



Harvard Law School Clinical and Pro Bono Programs
Learning the Law | Serving the World

Student Practice Organization Skills Matrix

SPO	Description	Skills	Time Commitment
Harvard Defenders	Represents low-income clients at Massachusetts criminal show-cause hearings before clerk magistrates, assists with sealing Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI), and provides referrals to other legal services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Collaboration/teamwork Direct client advising & services Interviewing & counseling clients Interviewing witnesses Investigation/factual research Oral advocacy Representing clients in court 	<p>Minimum of 1 case per semester (5 to 10 hours per case on average).</p> <p>2 additional hours per week for intake and a team meeting.</p>
Harvard Law Entrepreneurship Project (HLEP)	Provides legal research and analysis to entrepreneurs in the Harvard and MIT communities in teams of HLS students and a practicing attorney from leading startup law firms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration/teamwork Direct client advising & services Doctrinal legal research Interviewing & counseling clients Investigation/factual research Transactional research Report writing 	About 10 hours over a six to eight week advising period for team members, with an additional 3 to 4 hours for team leaders.
Harvard Mediation Program (HMP)	Serve as mediators in pairs for small claims court cases, harassment prevention orders, and tenant-to-tenant disputes. Students also provide trainings to HLS students and local community agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Collaboration/teamwork Direct client services Interviewing clients Negotiation and mediation Oral presentation 	Several mediation sessions each semester. One session of participant coaching in a subsequent Basic Training. Two-semester commitment.
Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project (PLAP)	Provides representation to prisoners at disciplinary, parole, and other administrative hearings in Massachusetts state prisons. Students assist incarcerated individuals with prison-related problems (medical, civil rights, and property) by responding to letters and calls. May also work on impact litigation, prison policy initiatives, and commutation petitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Collaboration/teamwork Direct client advising & services Discovery Grassroots advocacy Interviewing witnesses Interviewing & counseling clients Investigation/factual research Oral arguments Policy Representing clients Trial practice 	1 hour per week on office hours; Approximately 10-20 hours per hearing (optional)
HLS Advocates for Human Rights	Provides legal research and engages in human rights advocacy on student-led projects with human rights practitioners and NGOs around the world and provides support to the International Human Rights Clinic's projects. Promotes awareness of human rights issues on campus and organizes training sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Collaboration/teamwork Legal research & writing Grassroots advocacy Interviewing clients Investigation/factual research Policy 	Varies by project and involvement. Project members spend 2 to 5 hours per week. Project leaders spend 4-7 hours per week.

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HLS Immigration Project (HIP)	Provides community outreach, education and advocacy, and pro bono legal representation to immigrants through these main projects: Client Engagement and Services, Policy, and International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Counseling clients Collaboration/teamwork Community education Direct client advising & services Doctrinal legal research & writing Grassroots advocacy Interviewing clients Investigation/factual research Policy 	Hours vary by project. Including mandatory training sessions, average commitment ranges from 10 to 40 hours per semester. Some projects do not begin casework until the spring semester.
HLS Mississippi Delta Project	Provides legal assistance and policy support for mission-driven organizations in Mississippi. Students work in teams on projects advancing food justice, criminal/economic justice, environmental justice, and reproductive justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Counseling clients Collaboration/teamwork Contract drafting Direct client services Grassroots advocacy Investigation/factual research Legislation Policy 	1 to 4 hours per week, with some variability depending on project.
HLS Negotiators	Opportunities include regular simulations where students practice their negotiation skills and get feedback; real-life client projects in interpersonal negotiation, systems design, and training locally, nationally, and internationally; and engagement with the greater ADR community both on and off campus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling clients Collaboration/teamwork Direct client advising Grassroots advocacy Interviewing clients Interviewing witnesses Investigation/factual research Negotiation Policy 	Average 1 to 5 hours per week Varies by commitment options and client project.
Project No One Leaves (PNOL)	Works with City Life-Vida Urbana, a grassroots organizing group in Boston, to support and defend communities facing gentrification, eviction, foreclosure, and deportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Client counseling Community education Direct client services Grassroots advocacy 	No specific commitment. Students are free to sign up for canvasses each weekend and pick up assignments depending on their level of interest and capacity.
Recording Artists Project (RAP)	Counsels clients in such matters as copyright and trademark registration, sample clearances, and the negotiation and drafting of contracts related to music production, management, performance, licensing, and merchandising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing facts Collaboration/teamwork Contract drafting Direct client advising & services Doctrinal legal research & writing Interviewing & counseling clients Investigation/factual research Negotiation 	Time commitment can range per semester from less than 10 hours for team members to 30 hours for team leaders. Each project lasts one semester.
Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP)	Provides representation and advice to public housing tenants, section 8 voucher recipients, and those seeking subsidized housing. Assists clients on issues of eviction, subsidy termination, recertification, waitlist and transfer denial, and reasonable accommodations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration/teamwork Direct client advising & services Doctrinal legal research & writing Interviewing & counseling clients Interviewing witnesses Investigation/factual research Negotiation Representing clients in administrative hearings Trial practice 	1 case per semester (15-20 hours per case); 1-2 intakes per semester (2-4 hours); occasional advice cases (1-2 hours each)