



Memphis Law's Public Action Law Society Presents:

Alternative Spring Break

Averting Crisis:
Mental Health Interventions for Improving Our Justice System

March 5-9, 2018 | 8 Service Tracks

For more information contact:
Sarah Belchic
svblchic@memphis.edu



Alternative Spring Break Participant Application

Thank you for showing interest in becoming a participant in Alternative Spring Break 2018! Applications are due **no later** than **5pm on Friday, January 19, 2018**. Please fill out and submit this application electronically via email to Sarah Belchic at svblchic@memphis.edu

I. Personal Information*

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Law School:
Year in law school (Rising 2L, 3L, Part time):

Emergency Contact:
Relation:
Address:
Phone:

*Please note that all emergency contact information will be kept private.

II. Personal Statement

- Please attach a brief statement answering the following questions in 600 words or less
1. Why do you want to participate in Alternative Spring Break?
 2. If you are extremely interested in a particular track, please explain your interest and any experience related to the track.

III. Track Preference

- Please rank from 1 to 7, with 1 being your first choice. Please see pages 3–4 for track descriptions.

_____ **Criminal Law Track**
_____ **Juvenile Law Track**
_____ **Immigration Track**
_____ **Elder Law Track**
_____ **Veterans Track**
_____ **Family Law Track**
_____ **Research and Writing Track**
_____ **Health Law Track**

IV. Additional Information

1. Are you willing to participate in ASB, even if we cannot accommodate your track choice? ____Yes ____No
2. Do you authorize the Public Action Law Society to use your name, photo, personal statement and/or likeness in promotional materials for Alternative Spring Break, which may be distributed by the University of Memphis and local news sources? ____Yes ____No
3. If selected to participate in Alternative Spring Break, are you aware that you have to pay a non-refundable deposit¹ in order to secure your spot?
____Yes ____No
 - If you believe you cannot afford to pay the deposit due to any extraordinary financial hardships, please attach a separate sheet explaining your circumstances.
 - Please note that you are not required to make a deposit until you have been officially selected to participate in Alternative Spring Break.

V. Signature

By signing my name and the date, I certify that I am a student in good standing, with a minimum grade point average of 2.0, at an accredited law school in the United States of America. If selected for Alternative Spring Break, I am aware that I will be required to provide a non-refundable deposit to secure my spot. I also agree to abide by the rules of confidentiality and the rules of professional responsibility as outlined in the Tennessee Rules of Court (www.tncourts.gov/rules/supreme-court/8; www.tncourts.gov/courts/rules) and the University of Memphis Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs/pdf/csrr.pdf).

Signature _____

Date _____

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Belchic at **svblchic@memphis.edu**. You can also learn more about Alternative Spring Break on our website: <http://www.memphis.edu/law/career/asb.php>

On behalf of the Public Action Law Society and The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, thank you for your interest and your application!

¹ Please note that the deposit amount will be due in February 2018 and will range between \$60-\$80. This includes breakfast and lunch Monday-Thursday, a t-shirt, and the opening and closing receptions.

Alternative Spring Break Tracks²

1. Criminal Law Track

Students will have the opportunity to interview clients and file petitions for criminal court cost waivers before a General Sessions judge, under the supervision of attorneys from the Shelby County Public Defender's Office. Volunteers will also screen eligible clients for expungement of past offenses. Cost waiver petitions consist of an affidavit of indigency stating the client's financial situation and a motion and order for each of the client's outstanding costs and fines. Expungement is available for misdemeanors more than three years old and qualifying non-violent felonies more than five years old. Criminal records and outstanding court debt from long-past offenses where the client has already served time can disqualify them from renewing a driver's license, opening a bank account, or finding a job. All Memphis students chosen to participate should be prepared for preliminary work in preparation for this track. This track may also offer voting rights restoration. All legal services offered in the criminal defense track are made possible with the support of Shelby County Courts and are subject to change with judges' discretion.

2. Family Law Track

This track provides students with the opportunity to guide clients from the Community Legal Center (CLC) and Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. (MALS) through the pro se divorce process. Clients who meet certain income requirements and have no children or assets can apply for an uncontested divorce using forms promulgated by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, students will help clients fill out the forms, meet with the Shelby County divorce referee, and file for their divorce. Participants in this track will receive training on Tennessee divorce practice and procedure, along with receiving general training on legal ethics and appropriate client interaction. Memphis students will have the additional, and optional, opportunity to prepare clients at their hearing on the final divorce decree. This year, in addition to pro se divorce, the family law track may include work with MALS domestic violence unit or the Family Safety Center.

3. Juvenile Law Track

The Juvenile Law track participates in Foster Care Review Board (FRCB) meetings where student volunteers sit in and interview families, foster care workers, and children about their experiences in Foster Care. The FCRB's primary purpose is to provide a mechanism to monitor the care of children in foster care and to ensure everything reasonably possible is being done to achieve permanency for the child. Students will conduct the boards and make

² The work in each track is subject to change.

recommendations of tasks to be completed, as well as make referrals to the presiding judge, if necessary under the circumstances.

4. Elder Law Track

In the Elder Law track, students travel to various locations such as senior centers, nursing homes, community centers, and churches to assist seniors in drafting written instructions on medical care decisions. Students will work in groups, under the supervision of a local attorney, to draft living wills, appointments of healthcare agents, appointments of financial agents, and durable powers of attorney. The majority of clients served are low-income seniors; however, anyone in need of these services will be assisted.

5. Veteran's Clinic Track

This track will focus on assisting veterans with disability claims. Veterans' assistance has been marked as a high priority by the American Bar Association. Students will help file initial claims for service connected disabilities, conduct interviews with clients, work on appellate brief writing, and conduct a clinic aimed toward veterans with general civil claims as well.

6. Immigration Track

The Immigration Track will bring clients into the Law School Clinic to obtain one of two forms of relief: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and naturalization. The first, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, allows young immigrants who came to the United States as children to submit applications that, if granted, will allow them to obtain a driver's license, a social security number, and a two-year "immunity" from being placed into removal proceedings. The second form of relief offered in the Immigration Track is naturalization applications, which allow immigrants who have been legal permanent residents of the United States for the requisite amount of time to become citizens. Students will have the opportunity to directly interact with and interview clients and complete their legal paperwork. Attorneys from the Community Legal Center's Immigrant Justice Program and Memphis Immigration Advocates will pre-screen all clients and will be present during the week to provide training on the two application processes and to answer any questions that students might have. In addition, all Immigration Track participants will receive training on legal ethics and appropriate client interaction.

7. Research and Writing Track

This track allows students who are interested in research and writing to write an article for hopeful publication about a specific topic of interest in the community. In the past, students have had the opportunity to complete projects furthering juvenile justice reform, statutes regarding LGBT discrimination, and fighting blight in the Memphis area. This year, students will be working together to publish an article regarding mental health and

the law, specifically taking a look at mental health courts in both Tennessee and throughout the country. Students will work closely with an attorney to develop a thesis and produce a written work.

8. Health Law Track (*New*)

The Health Law Track is for students interested in health law and mental health law & will include a visit to the Mental Health Court. This track focuses on the correlation between legal health/wellness and physical/mental health outcomes. If an already vulnerable population's legal health is compromised, this will likely carry over into their physical and mental health. Students in this track will perform preventative Legal Health Checkups on actual clients in a medical/legal partnership clinic setting, under attorney supervision. This checkup will assess many legal factors in the client's life, such as insurance, housing, employment, criminal justice issues, transportation, family/domestic issues, and others. After assessment students may refer these clients to the proper community or legal resources or may be assigned to actively help the client access these resources.

	Monday 3/5
8:00 AM	Lobby breakfast
9:00 AM	<u>WELCOME</u> Historic Courtroom <u>ASB Coordinator</u> Sarah Belchic <u>PALS Faculty Advisor</u> Professor Goode <u>PALS President</u> Mathew Jehl
10:00 AM	<u>TRAINING</u> (Wade) <u>PR Training</u> Professor Schaffzin
11:00 AM	
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	
	<u>Track Specific Training</u> (1:30-4:00)
2:00 PM	
3:00 PM	
4:00 PM	
	Topic Panel (4:30-5:15) Moderated by Professor Amy T. C
5:00 PM	
6:00 PM	
7:00 PM	
8:00 PM	

Tuesday 3/6	Wednesdays 3/7
Lobby breakfast	Lobby breakfast
<p><u>Track Service</u> (9:00-11:30)</p>	<p><u>Track Service</u> (9:00-11:30)</p>
Lunch	Lunch
<p><u>Track Service</u> (1:00-4:00)</p>	<p><u>Track Service</u> (1:00-4:00)</p>
After each day, we typically try to plan a "dinner" at a local resteraunt if people want	After each day, we typically try to plan a "dinner" at a local resteraunt if people want to go

Thursday 3/8	Friday 3/9
Lobby breakfast	Free Day! Suggested Activities in Folder
<u>Track Service</u> (9:00-11:30)	
Lunch	
<u>Track Service (at least one day of track service will include court observation)</u> (1:00-4:00)	
<u>Café Keough</u> <u>Key Note Speaker</u> The Honorable Judge Skahan (5:00-6:30)	
After each day, we typically try to plan a "dinner" at a local resteraunt	