2016 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.

All caravan participants are eligible for Basic Caravan Funding but may opt out in order to donate funds to support students who qualify for Need-Based Funding. The PILF Caravan Support Fund, plus the amount of any funds generated from participants opting out of Basic Caravan Funding, will be reserved for Need-Based Funding.

Application Instructions

1. Complete the online application (for more info and link to application, visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/caravans16)
2. After completing the online application, email a PDF of your resume to probono@law.columbia.edu with subject heading: “Spring Break Caravan Resume”.
3. All application materials must be received by Monday, November 16th, 12pm
4. Caravan Placement/Waitlist notifications will be emailed by Wednesday, December 9th.
5. Final acceptance paperwork due (to secure placement in Caravan) by Wednesday, February 3rd, 12 pm.

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1) **Anishinabe Legal Services**  
**Up to 5 students**  
Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project (DVP) & Native American Law Students Association (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 attorney's 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:** There are no formal requirements, but we do ask that participants have a genuine interest in working with indigent populations and/or Indian tribes.
Student Organization Representative: Vanessa Racehorse, var2111@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $500
Basic caravan funding: $150

2) Appalachian Citizens' Law Center
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Environmental Law Society
**Project Details:** Our pro bono caravan will take CLS students to Whitesburg: a scenic town of roughly 2,000 set amidst the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky. We anticipate the work to concern the environmental consequences of coal mining. Last year's participants conducted legal research on case law applications of the Black Lung Benefits Act. Hiking is encouraged.
**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** Flexible dietary restrictions preferred

Student Organization Representative: Channing Jones, crj2119@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $0 (Student group funding, including the Basic Caravan Funding, if accepted, is expected to cover all expenses.)
Basic caravan funding: $150

3) Arch City Defenders
Up to 6 students
Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
**Project Details:** The Caravan will assist the Arch City Defenders in their representation of people who have been overly criminalized with traffic citations. Further, the caravan will assist in performing interviews and preparing discovery for its class action lawsuits alleging a violation of due process.
**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** No preferences or requirements.

Student Organization Representative: Marc Holloway, meh2168@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $1,400
Basic caravan funding: $150

4) Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project (DVP)
**Project Details:** Students will be working to help survivors of domestic violence under the supervision of the Safe and Stable Families Project at the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Students will be trained on how to handle intakes for clients seeking protective orders. They will also be able to go to court to observe 12-month temporary order of protection hearings. Students will also help with legal research and other tasks.
**Additional Requirements/Preferences:** We prefer students who have experience working with survivors of domestic violence, or who have been trained to work with survivors.

Student Organization Representative: Melissa Fedornak, mtf2134@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $700
Basic caravan funding: $150
5) Bronx Defenders
Up to 3 students
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)
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: Need cover letter and resume, practice area preferences.
Student Organization Representative: Hyo Min Kim, hk2810@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $100
Basic caravan funding: None

6) California Appellate Project
Up to 12 students
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)
Project Details: Work may include 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: Hyo Min Kim, hk2810@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $600
Basic caravan funding: $150

7) California Women’s Law Center
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Columbia Law Women's Association (CLWA)
Project Details: California Women’s Law Center (CWLC) has served as a unique advocate in California, working in collaboration with others to protect, secure and advance the comprehensive civil rights of women and girls. CWLC prides itself on forging novel approaches to the problems that confront women and girls, proposing unique strategies to implement those approaches, and recasting issues in
new terms. The work this clinic does varies from gender discrimination, campus sexual assault, reproductive justice, women's health, and violence against women. Students on last year’s caravan worked on research projects relating to Title IX issues and also had the opportunity to do an intake interview for a potential Title IX litigation and draft a letter relating to the intake.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: Preference: 2Ls and 3Ls.
Student Organization Representative: Ashley Lherisson, acl2142@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $400
Basic caravan funding: $150

8) DNA People’s Legal Services
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)
Project Details: DNA People’s Legal Services has several offices across Navajo Nation. The trip will be based out of a main office in Window Rock, AZ, but may involve travel to satellite offices. Supervised work projects may include direct client services, legal trainings for community members, or a legal clinic targeting a specific issue burdening low-income families (e.g. predatory lending practices, mobile home repossessions, or problems accessing public benefits).
Additional Requirements/Preferences: Students will need to be flexible in terms of travel and accommodations. We will likely spend the weekday nights in the DNA office in Window Rock (which has showers and a kitchen, they are used to having groups stay the night).
Student Organization Representative: Christian Termyn, christian.termyn@gmail.com
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $600
Basic caravan funding: $150

9) International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Up to 6 students
Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)
Project Details: Students will travel to Amman, Jordan to provide direct legal assistance to Iraqi and Syrian refugees with the International 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.
Additional Requirements/Preferences: Previous IRAP experience, Arabic language skills helpful but not essential, experience in refugee or immigration law.
Student Organization Representative: Mara Sanders, mns2133@columbia.edu
Estimated caravan cost per participant: $1,500
Basic caravan funding: $225

10) Jane’s Due Process Judicial Bypass Project
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Law Students for Reproductive Justice
Project Details: Jane's Due Process is an organization dedicated to providing legal services to pregnant minors in Texas. Students will be able to assist supervising attorneys in one or more of the services the organization provides, including: judicial bypass representation for minors seeking to terminate pregnancies without parental involvement, assistance in filing for orders of protection and emancipation, and operation of a toll-free legal hotline.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: Open to 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls and LLMs. Experience at a non-profit and/or in direct legal services is useful, but not required.

Student Organization Representative: Francesca Cocuzza, fgc2107@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $1,000

Basic caravan funding: $170

11) Las Americas/Paso Del Norte Immigration Advocacy Caravan

Up to 8 students

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Project Details: Students on this caravan will work on immigrant advocacy issues in El Paso, Texas. We partner with two local civil rights organizations, Las Americas Immigration Advocacy Center and Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project, to deliver legal services to immigrants and families in need of assistance. Students will use legal research and writing skills to further the missions of both organizations. Last year students took a tour of the U.S.-Mexican border and observed immigration court proceedings in town.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: Spanish is helpful but not required. We would like a mix of class years.

Student Organization Representative: Matthew Doyle, mhd2132@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $1,700

Basic caravan funding: $170

12) Legal Resources Centre – Grahamstown, South Africa

Up to 4 students

Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law (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: CSIL membership; 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: Anya Olsen, ao2506@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $1,700

Basic caravan funding: $225

13) Miami Dade Public Defender (MDPD)

Up to 4 students

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)
Project Details: The Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office handles approximately 85,000 cases each year, with approximately 10,000 cases open at any given time. It is divided into several major divisions concerning appellate review, felony litigation, juvenile delinquency litigation and misdemeanor and traffic court matters. Students will work on research projects that include involvement for every student with open trial cases and client contact.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: 1L/2Ls, interest in public interest careers.

Student Organization Representatives: Hyo Min Kim, hk2810@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $600

Basic caravan funding: $150

14) National Center for Lesbian Rights
Up to 5 students
Sponsored by Outlaws

Project Details: The National Center for Lesbian Rights, an impact litigation organization, has partnered with OutLaws to host Columbia students at its San Francisco headquarters in March. The projects students will work on may include research for Know Your Rights-style publications, legal research for federal administrative advocacy, and support (legal research, memo writing, cite checking) for ongoing appellate litigation.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: No preferences or requirements.

Student Organization Representative: Bram Schumer, bms2177@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $700

Basic caravan funding: $150

15) Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
Up to 15 students
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

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. Typical projects for law clerks include drafting motions for trials, crafting strategy for cases, and/or drafting appellate briefs for the D.C. Court of Appeals. In general, students will be working on appeals, trial or parole.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: Resume and application to be reviewed by supervising attorney.

Student Organization Representative: Hyo Min Kim, hk2810@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $600

Basic caravan funding: $50

16) San Jose State University Record Clearance Project
Up to 8 students
Sponsored by the Society for Chinese Law

Project Details: The San José State University (SJSU) Record Clearance Project (RCP) assists eligible people in clearing their criminal records. The law students’ work would involve being trained in
expungement law, and then assisting a client to complete petitions for dismissals of eligible criminal convictions in court. Additional anticipated activities involve advising people in custody regarding their next steps toward expungement once they are released. A specially set court hearing for RCP clients is planned for early in the week. As part of training, former clients and a judge will talk about the importance of clearing criminal records and public interest law.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: No preferences or requirements.

Student Organization Representative: Hyo Min Kim, hk2810@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $700

Basic caravan funding: $150

17) Vaša Prava

Up to 7 students

Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL)

Project Details: Vaša Prava is Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) first and largest free legal aid organization. Students will assist Vaša Prava's team of twenty-seven attorneys to compile client cases in two main areas. First, students will assist the lawyers in compiling asylum cases for Middle Eastern and North African migrants in BiH on route to the EU. Second, students will assist the lawyers in conducting legal research to develop anti-discrimination cases, which Vaša Prava will use for strategic litigation. Students will also partner with faculty at the University of Sarajevo to deliver a legal lecture to local law students on professional responsibility in the legal profession.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: No specific experience requirements, but students with experience working internationally, and experience working with asylum clients will be preferred.

Student Organization Representative: Ari Ruffer, ar3430@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $1,200

Basic caravan funding: $225

18) Wisconsin Judicare

Up to 10 students

Sponsored by Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)

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. We will travel to a different tribe in Northern Wisconsin each day and hold a walk-in wills clinic for both tribal and non-tribal residents.

Additional Requirements/Preferences: Looking for a variety of class years and people who are outgoing and willing to meet and interact with a variety of folk.

Student Organization Representative: Dhrumit Joshi, ddj2111@columbia.edu

Estimated caravan cost per participant: $550

Basic caravan funding: $150