PBSC
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR CHAPTER

Pro Bono Windsor Chapter



Students Canada

2026-27

A comprehensive guide to PBSC Windsor and all its projects in the 2026-2027 academic year



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PBSC Windsor

Land Acknowledgment

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.

2026-2027



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

-Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella

About PBSC

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.

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

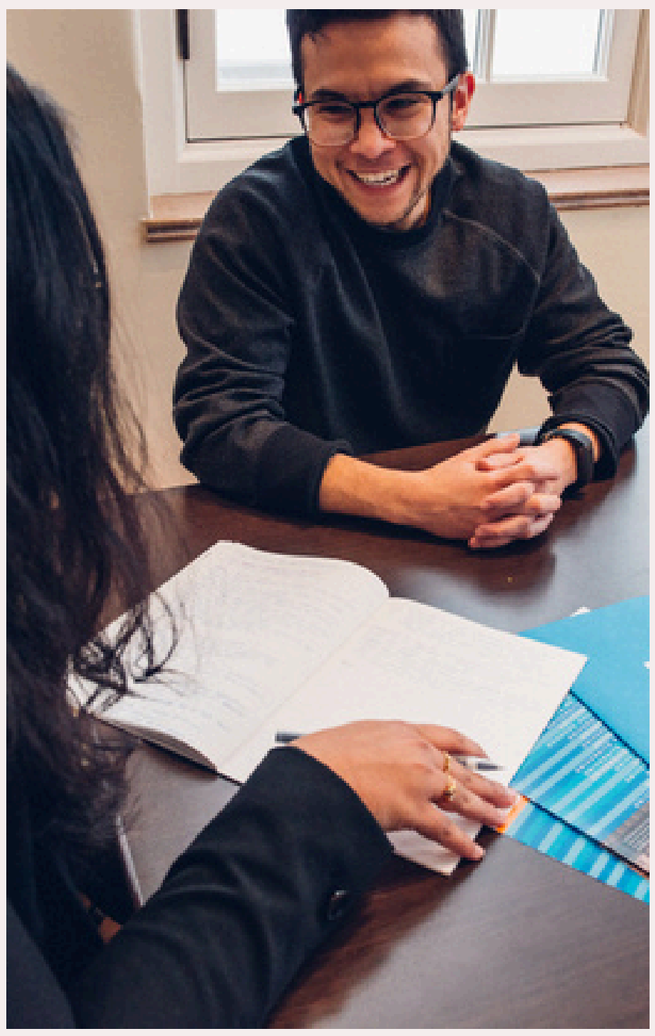
We prioritize self-reflection, listening, and learning. We value the wisdom of the communities we serve and their lived experiences inform our work.

PROJECT MODELS

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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.



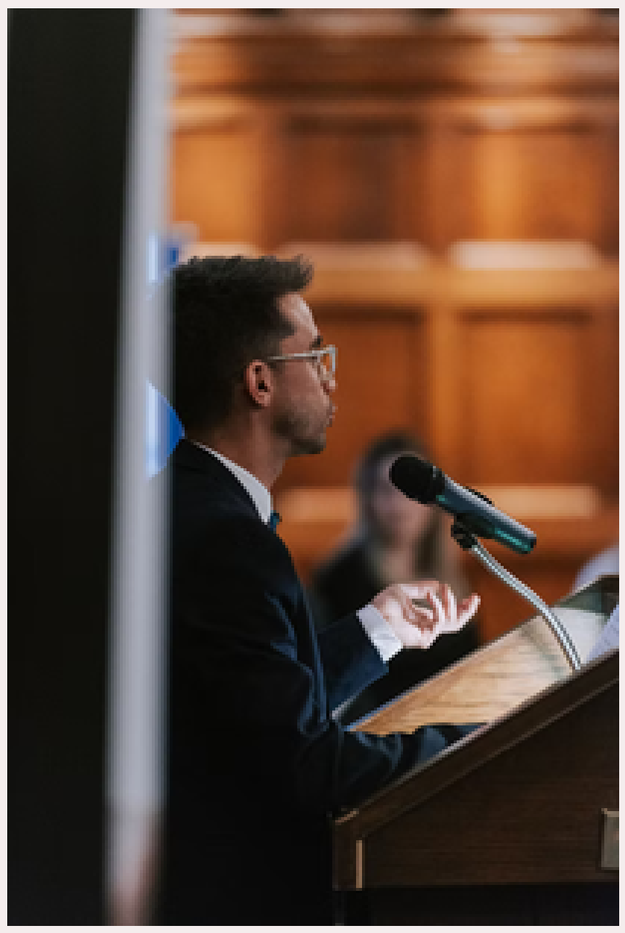


Legal Research & Writing (LRW) Projects

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 (PLE) Projects

Public legal education 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.





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.







PBSC WINDSOR

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application deadline for volunteer applications is

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026, at 12:00 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!



IMPORTANT DATES for general purposes:

Project-specific dates will be made available to student volunteers accordingly throughout the school year.

1

Launch Event

- September 16, 2026
- 12:30 -2:00 pm
- Moot Court, University of Windsor, Law building

2

Volunteer Application Deadline

September 17, 2026
12:00 pm

3

General Training

- September 23, 2026
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
- Moot Court, University of Windsor, Law building

4

Research Training

Details TBA

5

Final Appreciation Events & Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award Ceremony

- March 2027
- Date TBA

THE PBSC WINDSOR 2026-2027 TEAM



Elan Fooer

PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Georgia Kapetaneas

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

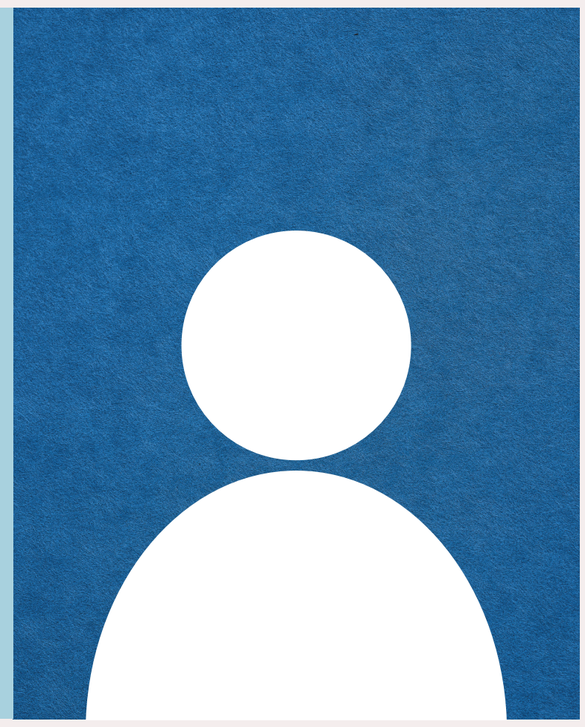
Anna DeCia-Gualtieri

PBSC FACULTY SUPERVISOR AND DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVİCES (CSO)



Nick Harrietha

EVENTS COORDINATOR





Gloria Xie

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

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2026-2027

PROJECT LIST

READ THE FOLLOWİNG PAGES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2025-2026 PBSC WINDSOR PROJECTS!

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2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

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. Student volunteers and lawyer supervisors will work together to help the 2SLGBTQIA+ community obtain vital identification documents. Photo identification is essential for accessing resources in modern life, including opening a credit card, securing housing, or using the healthcare system. Student volunteers will help 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals who lack photo identification, enabling them to access community resources and services.

Time commitment: Volunteers must be available during predetermined times on Saturdays to meet in person at TWO or virtually on TWO's Zoom account with clients, along with the lawyer supervisor at TWO.

Additional Information

- Type of law: Identification law, human rights law, poverty law
- Number of students: 6-8 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: Client services
- Delivery: In-person

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

CLA Wills Hybrid PLE/Clinic

Organization: Community Legal Aid Windsor

Description

Student volunteers will work alongside CLA Review Counsel to provide supervised legal assistance to low-income individuals seeking Wills and Powers of Attorney. The project is designed to increase access to estate planning services for community members who may otherwise face financial barriers to obtaining these essential legal documents, while providing students with intensive experiential learning in client interviewing, legal drafting, professional responsibility, and file management.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Students must have completed or be enrolled in Wills and Estates classes.

Additional Information

- Type of law: Wills and estate planning, property law
- Number of students: 2 (**not open to 1Ls**)
- Project type: PLE/Client services
- Delivery: In-person

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Survivor Family Law Presentations

Organization: Hiatus House

Description

In this project, student volunteers will prepare hour-long, in-person presentations on legal topics which are relevant to survivors of domestic abuse at Hiatus House. A group of students will prepare up to four presentations on assigned topics. During the fall semester, student volunteers will create a schedule for the presentations in the winter semester, conduct legal research, and compile the information into accessible presentations. During the winter semester, students will visit Hiatus House with their group and lawyer to conduct the presentations.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Family Law course

Additional Information

- Type of law: Family law, criminal law
- Number of students: 3-4 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

LTEC Community Presentations

Organization: Law and Technology Lab

Description

In this project, student volunteers will conduct legal research and develop PLE materials addressing the legal issues surrounding deepfakes, the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, and other technology-enabled digital harms. Through this project, students will help educate members of the Greater Windsor community about the evolving legal framework governing emerging technologies and image-based abuse. Students will conduct legal research, prepare legal memoranda, develop PLE presentations, and create plain-language pamphlets and other educational resources.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Employment law, privacy law, human rights law, technology law, consumer protection law, contract law
- Number of students: 3-4 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Pro Bono Radio

Organization: CJAM 99.1 FM Student Media

Description

In this project, three cohorts of two students will each produce one live 30-minute episode for CJAM Radio exploring access to justice issues, local legal topics, and the work of PBSC at the University of Windsor. An upper-year student team lead will oversee research, coordinate communication between the lawyer supervisor, CJAM, and the PBSC Project Coordinator, and ensure project timelines are met. Each cohort will host a live talk show on a topic approved by the lawyer supervisor (e.g., local legal issues, access to justice gaps, legal debates). Topics must be timely, creative, and provide legal information.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Various types of law
- Number of students: 6 (+1 student lead) (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE/Research
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

RYOS Presentation Series

Organization: Rapha Youth Outreach Services

Description

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 to their clients and/or members. This project is in collaboration with the Windsor Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA); as a result, the volunteers will be BLSA members. Presentations will occur once per month, beginning in January and will rotate through all three topics, presenting each topic once.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Volunteers must be BLSA members

Additional Information

- Type of law: Criminal Law, constitutional law, employment law, education law, administrative law
- Number of students: 2-4 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Sexual Assault Crisis Centre PLE

Organization: Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

Description

Student volunteers will collaborate on a comprehensive legal education and research project focused on the rights of survivors of sexual violence under Bill C-16 and related victims' rights legislation. This project aims to increase legal literacy among survivors of sexual violence, improve community understanding of available legal supports, and provide SACC staff with up-to-date legal resources that can assist them in supporting clients.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Criminal law, family law
- Number of students: 4-8 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Virtual

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

PBSC x South Asian Centre: Community Legal Information Series

Organization: South Asian Centre of Windsor

Description

This project consists of three cohorts of student volunteers, each responsible for researching and presenting one legal topic relevant to the South Asian community served by the South Asian Centre of Windsor. The project will conclude with a fourth collaborative event consisting of an in-person panel discussion and community question-and-answer session.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Preference for volunteers will be given to those who speak Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, and Urdu.
  Additional/nice to have languages are Tamil and Bangla.

Additional Information

- Type of law: Human rights law, employment law, family law
- Number of students: 6-8 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

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. 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. The students will prepare a memorandum outlining the information in plain and accessible language.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Various: Property law, family law, criminal law
- Number of students: 4 (+1 student lead) (**not open to 1Ls**)
- Project type: Research/Client
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Youth ID Clinic

Organization: Windsor Youth Centre

Description

This project aims to address barriers to obtaining identification documents by helping homeless and at-risk youth gain indispensable photo identification so they can access resources. The student volunteers will provide a summary of PBSC's mission, values, and vision, as well as an overview of how the Youth ID Clinic operates to WYC clients. The lawyer supervisors will confirm the eligibility requirements with clients, and student volunteers will aid clients in completing forms for photo identification or birth certificate applications.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Identification law, poverty law, family law
- Number of students: 6-8 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: Client services
- Delivery: In-person

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Wills Clinic

Organization: Windsor-Essex Bilingual Legal Clinic

Description

Student volunteers will work in teams alongside Lawyer Supervisors and the Bilingual Legal Clinic to draft Wills and/or Powers of Attorney for eligible low-income clients. The project is designed to improve access to justice by providing free estate planning services to individuals who would otherwise face financial barriers to obtaining legal assistance.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Students must have completed or be enrolled in Wills and Estates classes.
- Although not required, it would be an asset for students to be bilingual in French and English.

Additional Information

- Type of law: Wills and estate planning, property law
- Number of students: 6 (**not open to 1Ls**)
- Project type: Client services
- Delivery: In-person

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

The Legal Kid Foundation's Canadian Legal Literacy Collaborative

Organization: The Legal Kid Foundation

Description

In collaboration with Queen’s Law PBSC. This project supports The Legal Kid Foundation's Canadian Legal Literacy Collaborative, a multi-law-school initiative that expands youth legal education across Canada. Student volunteers will partner with TLKF to adapt its U.S.-based Student Ambassador Program curriculum to Canadian legal and civic frameworks while preserving the curriculum's engaging, experiential learning approach.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Constitutional Law, human rights law, criminal/youth justice law, education law, immigration law, environmental law, Indigenous legal traditions (where appropriate), bullying prevention.
- Number of students: 2-4 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Chatham Public Legal Education

Organization: John Howard Society of Windsor-Essex County

Description

Part of the Chatham Satellite Office, Bail Supervision and Verification Program. This project aims to improve access to justice for clients. The project will support provincial outreach by having law-student volunteers produce public legal education materials for justice-involved individuals in Chatham who may face geographic, financial, technological, or other barriers to obtaining legal information and navigating court processes.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Criminal law
- Number of students: 2-3 (+1 team lead) (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Remote

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Justice System Navigation & Legal Education

Organization: John Howard Society of Windsor-Essex County

Description

Part of the Bail Supervision and Verification Program. This project aims to improve access to justice for clients of the John Howard Society of Windsor-Essex County by creating a direct referral pathway to Community Legal Aid and developing accessible public legal education materials for people who have recently been released or are receiving services through JHS. PBSC students will meet with each client, complete a standardized intake, obtain any required consent, and securely forward the intake to a CLA student caseworker.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Past CLA clinic experience

Additional Information

- Type of law: Criminal law
- Number of students: 2-4 (**not open to 1Ls**)
- Project type: PLE/Client services
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Pathways to Appeal for Veterans

Organization: Veterans' Legal Assistance Foundation

Description

In collaboration with Queen’s Law PBSC and the Veterans' Legal Assistance Foundation, this project will produce plain-language legal resources to help veterans better understand the disability benefits review and appeal process and the legal resources available to them. This will help veterans better navigate the Veterans Affairs Canada disability benefits system.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Veterans law, administrative law
- Number of students: 2-4 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Remote

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Justice and Mental Health System Navigation for Staff

Organization: New Beginnings Essex County

Description

Students will work under the supervision of a Lawyer Supervisor and in partnership with New Beginnings staff to create practical internal training resources that strengthen staff capacity to navigate the youth justice and youth mental health systems.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Youth Criminal Justice Act; Criminal Law; Mental Health Law; Mental Health Act (Ontario); Health Care Consent Act; Personal Health Information Protection Act; Child and Family Law; Administrative Law; Human Rights Law; Privacy Law
- Number of students: 2-4 (+1 team lead) (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE/Research
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Pozitive Pathways Public Legal Education Series

Organization: Pozitive Pathways

Description

This project will develop and deliver public legal education panel discussions for Pozitive Pathways' harm-reduction service users and clients living with or affected by HIV. The sessions will provide accessible information about legal and policy issues affecting these communities and create opportunities for participants to hear from lawyers, legal workers, advocates, community experts, and people with lived experience.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Health law and public health law, human rights law, privacy and confidentiality law, criminal law, poverty and social assistance law, housing law, immigration and refugee law, administrative law, law reform
- Number of students: 1-2 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Harmony in Action: Guardianship

Organization: Harmony in Action

Description

Many families participating in Harmony in Action's programs are caring for adult children with developmental disabilities and require assistance preparing for future substitute decision-making. Many parents are aging and have delayed beginning the guardianship process because of the complexity and cost of retaining legal counsel. Community consultations identified that one of the greatest barriers is completing the extensive guardianship planning documentation required before meeting with a lawyer. This project will provide navigation assistance to clients.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Estate litigation, property law, disability law, family law
- Number of students: 4 (**not open to 1Ls**)
- Project type: PLE/Client services
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Maryvale Legal Research Initiative

Organization: Maryvale Children's Mental Health Treatment Centre

Description

Student volunteers will research recent and upcoming legislative and regulatory developments affecting the delivery of children's mental health services in Ontario and explain what those mean for children, youth, and their families or caregivers when accessing services. This aims to improve public understanding of the legal framework surrounding children's mental health services and to help people facing mental health and disability-related barriers locate reliable legal information and referral pathways.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Children's mental health law, health law, administrative law; consent/capacity law, human rights/accessibility law, and privacy/confidentiality law
- Number of students: 2-4 (**not open to 1Ls**)
- Project type: PLE/Research
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

Animal Law Education & Municipal Policy Project

Organization: Windsor Essex Humane Society

Description

This project is a collaborative initiative between PBSC and the Windsor-Essex Humane Society that combines PLE and legal research to improve public understanding of animal law while supporting the Humane Society's policy and advocacy initiatives.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Animal law, municipal law, administrative law, residential tenancies law, property law
- Number of students: 4-6 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE/Research
- Delivery: Hybrid

2026-2027 PBSC Windsor Projects

YMCA Social Benefits Project

Organization: YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

Description

The Newcomer Social Benefits Navigation & Advocacy Project aims to improve access to justice for newcomers by increasing understanding of Ontario's social benefits system and reducing barriers to accessing government financial assistance programs. Under the supervision of a Lawyer Supervisor, PBSC student volunteers will conduct legal research, develop plain-language public legal education resources, and prepare policy-oriented research to support YMCA settlement staff and newcomer clients.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Additional Information

- Type of law: Administrative law, social assistance (poverty) law, immigration & refugee law, human rights law, public interest/access to justice
- Number of students: 4-6 (open to 1Ls)
- Project type: PLE/Research
- Delivery: Hybrid

PBSC WINDSOR

Student Volunteer FAQ

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Can 1L students apply?
1L students are encouraged to apply for applicable projects. 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 distribute 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!

Website: https://pbscwindsorlaw.ca/
Instagram: @pbscwindsor

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

MCCARTHY TÉTRAULT LLP

THE LAW FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

PBSC WINDSOR 2026-2027