

Stetson's Legal Empowerment Brigade is a student initiative that was created with a desire to help close the justice gap. Because Stetson University College of Law is a strong advocate for pro bono work, requiring 30 legal pro bono hours and thirty nonlegal pro bono hours to graduate, Stetson law students are very passionate and eager to advocate for those in need. In October 2017, this passion led to efforts to create Stetson's first ever international legal pro bono initiative: Legal Empowerment Brigade. The goal of the organization was to work with Global Brigades, an international nonprofit development agency, in coordinating a legal service trip to Honduras in efforts to assist local attorneys with educational workshops that provide legal empowerment to the rural communities while also educating the student participants by exposing them to comparative legal studies. Finally, after over a year of preparation, the first legal service trip took place in January 2019.

On January 9, 2019 at 5 a.m., 13 Stetson students made their way to the airport to begin their seven-day service trip in Honduras. Because it was Legal Empowerment Brigade's first trip, although everyone knew the purpose for the trip and had received a sample itinerary, no one truly knew what to expect. Global Brigades picked everyone up at Tocontín International Airport, and the students were then taken to a compound called Censo. While in Honduras, the students served in the rural community of La Concepción, San Matias.

Almost every morning, Global Brigades's bus left the compound at 8:30 a.m. and arrived at La Concepción at 10 a.m. The group was divided into three teams for the majority of the trip. The teams were expected to conduct research to understand the community's legal needs, conduct research to address those legal needs, and conduct workshops to teach the community how to solve their legal needs. The teams' findings indicated that the community's major needs involved property and land disputes, alimony, and child support. Each team chose one of the

community's legal needs and did research to plan and conduct a workshop to teach the community how to address those needs.

Additionally, the teams created presentations to teach both adults and children about human rights. The group had the opportunity to tour the municipality of Cantarranas, the Honduran law school CEUTEC, the Supreme Court of Honduras.

When asked to describe their experience in three words, students used the following words: developmental, unforgettable, eye-opening, memorable, and humbling. For many of the students who participated, this was their first time in Honduras.

All thirteen students were required to pay \$890 in program contributions to Global Brigades. Out of the \$890 from each student that was given to Global Brigades, \$948.74 was spent on staffing for the brigades (per ABA limitations, the funds will not be used for this), \$1,272.70 was spent on transportation while in Honduras (our organization is unclear as to whether the ABA approves use of funds for this purpose given the discrepancies between the ABA website and the reimbursement form, but we are willing to act as instructed by the ABA grant committee), \$2,892.50 was spent on lodging and food (our organization is unclear as to whether the ABA approves use of funds for lodging given the discrepancies between the ABA website and the reimbursement form, but we are willing to act as instructed by the ABA grant committee), \$1,300 was spent on programming support (we believe that legal services and legal expenses are not synonymous with "attorney time," but we are willing to act accordingly with the grant committee's instructions shall it conclude otherwise), \$902.46 was spent on admin salaries (per ABA limitations, the funds will not be used for this), \$1,781.78 was spent on admin operations to support the continuity of operations in Honduras (we believe that use of the funds for this purpose is not prohibited, but we are willing to act accordingly with the grant

committee's instructions shall it conclude otherwise), and \$2,470 was retained in the U.S. to support the continuity of the operations in the U.S. (because this includes the salaries of the staff in the U.S., we would not be using the funds for this).

Additionally, eleven students paid \$720 to Global Brigades for airfare, one student paid \$615.22, and the last student paid \$347.98 (our organization is unclear as to whether the ABA approves use of funds for airfare given the discrepancies between the ABA website and the reimbursement form, but we are willing to act as instructed by the ABA grant committee).

In total, the 13 students who participated in Legal Empowerment's first brigade had to pay \$20,453.20. To alleviate costs, some students participated in fundraisers and were able to raise \$772.09 (\$27.32 were lost in transaction fees), one student received the Global Brigades Founder Scholarship and the Global Brigades Chapter Leader Scholarship which totaled \$1,780.00 (distributed among the group), and \$8,061.09 was received in donations (because all payments were made through Global Brigades' "donations" page, it is difficult to distinguish donations to Legal Empowerment versus out-of-pocket payments by Legal Empowerment's members). Therefore, the out-of-pocket expenses were approximately \$9,841.09 (because all payments were made through Global Brigades' "donations" page, some payments were payments toward next year's legal brigade, so the exact out-of-pocket expenses for the January 2019 legal brigade are close estimates).

Therefore, per the ABA's limitations and restrictions, Legal Empowerment Brigade would use the approved \$1,000 provided by the ABA to alleviate out-of-pocket expenses that were allocated for programming support and admin operations totaling to \$3,081.78. However, because we are unclear of the prohibitions, we ask that the committee review the original receipts provided and instruct us on what it sees fitting.