

Reflective Journal

Student Name: _____ Class of 20 _____

Pursuant to ABA Model Rule 6.1, every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least (50) hours of pro bono publico legal services per year.

Please reflect on and respond to one of prompts below depending on your type of pro bono placement/project.

1. **If you worked directly with low-income individuals (e.g., clients or victims):** Briefly describe what you did and your general reactions to the experience. Then choose one of the following:
 - a. How did your experience impact your understanding of the “justice gap”, i.e., the gap between the availability of legal assistance provided through pro bono and legal aid lawyers and the number of very low-income Americans with legal needs?
 - b. Please describe and reflect upon an encounter with an individual client or victim that influenced your understanding of what it means to be a lawyer and how lawyers play a critical role in ensuring access to justice.

2. **If you worked with a judge or in the courts:** Briefly describe what you did and your general reactions to the experience. Then discuss your thoughts on whether our justice system is just and equitable to all parties, based on what you observed this summer. Think critically about your experience, in terms of the types of cases you worked on, the quality of legal representation you observed, or the lack of representation, if applicable, and the outcomes.

3. **If you worked with a government agency:** Briefly describe what you did and your general reactions to the experience. Describe your agency or department’s mission and the challenges faced by your agency in accomplishing its mission, e.g., budgetary constraints, political constraints, etc. Then discuss how your pro bono service furthered the “public’s interest.”

4. **All others:** Briefly describe what you did and your general reactions to the experience. How can pro bono service make a difference? What are its limitations?

Your response should not exceed one typed page. Feel free to expound on any of the suggested prompts above.