

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

10 OF THE
YEARS PUBLIC
SERVICE
PROGRAM

2,400+
STUDENTS PARTICIPATED
IN THE PROGRAM

510+ **75+**
STUDENTS DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVICE HOURS

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To be candid, I come from a low socio-economic background wrought with substance abuse, domestic violence, and deep poverty that included periods of unemployment, and even homelessness. Despite the bleak circumstances, I prioritized education in the hopes that I could break out of the cycle of violence and poverty. I now pursue a legal career in an effort to aid those in situations similar to mine, and the Public Service Program has given me the opportunities to do just that.”

VINCENT CHOI

'21, Full-Time Day Program
Public Interest Law Grant Recipient





PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM (PSP)

Through Southwestern's Public Service Program, students have the opportunity to develop practical legal skills under the supervision of expert attorneys almost immediately after joining the law school. Whether by providing in-person assistance, educational workshops, or defending vulnerable populations through impact litigation, students can contribute to meaningful change in service to California communities. Projects include:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY TEEN COURT

A pre-filing juvenile diversion program that brings together teachers, students, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges from the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Law students serve as proctors who will guide a jury of teenage youth through an educational, critical-thinking experience on the judicial process as part of alternative sentencing offered to first-time youth offenders through L.A.'s Teen Court program.

TAX LAW SOCIETY VITA CLINICS

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic (VITA) provides free income tax preparation and filings for low-income taxpayers. The Law Student Division of the American Bar Association has recognized Southwestern's VITA Clinic as the nation's "Rookie Site of the Year" and the "Outstanding Continuing Site of the Year." Each year, Southwestern's VITA clinic recovers much-needed tax-relief for low-income seniors and families.

TRAVELING LEGAL CLINICS

By staffing mobile legal clinics, students travel across California offering legal services in regions without access to civil legal aid. Students receive training in various practice areas relating to expungement, family law, immigration, asylum, and more while providing urgently needed legal assistance in rural areas.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT CLINIC

Following a one-hour educational workshop on Small Claims Court, volunteer attorneys and law students provide one-on-one consultations to litigants seeking assistance with Small Claims filings, procedure, hearing preparation and related questions, including mediation resources as an alternative to Small Claims Court.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION LAW PROJECT

The Homelessness Prevention Law Project (HPLP) works to prevent loss of housing and loss of public benefits that contribute to homelessness. In partnership with public interest agencies, students raise awareness of needs and issues faced by our unhoused neighbors living on the streets of Los Angeles and the advocacy efforts needed in homelessness prevention.

HOOVER STREET ELEMENTARY MOCK TRIAL

Southwestern officially adopted Hoover Elementary through the L.A. Unified School District's Adopt-A-School Program. For over 25 years, the Hoover Elementary Mock Trial has been a lively annual event where, under the supervision of Southwestern students, fifth-graders learn all aspects of a case in their roles as prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, witnesses, and jurors.



PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

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www.swlaw.edu/publicservice