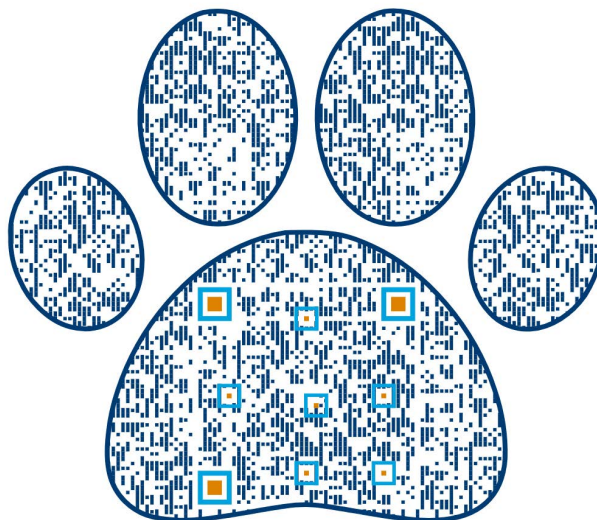




Pro Bono Projects Fall 2025

Each semester, Drake Law students can volunteer to provide meaningful law-related assistance to non-profit and government agencies. These Pro Bono Projects provide you with an opportunity to gain experience in a legal setting, develop skills, network with practicing lawyers, and provide public service. Each Pro Bono Project has a separate description that includes information on the agency, project duties, expected time commitment, scheduling requirements and number of positions available. Unless otherwise noted, positions are open to 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls. You should carefully review the project descriptions and then email the listed contact.

Questions regarding Pro Bono Project application process should be directed to Annie Reser-Moorehead, Director of Career Development, annie.reser_moorehead@drake.edu.



Iowa Center for Children's Justice | Divorce Workshops for Kids

ICCJ offers educational workshops to school-age children of divorcing parents to help them understand and cope with their parents' separation and divorce. The workshops give children a confidential place to talk about their feelings. Workshops consist of fifteen children grouped together by age: 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16. The two-hour workshops are interactive using artwork, games, videos, and discussions to get children comfortable and engaged in conversation.

Project Information: Student volunteers will lead the workshops by reviewing the age-appropriate curriculum, familiarize the materials, initiate conversations with the children before class, co-facilitate the session, help supervise and manage children with special needs/discipline/behavioral problems, report any follow-up suggestions to staff member, help encourage participation for every child, use gender inclusive language and provide feedback to ICCJ staff on how to improve the workshop classes.

Agency Contact: Email Sara Edgar at madie@iacci.org

Workshop goals: Provide youth with a safe and confidential place to discuss their feelings about divorce; let children know they are not alone, and the divorce is not their fault; give kids practical skills to handle common divorce scenarios and adjust to family changes; clarify misconceptions and set age-appropriate expectations for the legal process; our co-facilitator volunteers help us to carry out these goals and, together, we have the opportunity to positively impact children in a very direct way.

Expectations/Time commitment/Scheduling: We could use eight volunteers and ask for two hours/month. (One two-hour workshop commitment per month) You are welcome to do more if you would like. Open to all class levels. Fall workshop dates:

Polk County, at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310

- September 25, October 23, November 20, and December 4

Dallas County, at the Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Avenue, Clive IA 50325

- September 18, October 7, and December 2

Please note: you must sign the Volunteer Confidentiality & Child Safety Agreement to participate. If you need that document, email Annie Reser-Moorehead.

14th Annual Richard Calkins Mock Trial Invitational

October 24-26, 2025

Judges needed. This will be an in-person event.

Contact: Rowan Sanders, Tournament Director, at_calkins.invitational@gmail.com.

Volunteer Info: They are looking for volunteers with legal or mock trial experience to help judge. Light meals and snacks will be provided.

Expectations/Time commitment/Scheduling: One round is roughly 3 hours. There are four (4) rounds total, but you do not have to judge all the rounds.

Use this [Google form](#) to sign up for one or more rounds.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday 10/24

- Trial 1 - 6:00pm

Saturday 10/25

- Trial 2 - 9:00am
- Trial 3 - 2:00pm

Sunday 10/26

- Trial 4 - 9:00am

Criteria: Suitable for all students.

Additional Mock Trial Judge Volunteers are needed for the Middle School Tournament and Spring High School Tournament. If you have questions regarding these opportunities, please email Annie Reser-Moorehead.

Middle School Tournament - November & December

Middle School [[Sign Up Link](#) - Click on "Volunteer to Judge"]

- Regionals (Part 1) - **November 11th** at the Airport Holiday Inn – 8:15AM, 11:00AM, & 1:45PM
- Regionals (Part 2) - **November 17th** at the Airport Holiday Inn – 8:15AM, 11:00AM, & 1:45PM
- State (Day 1) - **December 1st** at Prairie Meadows - 4:30PM
- State (Day 2) - **December 2nd** at Prairie Meadows - 9:00AM & 1:00PM

High School Spring Tournament – Save these dates!

High School [[Save the Dates - No sign-ups yet](#)]

- Regionals - **March 5th** at Iowa Events Center - 8:15AM, 11:00AM, & 1:45PM
- Des Moines Playoff Round - **March 6th** at the Holiday Inn Hotel (Merle Hay Road) – 4PM
- State (Day 1) - **March 30th** at Iowa Events Center - 4:30PM
- State (Day 2) - **March 31st** at Iowa Events Center - 9:00AM & 1:00PM

High School NATIONALS – Save these dates!

- Friday, **May 8th** at Polk County Courthouses – 9:00AM & 1:00PM
- Saturday, **May 9th** at Polk County Courthouses – 9:00AM & 1:00PM

CADY DAY OF SERVICE

On Friday, October 17, 2025, the Cady Day of Public Service will bring the state legal community together to honor and to celebrate the life and legacy of the late [Chief Justice Mark Cady](#) and his commitment to public service, access to justice, and civil rights.

Project Information: Event/projects held as part of Cady Day have impacted well over 10,000 individuals throughout the state of Iowa and beyond through community service, legal clinics, and educational programming. Click [here](#) for more information

Contact: To volunteer for an event, click [here](#). Check back often. More projects and events will be added weekly.

Questions can be addressed to Terri Howard, theresa.howard@drake.edu.

Volunteer Responsibilities: Students will pre-select a volunteer activity to participate in on October 17.

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice ("IowaMMJ") is a state-wide non-profit organization that offers free legal counsel and representation to low-income immigrants and refugees and their families in Iowa.

Project Information: The work would include screening new clients, assistance with background checks, reviewing immigrant and refugee government records (obtained through FOIA requests), conducting research, and assisting clients in evidence collection and application preparation.

Agency Contact: Email Ann Naffier, Legal Director anaffier@iowammj.org

Volunteer Responsibilities: Students will assist staff on various topics. Students are expected to be responsive to the supervising attorney.

Agency Responsibilities: Provide guidance as needed about protocol, case management, and intake procedures. Be available to the student and law school as agreed upon (email/phone/in-person) for periodic progress check-in. Contact the law school coordinator to discuss any concerns with the volunteers or the program.

Expectations/Time commitment/Scheduling: IowaMMJ has four positions available for law students who could commit to 3-5 hours a week.

Criteria: Capped at 3-4 students. Suitable for all students. An interview with IowaMMJ is required for these positions, and once accepted, we will provide training.

State Public Defender of Iowa– Des Moines

The State Public Defender of Iowa (SPD) coordinates provision of legal representation to indigent persons under arrest or charged with a crime, in juvenile cases, and on appeal in criminal and post-conviction relief cases. This legal representation is provided through SPD offices or through private attorneys who contract with the SPD or who are appointed by the Court. By specializing in criminal defense work and juvenile matters, public defenders, investigators, and support staff provide high-quality, efficient, cost-effective legal representation to indigent clients.

<https://spd.iowa.gov/>

Project Information: Students assist with the operations of the SPD's Des Moines Adult Office as needed, including case management and document/exhibit organization. A specific focus will be assisting in the backlog of cases scheduled for trial. Duties may include reviewing and summarizing juror questionnaires, legal research and writing, reviewing discovery materials, and other trial-related issues as they arise.

This project provides some flexibility in remote vs. in-person work opportunities. There is much to be gained by students personally observing attorneys in action; however, there are tasks that can be completed remotely when necessary. The time commitment will be 2-3 hours per week, and the hours can be adjusted based on the availability of the volunteers and supervising attorney.

Agency Contact: Email Michael Jones mjones@spd.state.ia.us

Volunteer Responsibilities: Students will assist public defender staff in the Des Moines office as requested with filing, other case management tasks, and reviewing documents as well as observing and assisting at in-court appearances.

Agency Responsibilities: Provide guidance as needed about protocol, case management and intake procedures. Be available to the student and law school as agreed upon (email/phone/in-person) for periodic progress check-in. Contact the law school coordinator to discuss any concerns with the volunteers or the program.

Expectations/Time commitment/Scheduling: Students are expected to commit to 2-3 hours per week during set shifts at the Des Moines Adult Public Defender's Office, to be determined by agreement with the supervisor.

Criteria: Up to two positions are available. Suitable for all students.

Drake Legal Clinic Expungement Clinics– Des Moines

The Drake Legal Clinic's Criminal Defense Clinic, led by Professor Colleen Cullen, will host two expungement clinics during the 2025–2026 academic year. Both clinics will be held in partnership with Iowa Legal Aid and other community organizations. The first clinic will take place as part of the Cady Day of Service on Friday, October 17, 2025. The second will be scheduled for January 2026, with details to follow later in the Fall 2025 semester.

Project Information: Students will work alongside Drake Legal Clinic staff, volunteers, and Clinic student attorneys to assist community members with expungement applications and to address other employment barriers, such as driver's license reinstatement issues and court debt.

Contact: To volunteer for the October 17 clinic, you may sign up or request information from Colleen Cullen, colleen.cullen@drake.edu.

Volunteer Responsibilities: The Cady Day of Service clinic is from 3:00-7:00 PM on Friday, October 17 at the Drake Legal Clinic. Student volunteers are required for the entire clinic.