

Required Reflective Journal Instructions Pro Bono Experiential Learning Requirement

According to the preamble to the ABA Model Rules of Professional Responsibility:

A lawyer, as a member of the legal profession, is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice.

A lawyer's "special responsibility for the quality of justice" includes aspiring to provide at least 50 hours of pro bono legal service every year, pursuant to [ABA Model Rule 6.1](#). This responsibility is not just for public interest minded lawyers but for all lawyers, regardless of practice area, interest or expertise.

At the conclusion of your pro bono experience, please reflect on and respond to the following prompts. You may include your responses to all three prompts in an essay or respond to each prompt in a well-developed paragraph. Please provide evidence, i.e., examples from your pro bono experience, to support your reflection. You are urged to be honest and candid about your experience, whether it was positive or negative.

Please include your name, class year, and pro bono placement name on the top of your reflection. Your reflection should be one to two pages, double-spaced.

1. Describe how this experience influenced your developing professional identity as a member of the legal profession. Did the experience change your sense of yourself as a lawyer? If so, how? What were some experiences that made you feel like you belong in the profession or experiences that made you feel like you don't belong in the profession?
2. What did you observe about the profession, i.e., how did lawyers or judges act, behave, etc., that aligned with your values or identity and/or what felt in conflict with your values or identity?
3. One of the goals of the 50-Hour Pro Bono ELR is to expose students to direct pro bono legal service on behalf of low-income clients and/or public service (e.g., assisting in a government legal department or with the judiciary). With that in mind, how did your service impact individual clients, the agency, the organization, and/or the public?