out the forms, meet with the Shelby County divorce referee, and file for their divorce.  Participants in this track will receive training on Tennessee divorce practice and procedure, along with receiving general training on legal ethics and appropriate client interaction.  Memphis students will have the additional, and optional, opportunity to prepare clients at their hearing on the final divorce decree. In addition to pro se divorce, the family law track may include work with MALS domestic violence unit or the Family Safety Center.

1. Juvenile Law Track

The Juvenile Law track participates in Foster Care Review Board (FRCB) meetings where student volunteers sit in and interview families, foster care workers, and children about their experiences in Foster Care. The FCRB's primary purpose is to provide a mechanism to monitor the care of children in foster care and to ensure everything reasonably possible is being done to achieve permanency for the child. Students will conduct the boards and make recommendations of tasks to be completed, as well as make referrals to the presiding judge, if necessary under the circumstances. This year the track will also involve participation with Memphis’s Youth Villages.

1. Elder Law Track

In the Elder Law track, students travel to various locations such as senior centers, nursing homes, community centers, and churches to assist seniors in drafting written instructions on medical care decisions.  Students will work in groups, under the supervision of a local attorney, to draft living wills, appointments of healthcare agents, appointments of financial agents, and durable powers of attorney.  The majority of clients served are low-income seniors; however, anyone in need of these services will be assisted.

1. Veteran’s Clinic Track

This track will focus on assisting veterans with disability claims.  Veterans’ assistance has been marked as a high priority by the American Bar Association. Students will help file initial claims for service connected disabilities, conduct interviews with clients, work on appellate brief writing, and conduct a clinic aimed toward veterans with general civil claims as well. This year the track will work in close proximity with other tracks addressing Tennessee policy to assist voting restoration with Veterans.

1. Immigration Track

The Immigration Track will bring clients into the Law School Clinic to obtain one of two forms of relief: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and naturalization. The first, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, allows young immigrants who came to the United States as children to submit applications that, if granted, will allow them to obtain a driver’s license, a social security number, and a two-year “immunity” from being placed into removal proceedings. The second form of relief offered in the Immigration Track is naturalization applications, which allow immigrants who have been legal permanent residents of the United States for the requisite amount of time to become citizens. Students will have the opportunity to directly interact with and interview clients and complete their legal paperwork. Attorneys from the Community Legal Center’s Immigrant Justice Program and Memphis Immigration Advocates will pre-screen all clients and will be present during the week to provide training on the two application processes and to answer any questions that students might have. In addition, all Immigration Track participants will receive training on legal ethics and appropriate client interaction.

1. Research and Writing Track

This track allows students who are interested in research and writing to write an article for hopeful publication about a specific topic of interest in the community.  In the past, students have had the opportunity to complete projects furthering juvenile justice reform, statutes regarding LGBT discrimination, fighting blight in the Memphis area, use of Tennessee mental health courts. Students will work closely with an attorney to develop a thesis and produce a written work. This year, the track will focus around voting suppression and Tennessee policies that inhibit voting rights. Specifically, the track will focus on Tennessee policy that could assist Tennessee Veteran voting restoration.

1. Health Law Track

The Health Law Track is for students interested in health law and mental health law. This track will focus on assisting patients at Le Bonheur Children’s outpatient clinic and hospital. This track opened last year during ASB 2018 where students participated in medical legal intakes for patients and their families. After assessment students may refer these clients to the proper community or legal resources or may be assigned to actively help the client access these resources. The track also assisted patients experiencing legal barriers such as housing and education. The tracked has worked closely with Memphis CHiLD, a collaboration between Memphis Law, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, and Memphis Area Legal Services.

1. Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Track (NEW)

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Track is for students who are interested in DV/SA advocacy and education. The track will provide participants with hands on experience with Memphis area advocates and victim service providers. The track is also planning on integrating a mock hearing opportunity for current victims in the judicial process.

1. Please note that the deposit amount will be due in February 2019 and will range between $60-$80. This includes breakfast and lunch Monday-Thursday, a t-shirt, and the opening and closing receptions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The work described for each track is subject to minor changes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)