



QUEEN'S PRO BONO

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Dear Queen's Law Class of 2012,

Congratulations on your acceptance into law school and welcome to Queen's Law! As an incoming student, your first few weeks of law school will be overwhelming, but they will also be exhilarating and fun. One of the most exciting aspects of the Queen's Law experience is the great variety of extra-curricular opportunities that are available to you. One of these opportunities is with Queen's Pro Bono, your local chapter of Pro Bono Students Canada.

Pro Bono Students Canada was founded in 1996 at the University Of Toronto Faculty Of Law and has since grown to include every law school in Canada. PBSC is the only nation-wide student movement of its kind in the world. Each year, PBSC places thousands of law students with non-profit organizations in their communities and with lawyers working *pro bono*; these placements give law students valuable hands-on research experience, and they provide desperately needed free legal services to the organizations and lawyers involved.

The goals of PBSC are two-fold: First, we attempt to meet needs within the community and provide equal access to legal services, which are often desperately needed and difficult for non-profit organizations to obtain on a limited budget. Second, PBSC is trying to create change within the legal profession and instill the *pro bono* ethic – the value of work for the public good – in law students so that they can carry this value into their careers as they enter the legal profession. Through work with PBSC, law students learn the importance of justice and equal opportunity while exploring areas of the law to which they might not otherwise be exposed.

Queen's Pro Bono was launched in winter 1998 and has since become an integral part of Queen's Law. Last year, we placed over 70 students with approximately 12 organizations in Kingston and beyond. As the program enters its 12th year, we hope to continue to make a difference in the Kingston community and to give law students the chance to explore their legal interests and improve their legal research skills. Some of the organizations we will be working with in 2009-2010 are:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Kingston Humane Society
- Kingston Youth Shelter
- Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group
- John Howard Society
- And many more!

As a Pro Bono volunteer, you will work with upper year students and will be matched with a local organization to work on a law-related project throughout the year. The time commitment is only three hours per week, and we do not expect you to work during exams – school comes first! Under the supervision of a lawyer, you and the other volunteers on your project will work together to draft legal memos, policy papers, or provide public education. We also run a weekly radio show about legal issues of interest to students, as well as the Family Law Project for upper year students. Being a PBSC volunteer gives you the unique opportunity to improve your legal research and gain practical experience while working closely with upper year students and a lawyer.



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For more information about our program and an application form, please see our website at <http://law.queensu.ca/students/proBonoStudentsCanada.html>. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the Pro Bono Coordinators at probono@queensu.ca. As well, keep an eye out for our Pro Bono Launch on **September 14th**.

Congratulations again, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Neil Riley and Krista Moreau
Pro Bono Student Coordinators