

## Pro Bono Rule

The Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law provide that applicants admitted to the New York bar on or after January 1, 2015 must have completed at least 50 hours of qualifying pro bono service prior to filing an application for admission (see 22 NYCRR 520.16).

The pro bono rule does not apply to applicants for admission on motion.

Questions about the pro bono requirement may be addressed by email to [ProBonoRule@nycourts.gov](mailto:ProBonoRule@nycourts.gov) (including your telephone contact information in the event that a personal conversation is necessary).

You may access the pro bono rule, Pro Bono Requirement FAQs, and a Form Affidavit as to Applicant's Compliance with the Pro Bono Requirements, including Certification by Supervisor through the website of the [State Board of Law Examiners](#); the Form Affidavit is part of the [Multi-Department Admission Packet](#) on the website.

## Pro Bono Scholars Program

Announced by the Chief Judge in the 2014 State of the Judiciary Address, the Pro Bono Scholars Program (PBSP) allows students in their final year of law school to devote their last semester of study to performing pro bono service for the poor through an approved externship program, law school clinic, legal services provider, law firm or corporation. Students accepted into the PBSP will be allowed to take the New York bar examination in February of their final year of study, before they graduate, and students who successfully complete the PBSP will be eligible for accelerated admission to the bar. Students will be required to apply for participation in the PBSP through their law school. Further information about the PBSP is available through the website of the [State Board of Law Examiners](#).