2015 Spring Break Caravan Descriptions and Application Instructions

Please note: Some student leaders are engaged in efforts to raise additional funds for their Caravans through grants and sponsorship. Please reach out to Caravan leaders directly for more details.

Application Instructions
1. Complete the online application (for more info and link to application, visit: http://web.law.columbia.edu/social-justice/students/pro-bono/caravans)
2. After completing the online application, email a PDF of your resume to clsprobono47@gmail.com with subject heading: “Spring Break Caravan Resume”.
3. All application materials must be received by Friday, January 9th, 5pm.
4. Caravan Placement/Waitlist notifications will be emailed by Wednesday, January 28th.
5. Fifty dollar check deposit due (to secure placement in Caravan) by Wednesday, February 4th, 5:00 pm.

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1) New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice  
Up to 5 students  
Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)  
Project Details: Students will engage in legal work that touches on areas of employment law, immigration law, and housing law, doing legal research and drafting legal memos. Students will also have the opportunity to work directly with the community residents that NOWCRJ serves.  
Additional Requirements/Preferences: All may apply but preference will be given to 2Ls/3Ls who have not fulfilled their pro bono requirement. Also, preference will be given to students who have a passion for issues of racial justice and who are comfortable engaging with a wide variety of audiences.  
Student Organization Representative: Hager Franklin, hhf2107@columbia.edu  
CLS Financial Aid Award per Person: $150

2) California Women’s Law Center  
Up to 5 students  
Sponsored by Columbia Law Women's Association  
Project Details: Work will be dependent on what is active in March, but likely will be similar to CWLC's current major projects which mainly focus on Title IX enforcement, equal pay initiatives, educational rights of pregnant teens, and legal assistance to women veterans. The caravan will likely involve legal research and writing of memoranda relating to Title IX litigation, compliance reports for Title IX settlements, policy research and policy brief writing related to equal pay issues and other workplace protections, and finally, legal writing relating to individual cases (women veteran cases, traffic tickets for homeless women).  
Additional Requirements/Preferences: only open to 2L/3L class. Preference for past work and/or interest in women’s rights work; general legal research and writing skills.  
Student Organization Representative: Brittany Roehrs, bsr2125@columbia.edu  
CLS Financial Aid Award per Person: $150

3) Bronx Defenders  
Up to 3 students  
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network  
Project Details: The Bronx Defenders are credited with pioneering the concept of the “holistic defense.” Clients defended by the Bronx Defenders aren’t just given an attorney: they’re assigned to a team, which includes not only attorneys but also social workers, to help them resolve not just their case but a host of problems. The focus is not just getting people out of jail, but keeping them out. The Bronx Defenders has criminal attorneys, family attorneys (who represent parents whose children have been
taken away), and a housing attorney. Caravan participants will work on projects in one of 3 areas: criminal defense, family defense or civil litigation.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Students must submit a resume to apply and indicate which practice area they want to be in: immigration, criminal defense, civil action, family.

**Student Organization Representative:** Debbie Jang, dj2369@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** N/A

4) **California Appellate Project**

**Up to 12 students**

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network

**Project Details:** Marshaling facts and research for habeas petitions, reviewing client files and transcripts as necessary to research and obtain critical life history records for the representation of a capital defendant, creating a life chronology of existing client records to assist attorneys and investigators representing a capital client, assisting with legal research concerning prison or records-gathering issues on an as-needed basis, drafting an update to CAP’s website publication using the results of this research and/or drafting an advocacy letter on behalf of a client or clients, performing factual research concerning a California prison or jail or juvenile detention facility to assist with institutional failure claims -- ordering legislative materials, performing web research & legal research into lawsuits against the prison, contacting local newspapers & libraries for information, drafting an authoritative memorandum about that particular prison to be published on website, performing substantive research into an institutional failure related topic -- e.g. prison gangs.. Client advocacy: Performing legal research into a client and/or prison related issue; assisting client with pursuing a grievance or court case.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** No preferences or requirements

**Student Organization Representative:** Debbie Jang, dj2369@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

5) **Miami Dade County Public Defender**

**Up to 3 students**

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network

**Project Details:** MDPD students will work on a project in our misdemeanor division that helps MDPD update their training sessions and training materials in DUI cases. The students’ time will be split between this research project and having them observe trials and then include them in MDPD’s feedback sessions between the training attorneys and the trial attorneys.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** No preferences or requirements

**Student Organization Representative:** Debbie Jang, dj2369@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

6) **Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia**

**Up to 15 students**

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network

**Project Details:** The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) provides and promotes quality legal representation to indigent adults and children facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia and thereby protects society’s interest in the fair administration of justice. PDS is a federally funded, independent organization, governed by an eleven-member Board of Trustees. In general, students will be working on appeals, trial or parole.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Students must fill out an application and submit their resume to be reviewed by the supervising attorney in order to apply for this caravan.

**Student Organization Representative:** Debbie Jang, dj2369@columbia.edu
CLS Financial Aid Award per Person: $50

7) Justice for All (JFA) Myanmar Caravan
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL)
Project Details: Founded in 2011 by a group of well-known lawyers in Myanmar, Justice for All (JFA) is an independent civil society organization committed to the advancement of human rights and rule of law in the country. JFA works in partnership with civil society organizations to promote human rights and improve legal mechanisms for rights protection and enforcement. A member of the Myanmar Legal Aid Network (MLAW), JFA conducts a variety of activities related to advancing access to justice and rights awareness. Such activities include providing pro bono legal representation to those who cannot afford lawyers and conducting trainings on constitutional law, fundamental citizens’ rights, democracy, land rights, and international human rights for lawyers, political activists, and NGOs.
Additional Requirements/Preferences: Preferences: experience working in Myanmar; experience working abroad and/or with different cultures; experience with work involving civil rights, human rights and/or rule of law.
Student Organization Representative: Alisa Romney, adr2156@columbia.edu
CLS Financial Aid Award per Person: $225

8) Legal Resources Centre (LRC) South Africa Caravan
Up to 4 students
Sponsored by CSIL
Project Details: The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) is South Africa’s leading public interest law center. Students will travel to South Africa to work with the LRC to aid in their work involving the right to education and land rights issues. Students will also conduct research and draft legal documents to help the LRC institute legal action.
Additional Requirements/Preferences: Preferences: Experience working in teams, interest in human rights and/or education rights, Experience and/or interest in South Africa and the region.
Student Organization Representative: Tracy Zhang, yz2711@columbia.edu
CLS Financial Aid Award per Person: $225

9) Anishinabe Legal Services
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project & NALSA
Project Details: Anishinabe Legal Services is a non-profit organization that provides free legal services to low-income individuals living on or near the Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth Reservations in Northwestern Minnesota. Students will work with ALS attorneys to provide direct services to clients with regard to their civil legal needs and complete other related projects serving the reservation communities. There will be a strong emphasis on assisting victims of domestic violence.
Additional Requirements/Preferences: None.
Student Organization Representative: Isa Julson, iaj2105@columbia.edu
CLS Financial Aid Award per Person: $150

10) Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Environmental Law Society
**Project Details:** The organization is interested in working with students on a two-part Black Lung Benefits Changes project. First, prepare a written guide to cases decided under amendments to the Black Lung Benefits Act made as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Second, prepare and post on ACLC’s webpage a video explaining the process for applying for black lung benefits, what happens upon application, and the criteria for determining eligibility for benefits.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Some interest in or experience with making short videos and posting them on a website.

**Student Organization Representative:** Leo Oppenheimer, LBOppenheimer@gmail.com

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

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11) **KIND Houston**  
**Up to 5 students**  
Sponsored by LaLSA  
**Project Details:** Students will be working with unaccompanied minors and assisting KIND with their screening/intake interviews.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Spanish speakers are needed.

**Student Organization Representatives:** Tanya Martinez, Jessica Alcantara, and Chris Bonilla, tlm2132@columbia.edu, ja2829@columbia.edu, and cb2336@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

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12) **Moroccan Association for Human Rights**  
**Up to 8 students**  
Sponsored by Law in Africa Student Society and Rightslink  
**Project Details:** Students will do an audit of the trials of several Moroccan human rights activists that took place over the past three years – the goal being to objectively assess what, if any, irregularities were present throughout the trials. Students will be provided with all of the background information in each case as well as the court documents, evidence presented by prosecution and defense, and any media accounts of the trials.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** There are no requirements or preferences. However, we will need a one page statement of interest.

**Student Organization Representative:** Glory Nwaugbala, gun2002@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $225

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13) **ArchCity Defenders**  
**Up to 10 students**  
Sponsored by Midwest Society  
**Project Details:** Students will be working with clients in the St. Louis area on criminal and civil cases by representing low income members of the community. Focus will be placed on working with members of the Ferguson community who are facing violations of their 1st and 4th Amendment following the events of this summer.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Students should have some interest in working in representing low income communities of color.

**Student Organization Representative:** Yaa Sarpong, yss2115@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

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14) **DNA People’s Legal Services - Monument Valley, AZ**  
**Up to 7 students**
Sponsored by the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) and the Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

**Project Details:** DNA People’s Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm in the Southwestern United States that provides low-income communities with free civil legal services. The organization’s name comes from a Navajo phrase meaning “attorneys who work for the economic revitalization of The People.” Students may work on direct client services, legal trainings for community members, or a clinic targeting a specific issue burdening low-income families (such as predatory lending practices, mobile home repossessions, or domestic abuse).

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** No prior experience is necessary, however we ask that participants have a genuine interest in working with indigent populations and/or Indian tribes.

**Student Organization Representative:** Julia Bedell, juliabedell@gmail.com

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

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**15) Wisconsin Judicare**

**Up to 10 students**

Sponsored by the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) and the Midwest Society

**Project Details:** Judicare staff and Students from Columbia Law School will be available to assist anyone who wants to draft a will, powers of attorney, and other basic estate planning services for free at various locations throughout the week.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** All students with an interest in estate/property law and Native American law should apply.

**Student Organization Representative:** Yaa Sarpong, yss2115@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

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**16) San Jose State University Record Clearance Project**

**Up to 8 students**

Sponsored by Society for Chinese Law

**Project Details:** Students will be trained in expungement law and assist at least two clients to complete petitions for dismissals of all eligible criminal convictions in court. Law students will work in partnership with Record Clearance Project advanced students in interviewing their clients and completing their cases. Presentations by speakers will enhance the students’ understanding of their work; in past years, this has included attending an expungement court hearing and discussions with former clients, state and federal judges, criminal justice officials and others who can talk about the importance of clearing individuals’ criminal records.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Strong English language proficiency

**Student Organization Representative:** Allison Peck, ayp2110@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $150

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**17) Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, Jordan**

**Up to 5 students**

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL)

**Project Details:** 1) training for the students on working with clients and doing intakes for refugee cases; 2) meetings with NGOs to allow the students to learn about the challenges facing refugees and NGOs assisting them; also meetings with UNHCR and refugee processing organizations like the IOM; 3) intakes with vulnerable refugees referred to IRAP by partner NGOs, as well as meetings with an existing Columbia clients. Students will travel to Amman, Jordan to provide direct legal assistance to Iraqi and Syrian refugees with the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). Students will participate in training on
how to interview victims of torture and will conduct client intakes with vulnerable refugees referred to IRAP by partner NGOs, as well as meetings with existing Columbia clients. Students will have outreach meetings with local NGOs to learn more about the situation facing refugees on the ground in the Middle East. Students will meet with representatives from the UN Mission in Amman and participate in a training hosted by the U.S. government for refugees resettling in the United States.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Previous IRAP experience, Arabic language experience, experience in refugee or immigration law

**Student Organization Representative:** Tom Koester, tpk2106@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $225

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18) Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center

**Up to 4 students**

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Workers’ Rights Student Coalition (WRSC)

**Project Details:** Las Americas is a non-profit serving the legal needs of low-income immigrants, including refugees and battered women. Las Americas is located in El Paso, Texas near the port of entry with the second highest number of land crossings into the United States. Potential projects include legal research, brief and memorandum writing, visiting and interviewing detainees, clients intake, filing of immigration forms (for U Visas, VAWA, asylum and more), assisting in trial preparation, and translating (if applicable).

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Students should have an interest in immigration law and public service. Spanish-speaking is a plus.

**Student Organization Representative:** Angie Juarbe, amj2160@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $170

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19) Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project

**Up to 2 students**

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Workers’ Rights Student Coalition (WRSC)

**Project Details:** Students will work on a variety of legal pleadings and research memos. This can be anything from helping draft declarations for VAWA/U-Visa packets, assisting with requests for evidence or investigating complex immigration issues that we don't have time to do ourselves. Students may also get exposure to civil rights work which often overlaps with immigration work on the border.

**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** None

**Student Organization Representative:** Angie Juarbe, amj2160@columbia.edu

**CLS Financial Aid Award per Person:** $170