

PBSC FAMILY LAW PROJECT (FLP)

2013-2014 FULL-TIME SUMMER AND PART-TIME SCHOOL-YEAR POSITIONS

WHAT IS PBSC?

Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) is a national student organization with a chapter in every law school in the country. Our mandate is to provide early, practical learning experiences for law students and high-quality volunteer legal services for our community partners, while promoting the value of *pro bono* lawyering among the next generation of law students. The University of Toronto Faculty of Law houses and supports the PBSC National Office. The role of the National Office is to provide a vision and direction for the national program, train local Program Coordinators at the start of each program year, and to support, guide and monitor the work of our 21 chapters.

WHAT IS THE FLP?

PBSC'S Family Law Project (FLP) is an award-winning initiative that provides legal assistance to low-income clients in a high priority area of law. Utilizing law students to support and enhance the work of LAO staff, duty counsel and advice lawyers, the program provides unrepresented litigants with legal assistance at courthouses in the GTA, and provides law students with the opportunity develop critical legal skills while learning about the court process, the practice of family law and legal aid lawyering. The FLP launched in Ontario in 1998, and in 2001 began receiving funding from Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). During this time, PBSC student volunteers have assisted LAO lawyers in serving over 12,000 unrepresented litigants across the province.

THERE ARE SIX FLP JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN TORONTO (BETWEEN OSGOODE AND U OF T)

PBSC Family Law Project Coordinator (2 positions):

Students work full-time (35 hours/week) May-August at the three Family Law courts in the GTA (North York, Brampton and 311 Jarvis). Coordinators work with court staff under the direct supervision of LAO duty counsel and advice lawyers, to assist unrepresented clients drafting court documents and providing legal information. The Coordinators document statistics and client feedback and contribute to the expansion and development of the FLP program within the GTA, alongside the PBSC Manager and the Ontario FLP Coordinator. In September, October and November Coordinators work between 8-10 hours/week and in second term they work 5 hours/week training and leading a team of law student volunteers. This position provides excellent experience in legal drafting, advocacy and client interviewing skills, along with unparalleled exposure to family litigation and civil procedure. Coordinators must attend the PBSC Training Conference in May (and will be paid for their time).

PBSC Ontario Family Law Project Coordinator (1 position):

The Ontario FLP Coordinator will work full-time (35 hours/week) from May-August. The Coordinator works 10 hours/week in September and October, and between 5-8 hours/week in November. Approximately 60% of the student's time will be devoted to working three days/week on *ex parte* and short notice motions and other files as needed at the North York Court. The remaining 40% will be spent working with the PBSC National Office on general coordination of the FLP summer program. The Coordinator will assist with data collection, liaise with students, court staff and Judges to provide support or assist with troubleshooting where necessary, coordinate Judge's Luncheons, monthly meetings, and plan the Fall training programs for the FLP School Year Program. In addition to providing students with specialized experience in legal drafting and client advocacy, this position also

provides students with invaluable program management skills. Coordinators must attend the PBSC Training Conference in May (and will be paid for their time).

PBSC Family Law Project Summer Students (3 positions):

Students work full-time (35 hours/week) May-August, and part-time September and October, at the three Family Law courts in the GTA (North York, Brampton and 311 Jarvis). Guided by the FLP Coordinators and under the direct supervision of LAO duty counsel and advice lawyers, students assist unrepresented clients draft court documents and provide legal information. This position provides excellent experience in legal drafting, advocacy and client interviewing, along with unparalleled exposure to family litigation and civil procedure.

HOW DO I APPLY?

At the University of Toronto, hiring for the Family Law Summer Student positions is done during the Faculty OCI process. You will be required to provide:

1. An up-to-date résumé;
2. A cover letter describing your interest in the program; and
3. Three references.

For more information contact PBSC at 416-946-0143 or by email at flp.toronto@probonostudents.ca