

PRO-BONO STUDENTS CANADA WINDSOR CHAPTER

**PB
SC**
UNIVERSITY OF
WINDSOR CHAPTER

2025-
2026

PROJECT
GUIDE

PBSC WINDSOR

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO ALL
WINDSOR PROJECTS IN THE 2025-
2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

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Land Acknowledgement

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR SITS ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE THREE FIRES CONFEDERACY OF FIRST NATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES THE OJIBWA, THE ODAWA, AND THE POTAWATOMI.

WE RESPECT THE LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE IN THE 100-MILE WINDSOR-ESSEX PENINSULA AND THE STRAITS – LES DÉTROITS – OF DETROIT.



CREDIT MACY YAP PHOTOGRAPHY

“One of the most visionary undertakings I have seen in my 40 years at the bar.”

-Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella

ABOUT PBSC WINDSOR

Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) is a national organization with student-led chapters at 22 Canadian law schools. PBSC was the first pro bono organization in the country and is now the largest pro bono organization in Canada. PBSC has a strong presence across the country and a reputation for developing high-quality programs. We are also the leading voice on law student pro bono issues, and we are regularly invited to participate in access to justice activities, policy consultations, conferences, and events nationwide.

With our community partners and lawyer supervisors, law students provide free legal information and resources to people and communities facing barriers to justice.



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Our work and partnerships are guided by our three core values: dignity, equity, and humility. Every year, about 1,500 PBSC law student volunteers provide approximately 120,000 hours of free legal services in partnership with nearly 400 public interest and other community organizations, courts, and tribunals across Canada.

PBSC VALUES

DIGNITY

We believe that every person is entitled to respect, to have their voice heard, and to fully enjoy their rights.

EQUITY

We stand for substantive equality, inclusion, and diversity in all its forms. We focus on impact (not just good intentions).

HUMILITY

We prioritize listening, learning, and self-reflection. We value the wisdom of the communities we serve, and their lived experiences inform our work.

PROJECT MODELS

Clinical Projects

Client intake and assistance projects involve sitting down with clients of Partner Organizations or clinics to collect their personal information and the facts of their case, and in some cases, providing them with legal information or helping them complete court forms or other documents.



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Legal Research & Writing Projects

Legal research and writing projects include reviewing and monitoring pending legislation, writing legal memos or analyzing current policy questions, and writing for media such as newsletters or blogs

Public Legal Education Projects

Public legal education (PLE) projects provide student volunteers with an opportunity to develop and deliver accessible legal education materials (e.g., FAQs, brochures), workshops, and seminars to people and communities facing barriers to justice.



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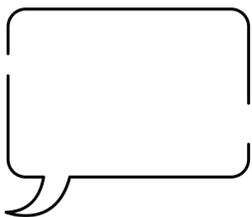
WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN PBSC WINDSOR

JOIN MEANINGFUL PRO-BONO PROJECTS



PBSC serves a range of diverse communities, including immigrants and refugees, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, low-income people, racialized communities, women, and youth. You can use your legal skills to make a direct impact on people's daily lives and increase access to justice.

IMPROVE YOUR LEGAL SKILLS



You can improve your legal research and writing skills, client-facing skills, and other capabilities. You can gain exposure to diverse areas of law, including criminal law, family law, or immigration law, helping you determine your unique career path.

NETWORK WITH LAWYERS AND STUDENTS



PBSC projects offer opportunities for mentorships with local experienced lawyers and non-profit organizations. You can also meet other like-minded students, with whom you may stay connected for years after your placement.



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APPLICATION PROCESS

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APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline for volunteer applications is
Friday, September 19th, by 12 pm

MATCHING PROCESS

In your application, please list and describe your relevant experiences and interests, and rank your preferences for projects.

We will try our best to match you to your top choice. Include as much information about yourself as possible in your application. Since we do not conduct interviews, this is your opportunity to tell us why you would be the best candidate for a specific position.

After we receive your applications, we will match each student to a project which fits their expertise and interests. After we email the selected volunteers, we will request that you accept or deny the offer within a certain timeframe.

If you accept, you will connect with your lawyer supervisor, student group, and organization partner, and begin your exciting pro bono work!

2025-2026 EVENTS

PBSC WINDSOR CHAPTER

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1.

LAUNCH EVENT

Our launch event is an annual PBSC event which formally marks the start of the PBSC academic year. At our Launch Event, you will hear from a notable keynote speaker from the Windsor-Essex area, a long-time organization partner of PBSC Windsor, and several student volunteers and Project Leads. Attending our Launch Event is a great way to learn about PBSC, network with fellow law students, and ask us questions!

2.

GENERAL TRAINING

General Training is a mandatory training session for all student volunteers. The Program Coordinators, Natalie Cusinato and Elan Foorer, will host this year's training session, along with Anna Maria DeCia-Gualtieri.

3.

RESEARCH TRAINING SESSION

Our amazing Reference Librarian, Meris, will be leading our research training session. This research training will be required for all 1L students and for upper-year students on legal research projects.

4.

FINAL APPRECIATION EVENT & CHIEF JUSTICE RICHARD WAGNER AWARD CEREMONY

The Final Appreciation Event is an event in mid-March to express PBSC's gratitude for the participation and work of students, partner organizations, funders, faculty members, and lawyers.

At this event, we also announce the recipient of the annual Chief Justice Richard Wagner award, which is given to a student volunteer for outstanding leadership.

IMPORTANT DATES



Launch Event

- September 15, 2025
- 12:00 to 1:30 pm
- Moot Court, University of Windsor, Law Building

1

Volunteer Application Deadline

September 19, 2025
12:00 pm

2

General Training

- September 24, 2025
- 12:00 to 1:30 pm

3

Research Training: Introduction

October 3, 2025
12:00 to 1:30 pm
Online

4

Final Appreciation Events & Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award Ceremony

March 2025
Date TBA

5



Meet the PBSC Windsor Team



Natalie Cusinato

Program Coordinator



Elan Foorer

Program Coordinator



Anna DeCia-Guالتieri

*PBSC Faculty Supervisor and
Director of Career Services*



Rebecca Zuker

Event Coordinator



Priya Kataria

Event Coordinator



Gloria Xie

*Communications and
Marketing Coordinator*

2025-2026 PROJECT LIST

Read the following pages to learn more about the 2025-2026 PBSC Windsor Projects!

Keep in mind that you will have to rank your top choices in your volunteer application.

pro bono
étudiants canada
réseau national
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pro bono

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

CLA Hybrid Wills PLE/Clinic

Organization: Community Legal Aid (CLA)

Description: Student volunteers on this project will work with CLA's Review Counsel to draft wills and/or Powers of Attorney for low-income clients who are eligible for pro bono legal services. Additionally, during the fall semester, students will create will-related PLE resources and present them at CLA-organized presentations.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

Completion of, currently enrolled in, or will be taking (in W26) Wills and Estates.

Type of law: Wills & estates

Open to 1Ls?: No

of students: 2

Project type: PLE/
Clinic

Delivery: Hybrid

Harmony in Action – Memos & Presentation Series

Organization: Harmony in Action

Description: Student volunteers will produce a set of legal memoranda, presentations, and high-level pamphlets to educate parents, families, and guardians about selected topics. Topics will include: wills and estate planning for parents (with a focus on special needs trusts), powers of attorney for adult disabled children, and, briefly, when to consider guardianship. An in-depth project on guardianship will be undertaken by a separate group working with Harmony in Action, so volunteers working on this project will only cover when parents should consider a guardianship application.

Type of law: Wills & estates, disability law, family law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 3-4

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Hybrid

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Harmony in Action – Guardianship

Organization: Harmony in Action

Description: Student volunteers will produce a legal memorandum, presentation, and high-level pamphlet to educate parents, families, and guardians about guardianship applications. More specifically, volunteers will research the types of guardianship and their associated court processes, the legal responsibilities of a Guardian, and alternatives to guardianship.

Type of law: Wills & estates, disability law, family law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 2-3

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Hybrid

Survivor Family Law Presentations

Organization: Hiatus House

Description: Student volunteers will prepare hour-long, in-person presentations on legal topics which are relevant to survivors of domestic abuse at Hiatus House. There will be one group of 3-4 students who will prepare up to four presentations on assigned topics.

Additional eligibility requirements: Not required, but assets include: Family law classes, clinical experience in family law firms/clinics, work or volunteering with women's organizations, shelters and/or feminist organizations, and social work backgrounds.

Type of law: Family law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 3-4

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Hybrid

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

LTEC Community Presentations

Organization: Law and Technology Lab (LTEC)

Description: Student volunteers will produce a set of legal memoranda, presentations, and high-level pamphlets to educate the Greater Windsor Community about selected topics related to artificial intelligence (AI). Topics include AI's impacts on labour & employment, contract and other legal fields.

Additional eligibility requirements: Students with a demonstrated interest in intellectual property and/or technology law are preferred but is not required.

Type of law: Contract law, technology law, labour & employment law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 3-4

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Hybrid

Wills Clinic

Organization: Bilingual Legal Clinic

Description: Student volunteers on this project will work with a local lawyer to draft wills and/or Powers of Attorney for low-income clients who are eligible for pro bono legal services. To be served by PBSC student volunteers, clients must meet the eligibility criteria of the Bilingual Legal Clinic.

Additional Eligibility Requirements: Completion of, currently enrolled in, or will be taking (in W26) Wills and Estates.

Type of law: Wills & estates

Open to 1Ls?: No

of students: 6-8

Project type: Clinic

Delivery: In-person

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Pro Bono Radio

Organization: CJAM 99.1 FM Student Media

Description: Student volunteers will produce, edit, and publish hour-long bi-weekly episodes for CJAM Radio highlighting the PBSC projects at the University of Windsor, as well as corresponding and current legal issues in the local community. Two groups of students will produce 2 episodes (per semester), each.

Type of law: Various

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 4

Project type: Hybrid

Delivery: PLE

Rapha Youth Outreach Service and BLSA Presentation Series

Organization: Rapha Youth Outreach Service and BLSA

Description: This project is in collaboration with the Windsor Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA); as a result, the volunteers for this project will be BLSA members. In this project, student volunteers will present two previously created RYOS presentations (Employment & Education Discrimination and Guide to Policing Interactions) and create a third clear, accessible resource on relevant legal issues for RYOS to provide their clients and/or members.

Additional eligibility requirements: BLSA Member

Type of law: Criminal law, employment law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 2-4

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Hybrid

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

PBSC x South Asian Centre: Community Legal Information Series

Organization: South Asian Centre of Windsor

Description: Student volunteers will prepare a series of hour-long, in-person presentations on select legal topics relevant to the South Asian community served by the South Asian Centre of Windsor. Additionally, through an online form supplied by the Centre, attendees will have the opportunity to submit related questions on the topic. The questions on related topics will be grouped, from which students will then draft memos, under the supervision of the lawyer supervisor.

Additional eligibility requirements: Volunteers who speak: Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, and Urdu are strongly encouraged to apply. Further, volunteers who speak Tamil and Bangla are encouraged to apply.

Type of law: Human rights law, wills & estates, immigration law

Open to 1Ls?: 2Ls and 3Ls preferred, but 1Ls with additional languages will be considered

of students: 4-6

Project type: PLE/
Clinic

Delivery: Hybrid

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Sexual Assault Crisis Centre of Windsor PLE

Organization: Sexual Assault Crisis Centre of Windsor

Description: Student volunteers will produce a guidebook and/or brochure on a topic communicated to volunteers and approved by PBSC related to the SACC's mission. Past topics have included a guidebook consisting of reporting sexual assault, an overview of the court process, and sentencing procedures.

Additional eligibility requirements: Not required, but assets include: Upper-year criminal law classes, clinical experience (volunteer/extracurricular/work), participation in criminal law associations/clubs, participation in women's organizations, sexual assault awareness or prevention organizations, or other related activities, and social work backgrounds or volunteer experiences which include working with survivors.

Type of law: Criminal law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 2-4

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Remote

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Trans ID Clinic

Organization: Trans Wellness Ontario (TWO)

Description: The Trans ID Clinic provides free legal information, form-filling services, and referrals in a trans-positive, anti-oppressive, and inclusive environment. PBSC student volunteers and lawyer supervisors will work collaboratively to assist the 2SLGBTQIA+ community with obtaining vital identification documents.

Additional eligibility requirements: Given the clientele of this project, we welcome applications from trans, gender diverse individuals, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. If a cisgender student is interested, they should be able to demonstrate ongoing and meaningful allyship with the trans and gender-diverse community.

Assets include:

- Work experience with Transgender and gender-diverse individuals, youth, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community
- Clinical and/or front-line experience (work or volunteering) with clients
- Social work backgrounds (education, work experience, volunteering)
- A strong social justice background with an emphasis on anti-oppression principles

Type of law: Human rights law, poverty law, identification (ID) law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 3-5

Project type: Clinic

Delivery: In-person, once a month on Saturday evenings

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Persons with Disabilities Police/School Interactions Guide

Organization: Windsor Essex Family Network and Resource Centre

Description: Student volunteers will create a clear, accessible pocket-sized resource to educate young persons with disabilities and their families on their rights and what to do if police officers or school administrators breach them so that they can protect themselves, gain confidence and advocate for themselves.

Additional eligibility requirements: Not required, but assets include upper-year courses about the subject matter, and any involvement in disability law clubs/clinics/organizations (volunteer/extracurricular).

Type of law: Education law, criminal law, human rights law, disability law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 2-3

Project type: Remote

Delivery: Yes

Presentations for Families: Educational Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Organization: Windsor Essex Family Network and Resource Centre

Description: Student volunteers will produce a set of presentations and a pamphlet to educate parents, families, and guardians about the educational rights of persons with disabilities. The presentations and pamphlets will help increase awareness of various legislative rights and allow those with disabilities or who care for someone with a disability to advocate for their rights.

Additional eligibility requirements: Not required, but assets include upper-year courses about the subject matter, and any involvement in disability law clubs/clinics/organizations (volunteer/extracurricular)

Type of law: Education law, human rights law, disability law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 2-4

Project type: PLE

Delivery: Hybrid

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Youth Drop-In Legal Clinic

Organization: Windsor Youth Centre

Description: This clinic will provide clear and specific legal information to youth at the Windsor Youth Centre about legal topics they identify during a monthly drop-in clinic. Students will visit the WYC and meet with youth who are seeking legal information on various legal topics, including but not limited to: landlord and tenant rights, family law, criminal law, and/or immigration law. The students will spend two hours at the clinic collecting the client's legal questions and/or areas of interest. Then, the students will spend the next week researching relevant legal information, including case law, statutes, and/or regulations.

Additional eligibility requirements: Students should have strong interpersonal and communication skills. As this project is client-facing, it requires students to take initiative, make clients feel welcome, and communicate details to clients clearly and concisely. Any work, volunteering, or educational experiences in public speaking, mooting, or customer service would be an asset.

Type of Law: Property law, family law, and/or criminal law. The areas of law may vary based on the client and the questions students receive during clinics

Open to 1Ls?: No

of students: 4

Project type: Clinic

Delivery: In-person, on the final Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m

2025-2026 Projects

PBSC Windsor

Youth ID Clinic

Organization: Windsor Youth Centre

Description: The Youth ID clinic helps homeless and at-risk youth obtain necessary photo identification and birth certificates. While most of us view the loss of photo identification as a minor inconvenience, homeless or marginally housed individuals who do not possess photo identification face delays or denials when they attempt to access vital services.

Additional eligibility requirements: Students should have strong interpersonal and communication skills. As this project is client-facing, it requires students to take initiative, make clients feel welcome, and communicate details clearly and concisely.

Type of law: Family law, identification (ID) law, poverty law

Open to 1Ls?: Yes

of students: 6-8

Project type: Clinic

Delivery: In-person, on the final Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Inclusion Canada Disability Case Monitoring Project

Organization: Inclusion Canada

Description: Student Volunteers will support the Strategic Litigation Committee by monitoring disability and equality-related case law from their assigned regions. Student Volunteers will be assigned several Canadian jurisdictions to monitor and will do so by reviewing appellate and superior court websites and recent court judgments. Inclusion Canada will provide a series of questions that will guide case summaries. Students may also be asked to conduct legal research and prepare short legal memoranda to support internal litigation strategies on issues related to sections 7 and 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Types of Law: Disability law, intersection with multiple areas of law, including employment, landlord and tenant, family, wills & estates, constitutional law, and human rights law.

Open to 1Ls?: No

of students: 1

Project type: Research

Delivery: Remote

Student Volunteer FAQ

Can 1L students apply?

1L students are encouraged to apply. Please review the list of projects in this document to determine which projects 1L students can participate in.

What is the time commitment?

The weekly time commitment is 3-5 hours. Students do not work during the months of December and April (exam months).

When will I have to submit my work?

If your assigned project is a Legal Research and Writing or Public Legal Education project, you will have to submit your work by the end of March. You will likely have to submit your work periodically to your lawyer supervisor and organization partners during the school year for feedback.

What are my responsibilities?

For all of our PBSC projects, we ask that students contact and meet with their organization partner and lawyer supervisor(s) in September. Student volunteers are expected to meet their deadlines for submitting research and work, particularly if they are working on a Legal Research and Writing or Public Legal Education project. Students must attend the clinics on their designated days if they are placed on a client assistance project. Students should always be professional and ethical.

Additionally, students should promptly alert participating members, including lawyer supervisors, the organization partner, other students, and the Program Coordinators of any issues or delays on their assigned projects. Further, students are required to attend all mandatory training sessions, including the General Training, research training, and/or any additional training offered by the lawyer supervisor(s) and/or organization partner. When you are placed on a project, you will receive a Project Description Form with details about training.

Moreover, students should distribute the Client Impact Survey to all clients after each interaction if they are assigned to a clinical project. If students are placed on a Public Legal Education project, they will disperse the Client Impact Survey through other means, as specified by the Project Description Form.

Will I work in-person or remotely?

Some projects require in-person attendance at the assigned clinic or meeting dates. Other projects are hybrid or completely virtual and may only require you to complete your assigned work by the deadline. Check the project description of your assigned project when you receive your placement.

Are there opportunities for upper-year involvement?

If you continue volunteering at PBSC, there are opportunities in 2L and 3L for you to volunteer on our upper-year only projects, such as the Wills Clinic, Youth Drop-In Clinic, Family and Criminal Law Clinic, and Youth Criminal Justice System Brochure. You can also volunteer with us as a Project Lead, where you can direct and manage a team of volunteers. Further, you can even apply to be the PBSC Windsor Program Coordinator!



CONTACT US

Questions? Comments?
We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Information



Instagram

@pbcswindsor



Twitter/X

@PBSCWindsor



Facebook

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Students
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Website

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