**SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

Can you identify one skill you had the opportunity to hone or develop through your participation in LAV and can you give a specific example of an LAV activity that let you do this?

- To appreciate the role lawyers play alongside community advocates in supporting survivors (or any client really). Working alongside representatives from Uphams Community Health, Casa Myrna, and others helped me feel out what unique assets attorneys bring to the table and when we should defer to others.

- I had one client I had to maintain contact through weeks, which helped me gain an understanding as well as experience in maintaining contact with clients.

- Learning to explain legalese to clients, even when I myself am not the most fluent. Anytime during an interview with a client.

- Client interactions, particularly the positive rapport that one must first establish before hoping to be an advocate for someone.

- I personally feel more comfortable talking with clients and engaging in natural conversation through the interviews we did.

- Interaction with live clients was a skill I had the opportunity to develop. We don’t have many other opportunities at school to develop this skill and LAV allowed me to interact with victims of domestic and sexual violence and provide them with resources.

- Legal research skills using resources besides what has been taught in law school, and being able to convey those ideas to those without law degrees.

- In particular, I feel my skill in interviewing clients in a thoughtful, empathetic, and helpful way has improved a great deal since the start of the year. A specific example is doing client intakes and then circling back to the group on what happened during the intake. I learned what kind of information to focus on, as well as skills in doing this in a supportive way for the client during a stressful time for them.
MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

What LAV activity will you remember most from this year, and why?

- Presenting on LAV at the Church in Milton. Also the game where we followed survivor's stories. Both of these events exposed me to an entirely new subculture and allowed me to hear stories I would not have without LAV.

- I will remember the most when a speaker came to talk to us about the different necessities a survivor can have, and how if the necessities are not met it can affect the survivor's mental health.

- Working with one client that included numerous phone calls. It taught me how to be empathetic on the phone, how to handle difficult conversations that didn’t provide answers the client wanted, and challenged me to look into areas of law/resources I was not familiar about.

- The site visits in general are the most memorable for me because of the environment—although I felt nervous and pressured each time, it was a supporting environment conducive to trying your best and taking risks to be a better advocate.

- Definitely all of the guest speakers and presentations, because they all were really engaging and interesting.

- I found the information session about housing to be very interesting. The presenter had a ton of knowledge and I could have listened for another hour. Additionally, I found working at the sites to be very valuable.

- The St. Paul's presentation was a great experience! I feel as though we were able to engage the audience really well and educate them on the legal process.

- Meeting with clients at Uphams, because it helped me stay grounded and remember that client-centric legal services is the reason why I came to law school.

- I will remember the housing activities we did, because of how closely intertwined most of our clients’ issues were with housing.

- I remember the client rounds. It was helpful to hear what the other students did and how they reacted to site visits.
TIME COMMITMENT

From a 1L perspective, how do you feel about LAV being a year-long commitment? Would you have preferred it be one semester?

- I think being committed for the entire year as a 1L was important. In my case it kept me grounded, it reminded me of why I had come to law school and kept me motivated in classes.

- I felt like LAV took healthy consideration of testing schedules, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to grow my knowledge with a years worth of programming.

- I enjoyed the one year length, I don't think there would have been enough time to do much if it was condensed to one semester.

- I liked how it was a year long commitment because we were able to establish a relationship with the community that we visited.

- I support it continuing to be a year-long commitment, I saw enough improvement in my performance as an advocate from the start of the second semester to the end of the year to warrant the year-long commitment.

- I would describe it as a great opportunity to gain experience in working as a legal advocate while also doing something they could be proud of. I would emphasize that it helps develop practical skills (interviewing, presenting, researching, etc), while doing something positive- the law student can feel they are doing helpful, practical work for real people. I would definitely tell people it is a significant time commitment, but emphasize that I think it is manageable with other first-year classes.