

2015

Alternative Spring Break 2015 Report

Roger Williams University School of Law

Association for Public Interest Law

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ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK 2015 REPORT

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



APIL

THE ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW



APIL

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PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

INTRODUCTION

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) was started in 2005 by the Association for Public Interest Law (APIL) at Roger Williams University School of Law in the wake of Hurricane Katrina as a way for students to assist those recovering from devastation.

Since then, ASB has grown into a large and successful program matching students to local and national public interest legal projects during spring break. The program focuses on areas of the law where clients often lack adequate representation and works to secure projects that give students the most rewarding experience possible. The 2015 program was one of the largest and most successful in history. We had almost 50 participants working on 17 different projects in 7 states.

This report is respectfully submitted by the APIL Board and details the projects and experiences of this year's participants. The Board is deeply appreciative of the efforts of the entire Roger Williams University School of Law community in making this year's program a success.

2014-2015 APIL BOARD

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WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

BRONX DEFENDERS

Bronx, New York • www.bronxdefenders.org

"It is a good opportunity to learn more about real advocacy."

BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES

Brooklyn, New York • www.bds.org



"The best part of my trip was shadowing one of the attorneys at court. I was able to see the interactions between the attorney and client, and the PD and DA. I took away a greater understanding of the tension between defense attorneys and district attorneys."

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

Fall River, Massachusetts • www.publiccounsel.net

"The attorneys at CPCPS in Fall River truly showed me what practicing law looks like outside the classroom. The hands-on learning I received supplemented my course readings in a way lectures, presentations, and panels never could."

CONNECTICUT VETERAN'S LAW CENTER

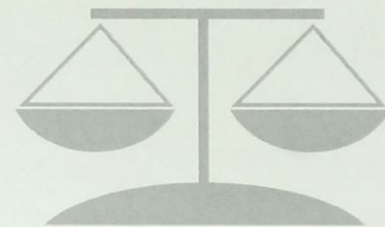
"It was a novel and good experience for me to work with a non-profit. I learned how a non-profit operates and organizes."

IMMIGRATION LAW EDUCATION & ADVOCACY PROJECT

Fall River, Massachusetts • www.cssdioc.org/services/ILEAP/index.html

"I worked closely with one of the attorneys there and got a lot of hands-on experience considering the short amount of time I was there."

WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE...



BRONX DEFENDERS New York • www.bronxdefenders.org

"It is a good opportunity to learn more about real advocacy."

BRONX DEFENDER SERVICES Brooklyn, New York • www.bds.org



"The best part of my trip was shadowing one of the attorneys at court. I was able to see the interactions between the attorney and client, and the PD and DA. I took away a greater understanding of the tension between defense attorneys and district attorneys."

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES Fall River, Massachusetts • www.publiccounsel.net

"The ASB in Fall River truly showed me what practicing law looks like in a courtroom. The hands-on learning I received supplemented my classroom learning in a way lectures, presentations, and panels never could."

CONNECTICUT VETERAN'S LAW CENTER

"It was a novel and good experience for me to work with a non-profit. I learned how a non-profit operates and organizes."

CONNECTICUT STATE BAR ASSOCIATION LAW EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROJECT Fall River, Massachusetts • www.cssdioc.org/services/ILEAP/index.html

"I worked closely with one of the attorneys and got a lot of hands-on experience considering the short amount of time I was there."

JUVENILE RIGHTS PROJECT Brooklyn/Manhattan, NY • www.legal-aid.org



"Everyone was amazing, dedicated to juvenile rights/defense, approachable, and eager to help us learn."

ISLAND INSTITUTE

"I really loved working with the people there. They were very nice and the staff attorney was so helpful! Plus, I learned a lot."

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC DEFENDERS Pittsburgh, PA • www.paw.fd.org

"I was able to do what I came to law school to do: to fight for those who aren't equipped to fight for themselves. ASB is an excellent way to get out there and make a difference, and I will definitely do it again next year."

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES New Orleans, Louisiana • www.slls.org

"I have always enjoyed public interest work but after participating in ASB I realized how important it is to have individuals who are willing to give back. I liked the feeling of knowing that the work I was doing was helping somebody out who otherwise would not be able to receive the help."

VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER

"ASB provides the opportunity to gain exposure to, and work on, real legal issues faced by real people. The work that you do will affect the outcome of those cases."

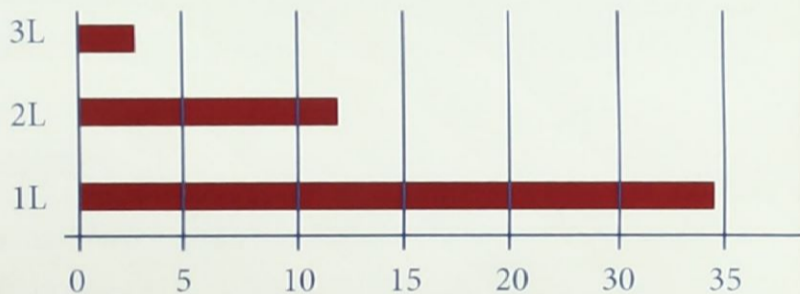
WOMEN IN PRISON PROJECT

"In working with and speaking to the female inmates, I was enlightened and educated as to the problems they face "in the system" and beyond their incarceration and what role I might play in their rehabilitation. "

ASB 2015 PROJECTS

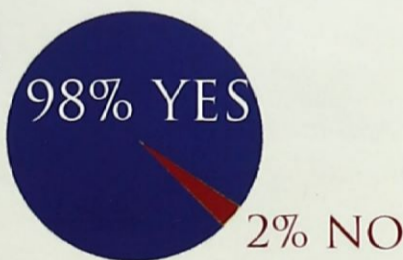
<i>Project</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Area of the Law</i>
Bronx Defenders	Bronx, NY	Public Defender
Brooklyn Defenders	Brooklyn, NY	Public Defender
Central Falls Solicitor's Office	Central Falls, RI	General Law
Conservation Law Foundation	Boston, MA	Environmental Law
CPCS Fall River	Fall River, MA	Public Defender
CPCS New Bedford	New Bedford, MA	Public Defender
Connecticut Veteran's Law Center	West Haven, CT	Veteran Advocacy
ILEAP	Fall River, MA	Immigration Law
Island Institute	Rockland, ME	Environmental Law
Juvenile Rights Practice Group	Brooklyn/Manhattan	Children's Rights
Pittsburgh Federal Defenders	Pittsburgh, PA	Federal Defender
Soros Fellowship Project with Shannah Kurland	Providence, RI	Community Advocacy
RI Center for Justice	Providence, RI	Public Interest Law
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services	New Orleans, LA	Civil Legal Services
Victim Rights Law Center	Boston, MA	Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy
Women in Prison Project	Cranston, RI	Educational Workshops: Family Law for Women in Prison
Immigration Project with RAICES: Karnes/San Antonio with Deborah Gonzalez	San Antonio, TX	Immigration Law

ASB 2015
PARTICIPANTS
BY CLASS

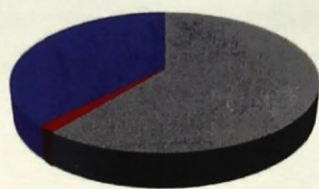


2015 ASB PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

*Would you recommend
Alternative Spring Break
to other students?*



*After participating in ASB, do you feel more positive
about public interest law? Less positive, Or the same?*



68% MORE POSITIVE
30% THE SAME
2% LESS POSITIVE

APIL

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

We are the Association for Public Interest Law (APIL) at Roger Williams University School of Law. Our organization works closely with the Feinsein Center for Pro Bono and Experimental Education to further public interest law. We are a non-partisan, student-run organization that supports students' public interest career goals by:

- Increasing awareness of public interest career options and issues important to the legal profession by hosting public interest events and speakers.
- Planning an Alternative Spring Break trip for students to work with community-based organizations to gain hands-on legal experience.
- Encouraging students to attend the Equal Justice Works conference in October and the NYU job fair in February.

THANK YOU!

ASB would not be possible without the continuing support and assistance of the following individuals:

Dean Michael Yelnosky • Laurie Barron
Joanne Fernandes • Suzanne Harrington-Steppen
Dean Lorraine Lalli • Sue Principe • Eliza Vorenberg
RWU Student Bar Association

CONTACT US

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<http://law.rwu.edu/public-interest-law>