

Samuel D. Halpert  
1220 19<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20036-2405

Pro Bono Net  
151 West 30th Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
via: [jobs@probono.net](mailto:jobs@probono.net)

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, you advertised on [PSJD.org](http://PSJD.org), seeking an “Associate Program Coordinator.” Your prospectus requires a very particular set of skills—skills I believe I possess. Skills I would be thrilled to put to work in service of Pro Bono Net: 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. I would love this job.

I’m comfortable with computers and code, but my real concern is with 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: My clients needed to understand them so they could know how they should expect our services to perform, and their professors needed to understand them so they would appreciate that each change we asked them to make was necessary and minimally invasive. In addition, when developing a project, I begin by examining not only my goal and my resources, but also the competencies my team: At Georgetown, I learned Microsoft Access because it was familiar to my manager. For PSJD, I’ve developed several projects in Google Spreadsheets because it’s an accessible, extensible, low-cost platform.

In law school, these experiences helped me learn to frame complicated legal issues. They also made it easy for me to grasp that law isn’t an isolated discipline, in discourse only with itself. Over the past three-and-a-half years, I’ve chosen internships and clinical experiences teaching me to open the law up to my clients and the broader community. When conducting human rights fact-finding through Georgetown, I spoke to groups in Detroit about recent developments in international law, convincing individuals to consent to our questions. For the Kalmanovitz Initiative, I not only prepared formal legal materials but also developed informal 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 one 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. 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 thrilled to answer any questions you may have about my qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,

-Sam