

# Akin Gump

STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

## 2015 Pro Bono Scholars Program



**Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles | New York | Washington, D.C.**

Started in 2008, the Akin Gump Summer Pro Bono Scholars Program is a two-summer program for top law students who show a strong interest in making pro bono an integral part of their Akin Gump careers. The Pro Bono Scholars are rising second-year law students who work both at the firm and at a public interest organization during the summer. The next (rising third year) summer, the Pro Bono Scholars are members of the firm's regular summer associate program.

*In 2015, the Pro Bono Scholars Program will take place in our Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, D.C. offices.*

**FIRST SUMMER:** Following the first year of law school, the Pro Bono Scholars will spend at least seven weeks at a public interest organization. In past years, the firm has placed Pro Bono Scholars directly with organizations with which the firm works, while other Pro Bono Scholars have obtained their public interest positions independently. The Pro Bono Scholars will also spend four weeks with the firm working on pro bono matters; providing substantial responsibility and training in areas in which the firm focuses its pro bono practice.

**SECOND SUMMER:** The Pro Bono Scholars will be part of the Akin Gump Summer Associate Program for rising third-year law students in their assigned offices. The summer program includes pro bono opportunities as well as a commercial workload. Like all other summer associates, Pro Bono Scholars are eligible for consideration for an offer of future employment as an associate after completing the second summer at Akin Gump.

**COMMITMENT:** The firm expects Pro Bono Scholars to return for a second summer (following the second year of law school) to gain experience in the firm's commercial practice. Accordingly, Pro Bono Scholars will be exempted from the on-campus interviewing process during fall of their second year. In the event that the Pro Bono Scholar's performance does not meet the firm's standards, the firm may decline to have the scholar return for the second summer or to make an offer of future employment as an associate.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Open to exceptional law students completing their first year of law school in 2015 and who expect to graduate from law school in late 2016 or by summer 2017. Applicants must have all the qualifications expected of a summer associate, including a strong academic background, demonstrated leadership qualities, and a commitment to developing into a successful law firm associate.

### COMPENSATION

Pro Bono Scholars are paid the summer associate salary while employed by the firm and receive a stipend totaling \$17,000 for their time spent working at a public interest organization. The Pro Bono Scholars receive the first half of the stipend (\$8,500) when they begin work at the public interest organization. The second half of the stipend (\$8,500) is paid upon the Pro Bono Scholars honoring the commitment to return to the firm as a summer associate following their second year of law school.

### APPLICATIONS

First-year law students interested in this program must submit an application in order to be considered. **The firm will accept applications between January 2, 2015 and February 6, 2015.** The application should include a resume, transcript (uncertified is acceptable) and writing sample. In addition, each candidate is required to submit a short statement (no more than 500 words) describing his or her interest in having a career at Akin Gump and making pro bono a part of his or her practice.

Applications must be submitted through our online application system. Please visit: <http://www.akingump.com/en/careers/students/recruiting-process/submit-a-resume.html> and click to apply under Pro Bono Scholars Program. You will need to upload the above listed required documents at the end of the application process. The firm recognizes that first semester grades at some law schools are not released until early February; accordingly, we will accept applications with the transcript to be sent once it is released.

Candidates may apply to, and be considered by, only one Akin Gump office. The firm will only consider applications that contain all of the requested documents and offers will not be extended before the firm has received the applicant's full transcript. Decisions are made on a rolling basis and we expect the selection of the 2015 Pro Bono Scholars to be completed by early March.

### QUESTIONS

Questions can be submitted to Akin Gump Pro Bono Partner **Steven Schulman** at [ssschulman@akingump.com](mailto:ssschulman@akingump.com). Additional information regarding **Akin Gump** and the **Pro Bono Scholars Program** is available at [www.akingump.com/probono/probonoscholarsprogram](http://www.akingump.com/probono/probonoscholarsprogram).



## Reflections from our Past Pro Bono Scholars

### **Annie Banks** | University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law 2016 – Bet Tzedek, Los Angeles, CA

“Being able to experience litigation practice through the lens of both the firm’s pro bono work and Bet Tzedek’s Impact Litigation team was an extraordinary opportunity. While at Akin Gump during the first four weeks of the summer, I worked on a variety of the firm’s cases, ranging from immigration to human trafficking to redistricting. At Bet Tzedek, I was able to get in-depth hands-on experience with multiple discovery procedures, as well as further build upon my research and legal writing skills while investigating claims relating to landlord-tenant and insurance law. My summer in the Pro Bono Scholars Program taught me way more than I ever thought would be possible in such a short amount of time, and I’m so proud to be a part of Akin Gump because of its deep, genuine, and impactful commitment to pro bono work.”

### **Chris Chamberlain** | Georgetown University Law Center 2016 – Legal Aid Society, Washington, D.C.

“Last summer was everything I had hoped for, and I cannot wait to come back next year. The Pro Bono Scholars program reflects a unique integration of public interest and commercial practice, and lays a foundation for concurrent success and commitment on both fronts. Working at the Legal Aid Society of D.C., I was able to pursue my interest in local legal services while also learning, firsthand, about the logistics and relationships that underlay effective pro bono advocacy. While many summer programs encourage pro bono service, this immersive quality of the Pro Bono Scholars program and Akin’s focus on the practical aspects of effective pro bono advocacy—not to mention their deep public interest portfolio—really set them apart.”

### **Nafisa Bringe** | The University of Texas School of Law 2016 – Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. (TRLA), Austin, TX

“Being a Pro Bono Scholar was both a valuable and rewarding experience. This summer helped me gain a better understanding of what it means to practice law in a variety of contexts and it gave me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. During my time with the firm, I was able to see the strong connection Akin Gump has with the pro bono community and the valuable impact the firm is making with a wide range of public interest organizations. While working for Akin I acquired important skills and knowledge that I was then able to utilize with my work at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Akin Gump’s genuine commitment to Pro Bono work and their Pro Bono Scholars is truly impressive.”

### **Eric Haitz** | University of Virginia School of Law 2016 – National Veterans Legal Services Program, Washington, D.C.

“The program delivered on its promise not just as an opportunity to pursue the pro bono work in an area I found deeply interesting, but the Pro Bono Scholars Program also delivered on its promise to fully immerse the lucky participants into the world of pro bono legal matters. After a few weeks working on firm pro bono projects in the office with Akin Gump’s lawyers, the Pro Bono Scholars disperse to every corner of the country to dig into legal callings as disparate as civil rights litigation, veteran’s legal representation, and inner city public defense work. Perfectly complementing our self-selected pro bono matters, Akin Gump made sure that we grasped the broader strokes of pro bono operations from coast to coast. Simply; the program introduced us to the law of pro bono areas, but it also introduced us to the community—a community of like-minded lawyers nobly hoping to change the world, one client at a time.”

### **Daniella Roseman** | University of Michigan Law School 2016 – Her Justice, New York, NY

“The Pro Bono Scholars Program stands out among 1L summer programs. In my time at the firm’s New York office, I had the opportunity to work in very different areas of the law ranging from landlord-tenant relations to complicated asylum issues. My projects at Her Justice were hands-on and substantive, including close work with survivors of domestic violence facing a variety of legal challenges. I am excited about making pro bono an integral part of my legal career and about working with the dedicated colleagues I’ve met through the Pro Bono Scholars Program.”

### **David Smith** | Harvard Law School 2016 – Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY

“From day one, the Pro Bono Scholar experience is unrivaled by any other firm out there. Want to take on exciting projects at a top law firm? Check. Want to start lasting relationships with attorneys across multiple offices in one of today’s most innovative firms? You can do that too. Want to spend seven weeks full-time at a public interest organization of your choice? Akin Gump makes it happen. The highlight of the program was Pro Bono Boot Camp, a week at the Washington, D.C. office where Akin Gump has crafted an invaluable and practical introduction to pro bono practice at a law firm. Now I am just counting down the weeks until next summer at Akin Gump.”

**Steven H. Schulman**  
Pro Bono Partner  
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