



# NY State Bar Pro Bono Admission Requirement



**Miriam Eckenfels-Garcia**  
**Associate Director, Public Interest Law Center**  
**(212) 992 8646**  
**[Miriam.eckenfels@nyu.edu](mailto:Miriam.eckenfels@nyu.edu)**



# The rule

- Google “New York Bar Pro Bono”
- The full text of the rule and FAQs can be found on the PILC website:  
[www.law.nyu.edu/publicinterestlawcenter/forstudents/nys-bar-pro-bono-requirement](http://www.law.nyu.edu/publicinterestlawcenter/forstudents/nys-bar-pro-bono-requirement)



# Eligible work

- What counts:
  - (1) assists in the provision of legal services without charge for
    - (i) persons of limited means;
    - (ii) not-for-profit organizations; or
    - (iii) individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or promote access to justice, including, but not limited to, the protection of civil rights, civil liberties or public rights;
  - (2) assists in the provision of legal assistance in public service for a judicial, legislative, executive or other governmental entity...
- What doesn't count
- What might count



# What if I...

... get paid for my work?

... undertake translation/interpretation services?

... end up doing some administrative tasks?



# Timing and location

- Any time after commencement of law degree and prior to application for admission.
- LLM students:
  - Most: one year prior to LLM.
  - Students from common law countries: any time from May 1, 2012.
- Pro bono work abroad = you need to explain the nature and circumstances of the work in detail.



# Finding opportunities

- Many NYU clinics and summer internships will count.
- CSM Symplicity: Advanced Search for Position Type “Legal: Pro Bono [for students ONLY]”
- Own networks and other websites, e.g. PSJD and ProBonoNet.



# Confirming the work

- Keep detailed notes
- Affidavit:
  - [www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/AppForAdmission\\_ProBonoReq\\_Fillable.pdf](http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/AppForAdmission_ProBonoReq_Fillable.pdf)
  - Notarization and supervisor certification
  - Submit hard copy when applying for admission



# Need more info?

- Write to me or come in for an appointment
- Miriam Eckenfels-Garcia
  - (212) 992 8646
  - [Miriam.eckenfels@nyu.edu](mailto:Miriam.eckenfels@nyu.edu)