

Law Schools Working Together to Increase Access to Justice

The Minnesota Model



MINNESOTA JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

The Minnesota Model

- Collaborative Partners

- Law Schools
- Legal Services
- Private Bar

- Minnesota Justice Foundation

- Statewide Access to Justice Mission
- Present at all four Minnesota law schools
- Efficient and effective law student placement
 - 25,000+ law student volunteer hours annually
 - One-stop shop for law students
 - Single contact person for volunteer supervisors

Three Innovative Collaborative Projects

- Statewide Assisted Pro Se Clinics
- Legal Scholarship for Equal Justice Course
- Volunteer Independent Research Project

Assisted Pro Se Clinics

- Use law students to maximize effectiveness and efficiency of volunteer attorneys in rural areas to serve more clients
- Teach law students hands-on legal skills
- Partners
 - Legal Services
 - Perform intake screening
 - Coordinate client appointments
 - Recruit volunteer attorney
 - Minnesota Justice Foundation
 - Recruit and train law student volunteers

Legal Scholarship for Equal Justice (LSEJ)

- Rotating course taught once per academic year by professors or adjunct professors at one of the four Minnesota Law Schools.
- Research topics with the potential to make a practical and immediate impact on equal justice are submitted to LSEJ website by legal services attorneys.
- Course culminates in a free CLE event open to the public.
- Partners
 - Law Schools
 - Legal Services Attorneys
 - Minnesota Justice Foundation

Volunteer Independent Research Project (VIRP)

- Law students research short topics as needed by legal services professionals.
- Utilized by both legal services staff attorneys and volunteer attorneys.
- Has proven most helpful to rural attorneys and volunteer programs.
- Partners
 - Legal Services/Volunteer Attorney Programs
 - Minnesota Justice Foundation

Resources

MJF website: www.mnjustice.org

LSEJ website: www.lsej.org

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