Virginia Leads Nation in FreeLegalAnswers.org Responses

Virginia lawyers of all different types continue to find time to anonymously answer the legal questions of low-income Virginians. This chart shows some pro bono superstars who have answered hundreds of questions – sometimes helping themselves learn a new area of the law while also helping those who cannot afford a lawyer.

I enjoy helping others, but I also learn about areas of the law with which I am unfamiliar and refresh and sharpen my knowledge in areas in which I have a background. I am a good researcher and can find guidance to give sufficient advice for the client. I can access the user-friendly website in my down-time, help someone, and often learn something new. **Elaine H Cassel**, Fairfax County, Law Office of Elaine H. Cassel

I think that a big factor in the disparity of outcome in court for parties not represented is that they needed advice before the matter went to court. For tenants, don't withhold rent! Give your notices and pursue a tenants assertion. I hope that I have contributed a little to help those parties. **Wynn A. Harding,** Harrisonburg City, Convy & Harding, PLC

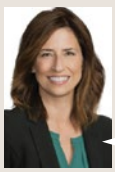
I went to law school to help people through the legal process. I'm inherently logical, so I use that to assist people navigate through the maze that is the judicial system. **Tammy L. Sossei,** Henrico County, Sossei Law, PC

I volunteer because I know how important it is for people to have an understanding of their legal rights regarding their employment. Much of a person's personality and sense of self comes from what he or she does for a living. When their job is threatened or becomes stressful it affects not only them individually, but their family as well. I have found the experience of answering inquiries to be very rewarding, and the people I have worked with have been very grateful. **William C. Tucker**, *Charlottesville,Tucker Law Firm, PLC*

Virginia Free Legal Answers makes it very easy and convenient to be able to meet people in their place of need and point them in the right direction to properly deal with their questions. The ease and simplicity of the site only adds to the satisfaction I get from knowing that I am truly helping people in their time of need. **Jonathan M. Wallis,** Campbell County, The Law Office of Jonathan M. Wallis

I think about how important legal advice can be in making the right decision and critical in helping someone make the best of a bad situation. The cost of such advice is prohibitive to a large segment of the population. VA Free Legal Answers provides an efficient way to provide legal assistance to those persons who would otherwise probably have no financial ability to obtain such advice. **Donald C. Beck**, *McCandlish Holton Morris, Richmond*

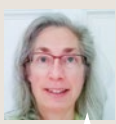
I choose to volunteer for Virginia's free legal answers because I see on a daily basis in my practice the need for better access to good legal advice by folks who can't afford to hire an attorney. The accessible nature of this program both for the public and the attorneys is very appealing and I have enjoyed helping Virginians more easily access legal advice. **Charles R. Samuels,** Richmond City, Charles R. Samuels, Attorney at Law, PLLC



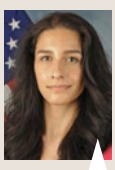
Having grown up in Northern Virginia, I'm excited to have the opportunity to help individuals in my community with the legal issues they confront, which also add depth to my practice that predominantly focuses on corporate clients. **Lisa M. Kaas,** Fairfax County, Blank Rome LLP

I volunteer to contribute to the pro bono efforts of the members of the bar in Virginia. As a government attorney other opportunities for pro bono service are limited and this program provides an opportunity to fulfill my desire to provide pro bono service. **Richard L. Chidester,** County of Giles (County Attorney)

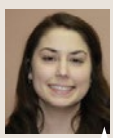
In response to the overwhelming need and legal aid's limited resources, Free Legal Answers allows me to help more people with only a slight additional effort. In 20 minutes or less, the web site allows me, and other Virginia attorneys who volunteer, to provide direct and timely assistance to individuals facing legal problems who may have no other place to which they can turn. In a small but meaningful way, I can contribute more to access to justice. **Martin D. Wegbreit,** Richmond City, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society



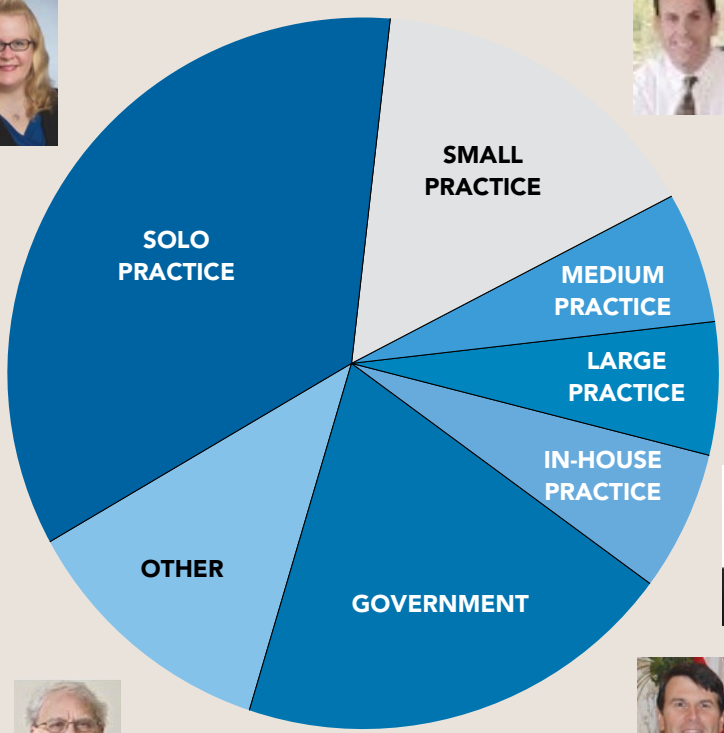
I have always thought it was important to give back, whether as a school volunteer or as an attorney. I find that it is easy to answer questions on virginia.freelegalanswers.org using just my smartphone, VSB Fastcase, and Google. **Susan Ruppel,** Fauquier County Contract Attorney



As a government attorney who lives and works in a jurisdiction other than where I am licensed, I have found Virginia Free Legal Answers to be the ideal way to fulfill what I consider my obligation to do pro bono work. **Elizabeth E. Urrutia,** Arlington County, AFLOA/JAQK



I volunteer on Free Legal Answers because I see the access to justice crisis in the citizens with whom I speak every single day, and I know that every little question that gets answered is a huge help, both for the substantive issue they have, and for boosting their confidence in our great justice system as a whole. Also, I saw that cool Pro Bono Hero pin and I want one. **Meredith H. Jacobi,** City of Chesapeake Office of the City Attorney



Virginia Free Legal Answers is one way to help low-income Virginians receive access to justice by providing users with convenient, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year access to lawyers who can answer their legal questions. If you have questions about Virginia.freelegalanswers.org want to help, please contact Crista Gantz at 804-775-0522 or cgantz@vsb.org.