

UCI Law Alternative Spring Break 2022—Application

***Please note that the flights for the spring break will be booked the week of January 31st so all information for flights is needed at the time this application is submitted. However, submitting this application is not a guarantee that you will be chosen for a spring break pro bono placement.

***Alternative Spring Break opportunities will look different this year. We are still in the midst of finalizing placements, but several organizations could not take volunteers this year.

Please indicate below which office(s) where you would like to work (rank all offices where you would be willing to volunteer, with a “1” for 1st choice, and so on):

- _____ Mississippi Center for Justice Biloxi Office (4 volunteers)
- _____ Disability Rights Mississippi in Jackson, MS (6 volunteers)
- _____ Immigrant Alliance for Justice & Equity in Jackson, MS (6 volunteers)
- _____ Public Defender’s Office, Covington, Louisiana (4 volunteers)

The application is due to Anna Davis (adavis@law.uci.edu; MPAA 226-J) by Monday, January 31st at MIDNIGHT. If chosen, **you agree to provide a non-refundable \$125 check by Monday, February 7th (checks only—payable to UC Regents).** If you need an extension on this date or a fee waiver, please discuss with Anna Davis. If you do not attend the trip, you forfeit the \$125.

Name AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE, PASSPORT, OR WHATEVER IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT YOU USE AT THE AIRPORT: _____

Date of Birth (for plane reservation) _____ Class of _____

Law School Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Gender (as it appears on identification used at airport): _____

Date & brand of vaccination shots, including booster: _____

- If applicable: Yes, I am over 25 years old, a licensed driver (you must have an actual ID—not just a paper license), and willing to drive one of the vehicles during the week in Mississippi.
- Yes, I have read all of the “Trip Information” below and understand that I will be responsible for the costs discussed below as well as act in a professional manner as discussed under “Pro Bono Work.”
- Yes, I attached answers to the following questions. Answers to all questions should not exceed two pages total, double-spaced:

1. Please describe your interest and motivation for participating in the pro bono spring break trip to volunteer with the Mississippi Center for Justice.
2. Please indicate any experience that you have, which may be relevant to this pro bono volunteer work.
3. Please discuss how you intend to incorporate public interest, public service, or pro bono work into your legal career.

*****Complete the information above, including answering the application questions, and return the application packet to Anna Davis (adavis@law.uci.edu) by Monday, January 31st at MIDNIGHT.*****

Trip Information

COVID Requirements & Information: **All participants must show proof of full vaccination and booster shots to participate in this trip.** However, the vaccination status of clients, attorneys, and others at the offices and locations that you will be visiting is unknown, and mask wearing in many areas of Mississippi and Louisiana is sporadic. UCI Law volunteers will be required to follow all rules and regulations of the jurisdiction regarding mask wearing during travel and the time spent volunteering.

Dates: Sunday, February 27—Friday, March 4, 2022

Pro Bono Work:

- **Mississippi Center for Justice:** More than 200 UCI Law students have volunteered with MCJ over the past 10 years. The areas of law that they worked on have varied, but tend to include: Post-Hurricane Katrina work, the Gulf/BP oil spill, construction of a new port (effect on low income communities), and education. MCJ attorneys are experts at “community lawyering.” They use the law, media, and the public to provide access to justice. Please note that over the past few years the work has tended to be more research based with less visits to the community. **THIS TOTALLY VARIES—but you should volunteer with the understanding that you may be in an office 90% of the time working on a computer (with the opportunity to “check out” the area at night).** We will also do everything we can to organize a local tour and experiences attending meetings, court hearings, or special events.
- **Disability Rights Mississippi:** This will be the first year having volunteers at this office. Students will be focused on several areas regarding disability rights, including prison access. The office has said that they will work hard to provide opportunities for students to volunteer in the community, likely traveling around the greater Jackson, MS area.
- **Immigrant Alliance for Justice & Equity:** This is a grassroots organization that focuses on community organizing. While there are no attorneys on staff, IAJE works with MCJ and ACLU of MS on litigation to support immigrant and low income populations of Mississippi. Students should expect a lot of work in the community and engagement with Mississippians.
- **Louisiana Public Defenders Office:** This is the first year with this organization, but students will be working with Emily Genzlinger ('20) a fabulous UCI Law alum, working as a Gideon’s Fellow in Louisiana. Emily was a stellar pro bono volunteer, including three years visiting MCJ for spring

break so she knows how to provide a high-quality volunteer experience. Volunteers will be working alongside public defenders on casework, client interviews, hearing and trial prep.

You will be expected to work all five (5) days (**Mar. 4-8**), or as much as required by the office where you are volunteering. In the past, students typically work from 9:00-5:00, but some of the projects required travel to rural areas, creating longer days. All of the offices have allowed our students to depart by noon on Friday in the past (or earlier) to get to the airport. The number of hours that you can count as pro bono tends to average 25-30 hours for the week. This year that number may be less for the Biloxi students due to an office closure on Tuesday for Mardi Gras.

Student Conduct: You are expected to be good ambassadors for UCI Law, acting professionally at all times. This includes working with employees of the organizations where you are volunteers, organizations working alongside your host organization, and the community that the organization serves.

Cost: **Each student will provide a \$125 payment.** The rest of the trip expenses are subsidized by the Pro Bono Program. The price includes flights (described below) for all volunteers, hotel (**2 people per room**), one dinner, car rental, and gasoline for the rental cars. You are responsible for your food and entertainment costs. You are also responsible for the costs of travelling to the airport (likely LAX, parking at the airport, and any baggage fees).

Flights: All students will travel together on group flights. This simplifies travel arrangements, and also allows for a group discount. Only under exceptional circumstances will any student be allowed to travel separately.

*** I do not have exact flight times. We will all likely fly together out of LAX into New Orleans or Jackson, MS. Once we land, everyone will travel to their respective cities to prepare to volunteer on Monday morning.

- ESTIMATED FLIGHT TIME: Sunday, February 27th: morning flight out of LAX, arrive early evening in New Orleans or Jackson.
- ESTIMATED FLIGHT TIME: Friday, March 8th: evening flight out of New Orleans or Jackson, arrive late at LAX.

Lodging: The hotels provide breakfast. Students will likely be staying 2 people per room. Rooms will be same-gender, unless other arrangements are made and everyone in the room agrees. If you wish to have your own room, you will need to pay for it yourself.

- Biloxi: Best Western PLUS Oaks Manor.
- Jackson: Best Western Executive.
- Covington: TBD

Car Rental: We will be renting full-size cars, possibly mini vans, paid for by the Pro Bono Program.

Parking/Shuttle: Students are strongly encouraged to get rides to the airport. We will arrange for carpools as the date gets closer.

Baggage Fees: Students are responsible for paying any baggage fees (usually \$25-30 per bag, each way—carry-ons are free).

Food: You will be responsible for *most* of your food costs. The hotels provide breakfast, and we will go out for a group dinner one night in each city. You will have the opportunity to get groceries once we are in Mississippi, and the rooms all have mini-fridges.

Guests: This is a UCI Law event where you will be expected to spend a considerable amount of time doing pro bono work. Thus, it is not an appropriate setting for guests.

New Orleans: Although volunteers may be flying in and out of New Orleans, you will NOT be spending any time in the city. The group will pick up the rental cars and drive to their destination cities, and return to the airport after working at MCJ on Friday. Sorry, we know you want to visit. Depending upon what time the flight arrives on Sunday, there may be a brief visit to New Orleans for dinner, but if such a visit occurs it will be brief. **Please keep in mind that this will be the week of Mardi Gras so it will be crowded and congested, making a visit even more difficult on Sunday. There will be NO TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS DURING THE WEEK.**

Purpose: AGAIN, THERE WILL BE NO TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS DURING THE WEEK. We expect all student travelers to participate in a mature and responsible manner. This is a pro bono trip to provide legal assistance to an underserved area of the country. This is not a spring break party trip. At all times you are to provide exceptional legal assistance to MCJ, and serve as ambassadors for UCI Law.

Biloxi Office and Mardi Gras: MCJ in Biloxi can only host a limited number of students during spring break due to Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) on March 1st. The MCJ office is closed on that day. Those volunteering in Biloxi will be expected to do work on Fat Tuesday—most likely from the hotel.