

Maximizing Client Services Through Collaborative Partnerships with Law Schools

Partnerships Checklist

I. Research Legal Services Agencies

- Learn about the issues addressed through the agency
- Become familiar with the clients (screening criteria/demographics/language needs)
- Research backgrounds of staff attorneys and understand hierarchy
- Research news clips about the agency and the attorneys
- Set meeting with attorney at legal service agency to explore opportunities (review Steps 2 and 3 prior to meeting!)

II. Assess Campus Resources

- What faculty are teaching in areas related to the services provided by your target agency?
- Identify courses which might serve as a springboard for volunteer opportunities/internships
- Explore the existing relationships with the legal services agency
- Examine the opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration (not as applicable to stand-alone law schools).
- Identify potential sources of funding in support of training and/or placements.
- Test the water for support with key faculty/administrators:
 - a. Develop ally in the Career Planning Center
 - b. Identify key faculty member to participate in planning conversations
 - c. Advise the office of alumni development re: alumni participation

III. Evaluate Best Model

- Service Days volunteer opportunities
- Ongoing volunteer opportunities
- Externship/placements (i.e. for-credit opportunities during the academic year/or summer)
- Fellowship (i.e. student receives a stipend for the work, during the academic year or summer)
- Traditional course with fieldwork component

IV. Devise Pilot Project

- Define scope of project
- Determine criteria for selecting volunteers
- Define supervisory role/structure
- Consider training needs and develop materials
- Identify appropriate volunteer team size
- Develop assessment tools for project
- Develop recruiting plan for project
- Consider PR opportunities
- Develop timeline for project rollout

COLLABORATE AND CREATE!