



NATIONAL PRO BONO CELEBRATION

Request for Proposals

Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Task Force Mini-Grant for Law Student Organizations

The Pro Bono Celebration Task Force of the Alabama State Bar Association invites currently active law student organizations at Birmingham School of Law, Faulkner University Jones School of Law, Miles Law School, The University of Alabama School of Law and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law to apply for a mini-grant in the amount of \$500 to fund a pro bono project in Alabama sponsored by the applying law student organization.

Purpose:

To recognize and support a pro bono project sponsored by a law student organization that focuses on improving access to justice for Alabamians. A recent survey indicates that 48% of low-income households in Alabama experienced one or more legal issues a year. The majority of these civil problems included: consumer issues (creditor harassment, utility non-payment, bankruptcy issues), health issue (Medicaid, government insurance, nursing home), family law issues (divorce, child support/custody, abuse), employment issues (unemployment benefits, pension, lost job), and housing issues (unsatisfactory repairs, foreclosure, eviction, poor living conditions). The law student organization project can address any civil legal issue that will improve access to justice for Alabamians. Projects involving criminal issues are not eligible for this grant.

Eligibility:

Law student organizations that are currently active at their respective law schools are eligible. A short letter from the law school dean or the dean's designee, confirming that the organization is recognized by the respective law school must be submitted with the completed mini-grant application.

Selection Criteria:

A selection committee will review the proposals and select the grant recipient. Criteria for selection will include, but are not limited to feasibility of project implementation, impact on access to justice and future sustainability and/or replication of project.

Requirements:

- The project must be initiated and completed by April 30.
- A two-page report about the completed project must be submitted to the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Task Force by May 30. The report must include a detailed description of the project, the number of Alabamians served and an itemization of how the funds were allocated.

Application Process:

Complete and submit the attached application, via email, to Linda Lund (linda.lund@alabar.org), Director, Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program. Completed applications received by the **first Friday in October**, will be considered for the award. The mini-grant recipient will be announced on the third Friday in October.