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School of Law_Law Student and Paralegal COVID Pro Bono Support Project Email

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Re: Law Student and Paralegal COVID Pro Bono Support Project

1 message

M H <meredith.harrell@maine.edu>
To: Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 12:36 PM

Here is another one.
Meredith

On Fri, Apr 17, 2020 at 11:07 AM <rachel.l.reeves@maine.edu> wrote:

Dear all,

Below please find information about a national law student pro bono support project. During this time of uncertainty, providing pro bono service allows you to use your education and experience to benefit our communities; exposes you to relevant and perhaps cutting edge legal issues in a number of practice areas impacted by COVID-19; and connects you to the legal community at a time when we feel disconnected,

Maine Law's SBA is also considering ways to implement pro bono projects to benefit our local legal community and we will jointly keep you posted as those opportunities arise.

All the best,
Rachel

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The Law Student and Paralegal COVID Pro Bono Support Project

Who We Are: We are a group of 3500+ law students, paralegals, and paralegal students that have organized to help our communities respond to the legal needs of those affected by COVID-19. We are made up of students from schools across the nation and at varying points in our legal education. We are not currently affiliated with one university or bar association.

What We Do: We work to provide pro bono support to attorneys working on legal matters and projects related to COVID-19. We support these attorneys' work by providing remote assistance on research, drafting, and additional needs. We will work on any project that serves individuals impacted by COVID-19. Examples of the sorts of projects we have supported in the past include:

- Motions for release from jail, prison, and immigration custody for clients at risk of contracting COVID-19
- Researching changes to state unemployment insurance protections related to the virus
- Maintaining a list of standing court closures related to COVID
- Compiling a list of local and/or national resources for people seeking assistance
- Translating resource documents for clients
- Compiling resources for medical professionals, service providers, first responders, and others interested in wills and estate planning
- Participating in email campaigns to encourage policy change

Due to current social distancing recommendations, students engaged in this project provide strictly remote support. Furthermore, volunteers are generally not licensed practitioners. For that reason, our volunteers strictly support the work of licensed attorneys. We are not able to offer direct services to clients at this time.

How it Works: Students can sign up to join the project here (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewQhizXsY0uA95BuwA0K0NIQDdnNhEVmBAEqble_wSa6l6mg/viewform). Attorneys can indicate their project needs on this form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAGWHCWfCN-xmPpoCAilUmNdA24CYFvghAlrczmqiO6tFCjw/viewform>). Each day, students on the listserv receive an email with descriptions of available projects and a link to sign up. After students sign up, a project coordinator will connect them with the supervising attorney who submitted a request. The project strives to fill all requests for support within 24-36 hours.

We are currently in the process of upscaling our infrastructure to better support attorneys due to the expected increase in individuals who will need assistance in the next few months, and will keep you updated on our progress.

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