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Adam Friedl, Program and Special Initiatives Manager
Pro Bono Net
151 West 30th Street, 10th Floor
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via: jobs@probono.net

Dear Mr. Friedl,

Recently, you advertised on PSJD.org, seeking an “Associate Program Coordinator.” Your prospectus requires a very particular set of skills—skills I believe I possess. I am a recent law school graduate with over five years of experience developing web-based projects and providing technical training and support both to colleagues and members of the public. My work has also made me adept at community outreach via print, social media, and face-to-face communications. Professionally, I am a passionate about improving social outcomes for low-income and vulnerable individuals. Personally, I care about helping people better understand technology. Pro Bono Net combines both my passions, deploying technology to help close the justice gap. I would love this job.

I’m comfortable with computers and code, but my real concern is with the people who rely on them. In essentially every job I’ve held from my college days in IT support onward, I’ve relied on my ability to interpret technology for others. In particular, my work at the Adaptive Technology Lab required me to explain my organization’s technological solutions to two disparate groups. Clients needed to know how they should expect our services to perform; their professors needed to appreciate that each change we asked them to make was necessary and minimally invasive. In general, I begin developing a project by examining not only my goal and my resources, but also the competencies of my team.

Over the last three years, I’ve extended my communications skills to include a limited amount of development and public relations work. As a 1L, I co-authored a successful grant proposal securing funding from Georgetown’s Human Rights Institute for a fact-finding mission on the human right to water in the United States. (HRI chooses one student proposal each year.) When conducting the mission, I spoke to groups in Detroit, convincing individuals to consent to our questions. For the Kalmanovitz Initiative, I developed informal educational materials for student and community activists.

Currently, I am serving as the National Association for Law Placement’s PSJD Fellow. Like your advertised position, this position blends public interest law, public relations, and technology. In my work at NALP, I’ve been able to maintain my recently-built ties with the public interest legal movement while returning to my bedrock skillset. Each day, I blog, tweet, and lecture to increase awareness and adoption of PSJD’s tools and resources while working (in partnership with my Director and PSJD’s Working Group) to develop them into more robust, more extensive versions. I’ve also developed internal data analysis tools to increase my accountability for our database’s performance. It’s rewarding work, but it’s ending in August. Thinking ahead, I realize that if I could change one thing about my job I would want to focus more on serving legal clients, rather than law students and lawyers.

Please find my remaining application materials attached. At your convenience, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about my qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,
-Sam