



RURAL SUMMER LEGAL CORPS

South Carolina Legal Services, Inc.

Host Site

South Carolina Legal Services, Inc.
Greenville, SC

Experience/Description

South Carolina Legal Services' (SCLS) Greenville office serves the rural counties of Pickens and Oconee, where the overwhelming majority of debt collection lawsuits against low-income consumers result in default judgments against the consumers, even where they have legitimate defenses. In this project, the Rural Summer Legal Corps fellow will help create an innovative project connecting pro bono volunteer lawyers with students to expand representation of consumer debtors to all rural areas. The fellow will get acquainted with the subject matter and project, train in drafting pleadings, and observe hearings. He or she will then draft responsive pleadings, meet with potential clients, and assist SCLS and pro bono volunteer attorneys with representation of low-income clients in court. He or she will plan and schedule clinics in cooperation with his or her supervisor, mail flyers, and prepare checklists and materials for clinics scheduled in the two rural counties served by SCLS Greenville. The fellow will also create a survey for clients about their debt collection/lawsuit experiences. Additionally, he or she will use his or her experience with the project to make suggestions for revising the protocol, and create intake questions. The culmination of the fellowship will be to prepare and give a presentation about the project to a statewide training of South Carolina magistrates in August to promote the expansion of the project to other rural counties throughout South Carolina.

Applicant Qualifications

N/A

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