Edley Grants: pro bono hours reminder and additional details

Melanie Rowen <mrowen@berkeley.edu> Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 8:44 AM
To: "students-1ls law.berkeley.edu" <students-1ls@law.berkeley.edu>, "students-2ls law.berkeley.edu" <students-2ls@law.berkeley.edu>

Dear 1L and 2L students,

We hope your semester is off to a good start. This message is a reminder of some of the details of the Berkeley Law Edley Grants program. All the key info about the Edley Grants is available in the CDO’s Edley Grants FAQ and Rules. We are also holding an info session by Zoom on Monday, January 31 from 1-2 PM, where we’ll be available to answer all your questions about the details of applying and the eligibility criteria.

We also want to remind you that if you intend to apply for a Berkeley Law Summer Public Interest/Public Sector Fellowship (aka "Edley Grant") for this coming summer, and you are a first-time applicant (all 1Ls; 2Ls who didn't receive an Edley Grant last summer) you must complete and log 25 or more qualifying pro bono hours before April 1, 2022, when applications for the grants are due. SLPS projects, BLAST trips, CNECT projects, and independent pro bono projects are all great ways to get pro bono hours for Edley Grant eligibility. So if you’re planning to work in a public interest, government, or judicial externship position this summer and do not yet have a plan for how you will get your pro bono hours, connect with the Pro Bono Program to figure out what will be a fit for you!

More on Edley Grants and the pro bono requirement: the Edley Grants provide funding to Berkeley Law JD students who will work at unpaid judicial externships and legal internships with nonprofit or government agencies over the summer. Last year the program provided funding to over 200 students. The majority of these fellowships are given to 1Ls to fund their first summer legal internship.

You can fulfill the pro bono requirement in two ways:

- Complete at least 25 hours of volunteer (unpaid and not-for-credit) pro bono work that meets the Berkeley Law Definition of Pro Bono. This can include SLPS work and other pro bono projects. Note: Students may claim only up to 5 hours of SLPS training/orientation time towards the pro bono requirement for Dean’s Grants. Commute time may not be counted, nor may hours worked at internships or field placements if they were compensated (either with units, pay, or other funding).
• Combine pro bono hours with hours spent directly assisting the summer public interest fellowship fund-raising efforts of any Berkeley Law student organization (as certified by the organization) for a total of at least 25 hours. Past examples of summer fellowship fundraising hours that can be used in combination with pro bono hours to satisfy the 25 hour requirement have included hours spent organizing for or working at the BLF auction, ELQ’s Race Judicata, and WoBL’s Barrister’s Ball. Hours spent assisting with the For People of Color law school admissions conference are also included. Hours spent planning or working at symposia or any other non-fundraising hours are not included.

These details on the pro bono requirement can also be found on CDO's Qualifying Pro Bono for Summer Fellowships information webpage.

Again, to find pro bono opportunities, contact the Pro Bono Program.

**Note for 2Ls: If you received an Edley Grant previously, you have already satisfied this requirement and do not need to perform an additional 25 hours. And if you completed and logged 25 hours last year, you do not need to complete and log another 25 hours this year.**

If you have any questions about the Edley Grants that are not answered in the Edley Grants FAQ & Rules, please come to our info session on Monday! You are also welcome to contact me directly.

Best,

Melanie

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