



**JRCLS INTERNATIONAL  
MONTH OF SERVICE  
MARCH 2022**



# Table of Contents

[Getting Started](#)

[General Project Ideas](#)

[Refugees and Immigrants](#)

[Expungement/Restoration of Rights](#)

[Combating Sexual Exploitation](#)

[Disaster Relief](#)

[FAQs](#)

## Getting Started

Nowhere in the practice of law are our religious convictions made more apparent than when we use our legal skills to serve the oppressed, the afflicted, or those in need. To "bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. ... to comfort all that mourn." Isaiah 61:1-2. In rendering service to others our "pure religion" is manifest. James 1:27. ***We invite all JRCLS members and chapters throughout the world to participate in our JRCLS Month of Service this March 2022.*** The following is a non-exclusive list of ideas and resources, although you are by no means limited to this list and can serve however you see fit. The members of the Service & Outreach Committee also stand ready to help and be an additional resource as needed. We look forward to hearing about your experiences!



## General Project Ideas

1. **Business Clothing Drive** - Provide dress suits, skirts, shirts, dresses, belts, shoes, etc. to those trying to reenter the business world. Possible partners include:
  - a. Local law schools to assist law students
  - b. YWCA and affiliate organizations, women shelters, and [Women's Empowerment](#) to assist women
  - c. [Jails to Jobs](#) to assist former offenders
2. [Wills for Heroes](#) - Provide legal documents free of charge to America's first responders.
3. **Local Law Schools**
  - a. Many law schools sponsor clinics or other programs that need volunteers or mentors. You could contact your local law school, or better yet, contact your local JRCLS student chapter and team with them and their lawsuit.
  - b. Some specific examples include:
    - i. BYU Law has opportunities through the [Center for Peace & Conflict Resolution](#). It has an ongoing need for facilitative mediators and legal counselors to assist students and landlords with mediation and arbitration cases. If you are interested in volunteering as a mediator or legal counsel to either students and/or landlords, you can contact the CPR at [cpcr@law.byu.edu](mailto:cpcr@law.byu.edu). Please use "Volunteer Opportunities at the CPR" in your subject line.
    - ii. ASU Law sponsors the [Arizona Legal Center](#) where local attorneys can volunteer.
4. **Volunteer Lawyers Programs** - The [Legal Services Corporation](#) funds programs in all 50 American states, plus the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories.
5. **The [American Bar Association](#)** and state and local bar associations
6. [Namati](#) - A global network dedicated to legal empowerment with over 2,400 groups from every part of the world.
7. [Instituto Pro Bono \(Brazil\)](#) - The Pro Bono Institute exists to combat the unequal access to justice, serving vulnerable populations and civil society organizations, by encouraging voluntary advocacy and producing legal knowledge. For more information about their services, core values, and how to become involved, please check their website @ <https://probono.org.br/sobre-nos/>



Note: Links to organizations are provided for convenience, but JRCLS does not have actual working experience with all of these groups. The fact that a link is included in this document should not be considered an endorsement of the organization, and we invite any feedback you may have about actual experiences with these organizations.

## Refugees and Immigrants

1. **The Need:** Linda K. Burton, former president of the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has emphasized that “[t]here are more than 60 million refugees, including forcibly displaced people, worldwide. Half of those are children.” “These individuals have undergone tremendous difficulties and are starting over in ... new countr[ies] and culture[s]. While there are [sometimes] organizations that help them with a place to live and basic necessities, *what they need is a friend and ally* who can help them [adjust] to their new home, a person who can help them learn the language, understand the systems, and feel connected.” Sister Burton [asked](#), “*What if their story was my story?*” JRCLS attorneys, without prior experience in immigration law, can work with LDS Charities and local service organizations to provide an essential service to these vulnerable “strangers” seeking a new home.
2. **Service and Outreach Contacts:** Katie Rane [[krane@nomaslegal.org](mailto:krane@nomaslegal.org)], Fábio Ferreira Nascimento [[ffnascimento.adv@gmail.com](mailto:ffnascimento.adv@gmail.com)], Hillary Newton [[hinewton@law.byu.edu](mailto:hinewton@law.byu.edu)], Tania Cristina Formigone [[tania.ircls@gmail.com](mailto:tania.ircls@gmail.com)]
3. **Ideas and Possible Collaborators:**
  - a. Latter-Day Saint Charities [serves refugees in many countries](#) and is available to connect chapters with local refugee organizations.
  - b. [International Refugee Assistance Project](#) (IRAP) organizes law students and lawyers to assist displaced persons seeking refugee placement.
  - c. [Immigration Pro Bono Providers](#)
  - d. [ABA Commission on Immigration](#)
  - e. [Immigration Advocates Network](#)
  - f. [New Americans Campaign](#)
4. **Example from Local Chapters/Members:**
  - a. JRCLS members Carrie [Akinaka](#) in Los Angeles, and [Samer](#) Pharaon in the United Arab Emirates, volunteered with the [International Refugee Assistance Project](#) (IRAP), assisting IRAP attorneys working to help individuals in Iraq, Sudan and Egypt to apply for refugee status.



- b. Jim McConkie and Bradley H. Parker, members of the Salt Lake City JRCLS Chapter, formed the [Utah Refugee Justice League](#) in 2016 to defend the rights of refugees who have been discriminated against on the basis of religion, ethnicity or national origin.
- c. JRCLS members are working to develop guides and training videos for refugees on common legal challenges in their new communities through local [Refugee Resettlement Centers](#).
- d. JRCLS members Rebecca Van Uitert in Utah, Cary Jensen in Rochester, New York, and others have assisted asylum applicants to prepare for “credible fear” hearings at the United States border through the Dilley Pro Bono Project; video reports can be seen [here](#).
- e. The Orange County Chapter has partnered with the New Americans Campaign (see link above) in participating in naturalization fairs where participants are screened by attorney volunteers for eligibility to apply for citizenship and, if qualified, to apply for citizenship. On-line training is typically provided by the public law center and participants are typically covered under the PLC's malpractice insurance.

## Expungement/Restoration of Rights

1. **The Need:** Arguably the most significant bipartisan initiative undertaken in recent years was the First Step Act, which began the process of federal criminal justice reform. The Act includes provisions for sentencing reform and, in recognition of severe impediments to reentry faced by formerly incarcerated persons, directs the United States Attorney General to make grants to state and local projects that support the successful reentry of juvenile and adult prisoner populations into their communities after incarceration.

While the First Step Act is just that, a first step toward reform, it doesn't begin to address the “collateral consequences” that regulate the lives of people with criminal records. These are the over 45,000 laws, policies and administrative sanctions that dictate, among other things, where such people may work, where they may live, whether they may vote, and with whom they may spend their time. As stated by Reuben Jonathan Miller, assistant professor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, “These laws and policies quietly lock people out of the labor and housing markets. And while many legal restrictions are most pronounced during probation or parole, most are permanent, ensuring that each felony conviction is effectively a life sentence.” *See link to article below.*

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/12/30/post-prison-laws-reentry-451445>.



In recognition of the need for people to clear their criminal records to live fully productive lives, Utah and many other states have passed expungement legislation, which gives people a chance for a clean slate. Once a person’s criminal record has been expunged, the person may tell potential landlords and employers that they have not been convicted of a crime, thus expanding housing and career opportunities. Expungement may also restore other rights that have been restricted by a criminal conviction. To qualify for expungement, time periods of up to ten years, depending on the offense, must elapse, and expungement is only available for certain offenses. The Utah Expungement Act, for example, applies to misdemeanor and certain felony offenses.

There are numerous references in the scriptures to freeing the captive. As Isaiah states, prophetically: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.” Isaiah 61:1. No prisoner is free without full rights of citizenship. By joining in a restoration of rights project, we can help free people that remain bound by the cords of criminal records that can deprive them of jobs, housing, voting rights and more—for life.

2. **Service and Outreach Contacts:** Susannah Thomas [[susannah8@gmail.com](mailto:susannah8@gmail.com)/801-369-2777]
  
3. **Ideas and Possible Collaborators:**
  - a. [California Innocence Project](#)
  - b. [Legal Aid Reentry Projects](#)
  - c. [Collateral Consequences Resource Center](#) (This is a comprehensive site with information on all 50 states in the US)
  - d. [National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers](#)
  - e. [National Legal Aid & Defender Association](#)
  - f. [Legal Action Center](#)
  - g. [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#)
  - h. [Salt Lake County Government Mayor’s Office](#)
  - i. [Utah Legal Services](#)
  
4. **Example from Local Chapters/Members:**
  - a. Utah Central and Utah Silicon Slopes hosted a clinic in collaboration with the NAACP local chapter, BYU Law, the Salt Lake County Mayor’s Office and the local Volunteer Lawyer’s office. You can see the write up [here](#), and the Facebook post from 11/13/20 [here](#).



- b. The Texas Houston and North Carolina Charlotte chapters have experience reaching out to existing service providers who provided training and sponsored clinics that chapter members were able to participate in.

## Combating Sexual Exploitation

1. **The Need:** Sexual exploitation is a multi-faceted problem connecting human trafficking, the use of the internet to easily and almost anonymously share pornographic material, and domestic violence. Trafficking, also known as “modern slavery” is the illegal trade in human beings through recruitment or abduction by means of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of forced labor, debt bondage, or sexual exploitation. According to a recently released report by the State Department of the United States of America, the top three nations of origins for victims of human trafficking in 2018 were the United States, the Philippines, and Mexico. Tactics used by recruiters, traffickers, and their associates are often the same tactics used by batterers and can mirror dynamics of domestic violence.
2. **Service and Outreach Contacts:** Danielle Dallas can help chapters and individuals become part of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) research pool.  
[\[danielle.r.dallas@gmail.com/801-602-3340\]](mailto:danielle.r.dallas@gmail.com)
3. **Ideas and Possible Collaborators:**
  - a. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation exists to end sexual exploitation and abuse, especially sex trafficking where ever it exists. Their approach is holistic, using litigation, legislative and corporate advocacy, scientific research, communications and public relations, and collaboration to achieve their objectives. Their goal is to build a movement where aligned organizations work together to achieve the common goal of ending sexual exploitation. Their Law Center represents and advocates for victims of sex trafficking and abuse. They litigate in the highest courts to secure justice for victims and hold abusers accountable. They lead the global coalition to end sexual exploitation, with over 600 partner organizations around the world. In short, they are an advocacy organization that uses all the tools available, including the legal system, to stop sexual abuse and exploitation.
    - i. NCOSE Website: <https://endsexualexploitation.org/>
    - ii. Law Center Lawsuit Website: <https://sexualexploitationlawsuits.com/>
  - b. [The Human Trafficking Legal Center](#). The Center’s work is to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes, and together with their pro bono attorney partners they fight for justice for the survivors. HT Legal has created the only comprehensive database on federal civil trafficking cases filed in the United States. Volunteer



attorneys can work with this organization to assist in handling a trafficking case.

- c. Slides from the **2021 Human Trafficking Symposium: Beyond Awareness**, sponsored by S.J. Quinney College of Law's Social Justice Student Initiative, in cooperation with Utah's Attorney General's Office, Asian Association of Utah and UTIP.
  - i. [Community Alliances for Collaborative Solutions](#), presented by Samantha Candland, LINKLine Coordinator, and Allison Smith, M.S., Prevention Coordinator of the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition.
  - ii. [Human Trafficking and Immigration](#), presented by Kaytlin Beckett, Sheena Knox, Alex McBean.
  - iii. [Your Brain on Trauma](#), presented by Katie Dobson RN, MSN-ED; Linsey Broadbent DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC.
  - iv. [The Sexual Assault to Prison Pipeline in Utah](#), presented by Renee LeGrant and Shannon Cox of Journey of Hope Utah.
  - v. [Advocating for LGBTQIA+ Human Trafficking Survivors](#), presented by the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition.

### 3. Examples from Local Chapters/Members:

- a. JRCLS attorneys in various chapters are participating in the NCOSE Law Center's research pool to assist litigation and advise lawmakers in their efforts to effect a multi-pronged approach to stopping sexual abuse and exploitation.
- b. Grace Melendez, Women in Law Coordinator for the Mexico Chapters, along with Javier Areaga, JRCLS director in Mexico, organized a series of conferences aimed at training attorneys, religious leaders, and politicians about how to detect and prevent violence against women in Mexico. They worked with 13 chapters in Mexico to participate in the 5-part series with a different chapter sponsoring each one. It was accomplished via zoom and dealt with a variety of topics that could be implemented through direct work with clients and victims as well as general public policy initiatives.

## Disaster Relief

1. **The Need:** Floods. Pandemic. Hurricanes. Tornadoes. Murder hornets? 2020 is over and perhaps the rest of the decade will be better – but see Revelation 12:12. Providing service during and after disasters allows us to help our brothers and sisters who need us most during difficult times. We are working on teaming with both the ABA and LDS Charities on this endeavor.





2. **Service and Outreach Contact:**

Chad Mitchell for ABA [[chadm@summitlaw.com](mailto:chadm@summitlaw.com)];

Rick Varner for LDS Charities [[rick@shieldslawoffices.com](mailto:rick@shieldslawoffices.com)]

3. **Ideas and Possible Collaborators:** <https://aba.joinpaladin.com/aba-disaster-relief/>--The ABA's website allows you to search for different legal service opportunities (by region, disaster type, type of service) as part of disaster relief.

## FAQs

**Q:** What if I'm not a member of the local bar or am on inactive status?

**A:** Many bar associations have special rules allowing out-of-state and inactive members to still perform pro bono work. A quick check with your local bar may reveal that you are eligible to do legal service.

**Q:** What about malpractice insurance?

**A:** One of the great advantages of partnering with other organizations such as Volunteer Lawyers is that they often have malpractice insurance that covers their volunteers. In other cases, making sure there is a limited representation statement that is accepted by the client can help mitigate any risk.

**Q:** What if I don't have litigation experience?

**A:** Many service opportunities can be found in helping those without legal training navigate forms and instructions, fill out applications, and in drafting documents, and litigation experience is not required.

**Q:** What if I work for the government?

**A:** While government employment may conflict you out of some types of service, there are still many ways to help others where no conflicts exist. Carefully following your employer's procedures and policies is critical, but in some cases, you may be able to play an organizational role or otherwise assist with a project even if direct representation of the clients is not possible.