

Pro bono

- Benefits individuals and nonprofit organizations that cannot afford counsel, and ultimately benefits the community.
- Is the right thing to do. Practicing law is a privilege and a responsibility.
- Can make your career more fulfilling.
- Makes good business sense. Paying clients value community service.
- Can even be good for your health.

Get Involved.

- Visit your local legal services organization and offer to take a case, participate in the intake process, answer phones, or screen clients.
- Find out about other pro bono programs and volunteer lawyer opportunities. Information about volunteer opportunities (and free pro bono training) is available on the Pro Bono/Access to Legal Services page on the VSB website (http://www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono/resources-for-attorneys).
- If you are in the Greater Richmond area, you can get cases through Justice Server (Greater Richmond Bar Foundation, www.grbf.org). Also, many state, local and specialty bar associations provide pro bono support.
- Encourage your firm to engage in collective pro bono work.
- Support pro bono through monetary contributions.



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(804) 775-0522
www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono



Lawyers Make
a Difference,
**Precipitate
Change,**
Safeguard Justice.

**All
Through
Pro Bono.**



Legal Aid cannot meet increased need. Pro Bono can help fill the gap.



Why is pro bono needed in Virginia?

- There is a “justice gap” in Virginia—only 20 percent of the legal needs of the indigent are being served by legal services organizations.
- We also know from the data that represented litigants fare significantly better in court than pro se litigants, yet the poor usually lack access to counsel.
- LSC funding for legal aid has been significantly cut in recent years plus there has been a significant reduction in IOLTA funding. This has resulted in a 20 percent reduction in the number of legal aid attorneys and staff statewide – while the poverty population in Virginia has increased by 32 percent since the last census.

“Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building, it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists ... it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.”

Lewis F. Powell Jr.
U.S. Supreme Court Justice (ret.)

Ethics Rules

Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct

RULE 6.1 Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service

- (a) A lawyer should render at least two percent per year of the lawyer’s professional time to pro bono publico legal services. Pro bono publico services include poverty law, civil rights law, public interest law, and volunteer activities designed to increase the availability of pro bono legal services.
- (b) A law firm or other group of lawyers may satisfy their responsibility collectively under this Rule.

Virginia Legal Aid Pro Bono Opportunities and Resources

All Virginia legal aid offices have well-established programs with pro bono coordinators who will help support volunteer work for private attorneys. Please contact your local legal aid office for more information.

- **Blue Ridge Legal Services**
(540) 433-1830
Main office in Harrisonburg, offices in Winchester, Lexington, and Roanoke.
- **Central Virginia Legal Aid Society**
(804) 200-6049
Main office in Richmond, offices in Petersburg, and Charlottesville.
- **Legal Aid Justice Center**
(434) 977-0553
Main office in Charlottesville, offices in Richmond, Petersburg, and Falls Church.
- **Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia**
(757) 627-5423
Main office in Norfolk, offices in Hampton, Virginia Beach, Belle Haven, and Williamsburg.
- **Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley**
(540) 344-2088
Office located in Roanoke.

- (c) Direct financial support of programs that provide direct delivery of legal services to meet the needs described in (a) above is an alternative method for fulfilling a lawyer’s responsibility under this Rule.

Comment to Rule 6.1

- [1] Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional work load, has a personal responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer.

NOTE: Pro Bono Publico Service is not mandatory in Virginia; however, every lawyer is strongly encouraged to provide voluntary legal assistance to persons who lack the resources to compensate a lawyer and non-profit organizations or provide financial support to legal services organizations.

- **Legal Services of Northern Virginia**
(703) 778-6800
Main office in Falls Church, offices in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Leesburg, and Manassas.
- **Rappahannock Legal Services**
(540) 371-1105
Main office in Fredericksburg, offices in Culpeper, and Tappahannock.
- **Southwest Virginia Legal Aid**
(276) 783-6576
Main office in Marion, offices in Castlewood and Christiansburg.
- **Virginia Legal Aid Society**
(434) 528-4722
Main office in Lynchburg, offices in Danville, Farmville, and Suffolk.