

# Getting a Pro Bono Case

A number of resources are available for Virginia lawyers who are interested in providing legal assistance to low-income or disadvantaged clients.

**Virginia Legal Aid Offices.** All of Virginia's legal aid offices have well established private attorney involvement programs and have pro bono coordinators whose function is to administer their office's pro bono program. Legal aid offices have resources to assist pro bono lawyers including forms, pleadings banks, brochures, pamphlets, handbooks, how-to guides, and tutorials. Legal aid attorneys can provide guidance and mentorship. Most legal aid offices also provide malpractice coverage for their volunteer lawyers. Moreover, if you are unable or prefer not to directly represent a client, legal aid offices offer other opportunities to volunteer including: conducting legal research; assisting with clinics and help lines; doing transactional work on behalf of the organization; updating their policies, employee manuals, and brochures; and providing board service.

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 (Roanoke).
- **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 offices 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).
- **Virginia Poverty Law Center** – (804) 782-9430 (VPLC does not provide direct representation but serves the legal aid system by providing advocacy, training, and litigation support on civil access to justice issues).

**Probono.net/va** contains resources for pro bono and legal services lawyers to assist in their representation of low income or disadvantaged clients, including the Pro Bono Opportunities Guide, which allows volunteer lawyers to find legal opportunities tailored to their specific requirements. <http://www.probono.net/va/>.

**The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (GRBF).** GRBF's mission is to expand public access to the justice system in central Virginia by facilitating the delivery of pro bono legal services and service projects. Through its programs, GRBF helps the Central Virginia region with its priority needs for

pro bono services and helps connect lawyers with pro bono clients. (804) 780-2600.

**Pro Bono Clearinghouse** – a referral service linking volunteer attorneys with non-profit organizations in need of legal representation on a variety of transactional matters.

**Pro Bono Promise** – law firms and law departments are invited to join Pro Bono Promise with a pledge to commit a percentage of time to the provision of pro bono legal services to the disadvantaged and/or to include financial support to legal services organizations annually.

**JusticeServer** – an all-inclusive case management and referral system that enables private attorneys to accept and work on pro bono cases from their own computers. Attorneys are able to create a confidential profile, view pro bono opportunities available in designated practice areas/jurisdictions, and find the resources to assist with handling the legal matter.

**Independent Pro Bono Legal Services Providers** including:

- **CAIR Coalition** (Capital Area Immigrants' Rights) provides legal assistance for detained immigrants – adults and children – in the Washington, DC, area as well as training and support for immigrant advocacy groups and service providers. (202) 331-3320.
- **Community Tax Law Project** provides free legal help to low wage families and individuals with tax issues – (804) 358-5855.
- **Fairfax Law Foundation** (Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center) conducts direct intake for low income residents of Fairfax County only in contested family law matters and non-profit organizations in Northern Virginia needing legal assistance.
- **Good Samaritan Advocates** is a faith-based legal aid organization providing no cost legal assistance to low-income individuals in the greater Washington, DC, area – (703) 534-5740, ext. 524 (Fairfax County) and (703) 404-5034 (Loudoun County).
- **Legal Information Network for Cancer** provides legal, financial, and community resources to individuals confronted with issues arising from the diagnosis and treatment of cancer – (804) 272-5462 or (877) 644-5462 toll free.
- **Virginia Bar Association Veterans Issues Task Force** provides military veterans and service members with greater access to legal assistance. Volunteer assistance opportunities include: initial intake interviews, one-on-one counsel, speaking at Yellow Ribbon or similar events, mentoring other attorneys, providing pro bono or low-cost assistance, and supervising law students in legal clinics assisting veterans. (804) 644-0052.
- **Whitman-Walker Health** provides free legal services to its clients, people living with HIV/AIDS, and members of the LGBT community with public benefits, immigration, wills/powers of attorney/healthcare directives, and debt collection matters. (202) 939-7627.

**Virginia State Bar.** While the VSB does not provide direct legal representation, the Pro Bono/Access to Legal Services pages on the VSB website offers a listing of pro bono resources for attorneys, the public, and the media including pro bono opportunities, recordings of webinars covering issues of substantive law frequently encountered by volunteer lawyers, and news about the latest developments in access to justice. [http://www.vsb.org/site/pro\\_bono](http://www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono).

For more information, please contact Karl Doss, VSB Director, Access to Legal Services, at [doss@vsb.org](mailto:doss@vsb.org) or (804) 775-0522.