

Volunteer Research Assistance Team (VRAT)

Students provide legal research assistance to offices participating in the Law Students in Action Project. VRAT is perfect for discreet projects that law students can complete from a remote location, and is an opportunity to mentor a student without the commitment of a full-time internship.

Spanish Translation and Interpretation Assistance Team (STIAT)

Students fluent in Spanish provide translation and interpretation assistance to offices participating in the Law Students in Action Project. Volunteers assist attorneys in communicating with their Spanish-speaking clients by participating in telephone conferences. Volunteers also translate legal documents, correspondence, brochures, and various written materials into Spanish for public interest law firms.

Pro Bono Assistance Project (PBAP)

Students assist private attorneys who are working on pro bono cases assigned through Volunteer Legal Services Project, Finger Lakes Volunteer Lawyer Services, and the Ithaca office of LAWNY. Volunteers perform research and writing, interact with clients, collect information, and perform other tasks assigned by the attorney.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about LSAP or request a volunteer, please contact your nearest LSAP representative:

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Please visit our website at

www.lawny.org

A Pro Bono Legal Corps Project of
Legal Assistance of Western New York,
Inc. (LAWNY)

*Connecting law students
and underserved
communities*

**LAW
STUDENTS
IN
ACTION
PROJECT**

**PRO BONO
LEGAL CORPS**
An Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps Program

THE LAW STUDENTS IN ACTION PROJECT

The Law Students in Action Project (LSAP) is a program of Legal Assistance of Western New York. Created in 2003 through an AmeriCorps/Equal Justice Works grant, LSAP strives to enable public interest law firms to serve their clients more efficiently with the assistance of law students and to encourage law students to engage in pro bono work to benefit underserved communities. The program is administered by three full-time attorneys, working out of LAWNY's Rochester, Geneva, and Ithaca offices.

Through our Summer Associate Program, school-year internships, and remote projects, we place law student volunteers at public interest offices throughout LAWNY's 14-county service area. Placements are based on areas of client need and the student's interest, skills, and availability. In becoming involved in LSAP, public interest law firms obtain assistance in delivering efficient legal services to their clients. Law students gain valuable practical experience in providing legal services to underserved communities and low-income clients.

LSAP actively recruits from Cornell Law School, Syracuse University College of Law, and University at Buffalo Law School, as well as through several regional and national career fairs.

WHY HIRE AN LSAP INTERN?

LSAP volunteers assist attorneys with a variety of activities, enabling you to serve your clients more efficiently. Ways in which law students can help include:

- Conducting intake and assisting with client interviews
- Conducting factual investigations
- Preparing correspondence letters to clients and adversarial parties
- Preparing for court proceedings
- Assisting advocates with legal research and drafting of court documents
- Writing legal memoranda on specialized research projects
- Handling case management
- Assisting with special projects

We will publicize your position, collect resumes and other required materials, and interview all potential candidates in an effort to find a legal intern who is well-suited to meet your needs. You need only look through the student's materials to determine whether he or she would be a good fit. Of course, you also have the option of interviewing the student yourself, if you desire. However, please be aware that this may delay and/or inhibit selection of your top candidates as students may also be applying for other LSAP placements or other summer programs.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Semester Internships: Students volunteer 5-20 hours per week during the course of the semester at participating offices.

Winter & Spring Break Internships: The month-long vacation period between semesters, as well as the week-long spring vacation, can be an excellent time for public interest law firms to utilize law student volunteers. Some law students who go away to school return to the area during these breaks and are looking to make that time period productive. This can also be a great opportunity for past interns to return to work without the necessary orientation and training period.

Summer Associate Program: The Summer Associate Program seeks to provide public interest offices in Western New York with high quality interns. Those selected volunteer a minimum of 30 hours per week for at least 10 weeks. The interns participate in a training program, as well as a series of brown bag lunches with practitioners. This provides the students with a complete experience by not only improving skills necessary for their placement, but also as a means to encourage students to pursue a career in public interest law or engage in pro bono work while in private practice. In addition, students have the opportunity to network with fellow interns and participating attorneys through various social activities.