Third-year student Adrienne Lyles-Cockley is the first student in Notre Dame Law School's history to receive the Public Service Law Network Worldwide's Pro Bono Publico Award. The award recognizes Lyles-Cockley's efforts to establish Social Justice Services, an advocacy clinic in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Lyles-Cockley does not provide legal advice, but distributes written information on a variety of topics, including consumer issues, domestic violence, family law, and the legal process.

Public Service Law Network Worldwide is a network of 160 law schools and more than 12,000 law-related public interest organizations in the United States and around the world. Although the award is non-monetary, Lyles-Cockley hopes the award will help the clinic gain momentum.

"I think Adrienne exemplifies our mission," said Erika Harriford-McLaren, assistant director for the school's Career Services Office. Notre Dame Law School's motto is "Educating a different kind of lawyer," Lyles-Cockley's awareness, initiative, and caring attitude make her a role model for other students, said Harriford-McLaren, who nominated her for the award.

Lyles-Cockley plans to provide free legal advice to low-income residents out of the clinic, since she graduates and passes the bar. Her goal is to specialize in housing and employment discrimination, landlord-tenant disputes, domestic violence and sexual assault, land use and real estate, public assistance, and environmental remediation.

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