

Dear Volunteers,

My service term as the *Serve Louisiana* Volunteer Coordinator for The Pro Bono Project will officially be completed at the end of this month. I am in awe at how fast this year has come and gone, and as I reflect on my experiences at the Self-Help Resource Centers, **I wanted to take the time to say thank you.**

Thank you for showing up, for dedicating your time and energy, and for being open to learning something new. The SHRC is a vital resource for the community, and we would not be able to provide such an instrumental service without dedicated volunteers like you.

When my AmeriCorps term started back in September of 2017, the Pro Bono Project was managing the 24th JDC Self-Help Desk only. Volunteers were just handing out pleadings – there were no step-by-step Divorce guides, Custody workbooks, or legal referral handouts to be seen! **My goal was to discover new and creative ways to distribute seemingly hard-to-find information to a growing number of individuals in need.** And, thanks to the constant support of The Pro Bono Project staff, I was granted the freedom to implement new policies and procedures that have, *with a lot of trial-and-error*, helped to streamline the SHRC services in the most effective way we could. This would not have been possible without the continued patience and support from volunteers such as yourself.

In January, the PBP took over the operations of the Orleans CDC Self-Help Desk. While it presented as a challenge at first, the transition was ultimately seamless -- due in large part to our law firm volunteers. **Thank you to every individual who participated in one of our trainings, and who took the time out of their busy day to come to the CDC and put what they learned into practice.**

Lastly, **thank you to all of the volunteers who have offered me advice, guidance and support as I start on towards my next journey.** My experience working with The Pro Bono Project has inspired me to pursue a career in law, and I hope to be enrolled in law school by this time next year. My experience at the Self-Help Resource Centers has been transformative for me – and I am both grateful for the opportunity and so proud of what has been accomplished thus far.

However, there is still work to be done! Starting in September, there will be **two new Serve Louisiana Volunteer Coordinators** that will continue my effort to maintain and improve operations of the Self-Help Resource Centers. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns regarding volunteering, **please reach out to any of the members of the wonderful, hard-working Pro Bono Project team at volunteer@probono-no.org** and they will be happy to assist you!

I hope that you continue to volunteer and dedicate your time at the Self-Help Resource Centers: *it really makes all the difference.*

All the best,
Amanda