

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

**RUTGERS**

School of Law — Camden X 217 N. Fifth Street X Camden X New Jersey 08102-1203

EVE BISKIND KLOTHEN  
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Co-Coordinators of  
The Pro Bono Research Project of the  
Rutgers School of Law - Camden

**PRO BONO RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
APPLICATION FORM**

Explanation of the Program

Why You Should Apply to be a Pro Bono Research Associate

Beginning in September 2003, the Pro Bono Research Project of the Rutgers-Camden Law School will offer free legal research services to public interest law practitioners. The goal of the project is to match eight Rutgers Law School student researchers with supervising attorneys and organizations that can benefit from the students' legal research skills. The program is limited to second and third year law students. As a Pro Bono Research Associate, you may provide a practitioner with written or oral legal analysis or may gather legal research materials such as judicial decisions or legislation.

A pro bono research project is an excellent way to get a taste of legal practice, to investigate a new legal subject matter or client base, or to make contacts in a legal field you want to pursue in your legal career. Second & third year students will work under the supervision of practicing attorneys with additional guidance from the Rutgers Pro Bono Research Project. Students can expect to improve legal research and writing skills and oral presentation skills. Students may want to follow up a Pro Bono Research Associate position with an externship placement or clinical program in a related field.

**Your work for the Pro Bono Research Project will largely take place on your own time, whenever during the day or evening you prefer to complete the project, within the**

timeframe specified by the supervising attorney. Students who complete a pro bono research project satisfactorily will receive credit toward a pro bono award at graduation.

### **Logistics of the Pro Bono Research Project**

The Pro Bono Research Project has surveyed the research needs of public interest law practitioners in the Rutgers-Camden region and has collected a variety of research projects that practitioners would like to be completed by a Rutgers-Camden law student, with the guidance of a supervising attorney. The Pro Bono Research Project will attempt to match Research Associate applicants with research projects in their chosen legal areas, where available. If a match between a public interest law organization and a student is not made within the first eight (8) weeks of the semester, the student will not receive credit toward the graduation pro bono award.

Once a Research Associate applicant has been matched with a research project, the student is encouraged to meet with the outside supervising attorney at least twice: once shortly after the student begins work and again when the student is ready to brief the assigning attorney on the research results or has finished the initial project. The supervising attorney must certify that the Pro Bono Research Associate devoted a minimum of 20 hours during one semester to researching, producing and presenting the project to the public interest law practitioner, whether orally or in writing or both.

New pro bono research projects will only be assigned during the first 8 weeks of each semester. The Pro Bono Research Associate's work should be limited to the first ten weeks of the semester. There is no guarantee that a match between a public interest law organization and a student will be made during any semester; while every effort will be made to match a student with a research project, applying to be a Research Associate does not guarantee an assignment.

### **Disclaimers**

Pro Bono Research Associates are not attorneys and the Pro Bono Research Project is not able to provide legal advice. You should always endeavor to provide high-quality work to your supervising attorney. Your work must be supervised by an attorney—generally this will be the outside attorney for whom you will be performing work through the Pro Bono Research Project, in conjunction with a Rutgers faculty member. Your work product should be directed to the supervising attorney and discussed with him or her; you should not be providing services, advice or work product directly to that attorney's client or to any other member of the public.

Although the attorney supervising you is primarily responsible for ensuring that you work only within the boundaries of what is legally permitted, you have an independent obligation to refrain from engaging in illegal conduct (including holding yourself out as an attorney or as otherwise competent to provide legal services) and to perform your work under the attorney's supervision. You should always alert your supervising attorney if you perceive it may present a conflict of his or her client's interest for you to undertake a particular task or assignment. If you

have any questions about whether it is permissible to undertake a particular task or assignment, you should consult with your supervising attorney, with Sarah Ricks, Legal Writing Faculty, or Eve Biskind Klothen, Director of Pro Bono Programs and Public Interest Activities at the Rutgers-Camden Law School.

**For the first year of the Pro Bono Research Project, 2003-04, the number of Research Associates will be limited to no more than 8 students per semester. Matches for these students must be made during the first 8 weeks of the semester. Note that applying for a Pro Bono Research Associate position is not a guarantee that a match or an assignment will be made that semester.**

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Pro Bono Research Project  
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## **PRO BONO RESEARCH ASSOCIATE STUDENT APPLICATION FORM**

**Disclaimer:** Applying for a Pro Bono Research Associate position is not a guarantee that a research match will be found or that an assignment will be made. The Rutgers Pro Bono Research Project can accommodate eight students per semester in 2003-04. New projects will only be assigned during the first 8 weeks of each semester and work should be limited to the first ten weeks of the semester.

1. Questions to be answered by Pro Bono Research Associate Applicant

Name:

Address:

Phone & e-mail:

Expected graduation date:

Will you be able to commit a minimum of 20 hours during one semester to researching, producing and presenting the project to the public interest law practitioner?

Would you prefer to complete one large project, or to complete several shorter projects?

Please list any special skills that may be of interest to a public interest law practitioner, including any foreign languages, proficiency with Westlaw & Lexis, social science statistical background or computer skills, etc.:

## 2. Areas of Interest

The Pro Bono Research Project will make an effort to match you with a research project in an area of the law or a client base of interest to you. Please check off all areas/client populations of particular interest to you. Feel free to list others:

### **Substantive Law**

Administrative

Attorney Fees

Bankruptcy

Children's Rights

Civil Procedure

Civil Rights

Computer Law

Corporate

Criminal

Death Penalty

Disability

Divorce

Domestic Violence

Education

Election & Campaign

Employment/Labor

Energy

Environmental

Ethics

Evidence

Family

Health Care/Public Health

Housing/Real Estate

Immigration

Intellectual Property

International

Labor/Employment

Legislation

Pension

Product Liability

Senior Citizens' Rights

Tax

Women's Rights

Other (list as many as you wish):

### **Preferred Client Base**

Abused children

Abused men

Abused women

AIDS-affected population

Artists

Children

Civil Rights Plaintiffs

Criminal Prosecution

Criminal Defendants

Disabled

Domestic Violence

Victims

Employees

Farmworkers

Federal government

Gay, Lesbian & Transgendered

Homeless

Immigrants

Juveniles

Law Enforcement/Police

Low Income

Municipalities/cities

Prisoners

Religious group (please specify)

Senior Citizens

Speakers of particular foreign language

State or local government

Tenants

Veterans

Other (list as many as you wish):

The Rutgers-Camden Law School Pro Bono Research Project

Co-Coordinators: Sarah E. Ricks, Legal Writing Faculty &  
Eve Biskind Klothen, Director of Public Interest Activities and Pro Bono Programs

**Please return this completed form, either in hard copy or via e-mail to:**

Eve Biskind Klothen  
Director of Pro Bono Programs and Public Interest Activities  
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