

# PRO BONO Opportunities

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## A Guide for Lawyers in New York City



**A Project of**  
The Association of the Bar  
of the City of New York Fund, Inc.  
Volunteers of Legal Service  
**and**  
Pro Bono Net

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## Introduction

It is a special pleasure for me, as President of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the City Bar Fund, to write the introduction to the new edition of Pro Bono Opportunities: A Guide for Lawyers in New York City, a joint effort of the City Bar Fund, Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) and Pro Bono Net. I hope that this guide will facilitate your efforts to find pro bono opportunities and to use your legal skills for the public good. As you know, New York's Code of Professional Responsibility makes clear that pro bono work is an "obligation." Many of the lawyers who do volunteer legal work report that it is one of the most satisfying experiences of their careers.

Whether you are a newly admitted attorney or have many years of practice behind you, there are many opportunities for you. This guide lists specific opportunities in bar associations, legal services and public interest organizations, court and government programs. Each listing provides information on areas of law covered, training provided and volunteer services needed. For the first time, we are coordinating our listings with the New York State Bar Association, and both organizations have agreed to a uniform format. We plan to use this information to create a statewide database so that attorneys could locate pro bono opportunities on-line by doing personalized searches.

As the City's economy worsens, the legal needs of the poor will increase while funding for legal services may decrease. Pro bono efforts are needed now more than ever. I urge you to devote some of your time to one or more of the organizations listed in this guide.

Many thanks to LexisNexis, which has provided generous financial support for this publication, and Davis Polk & Wardwell, for its assistance in the production of this guide.

**E. Leo Milonas**

President, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York and  
the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc.

April 2003

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## Using This Guide

Pro Bono programs are listed under three sections: Pro Bono Opportunities with Bar Associations; Pro Bono Opportunities with Legal Services and Public Interest Organizations; and Pro Bono Opportunities with Court and Government Programs. Within each section, programs are listed alphabetically. Each program entry contains:

- a brief description of the program
- the contact person for volunteer lawyers
- the areas in which pro bono assistance is needed
- information concerning training and supervision
- information as to malpractice insurance coverage
- information as to available CLE credit

Following the program listings are an alphabetical index to the programs listed in this guide, an alphabetical listing of programs which use paralegal and/or law student volunteers and a subject index, designed to assist volunteer lawyers in identifying areas of interest. Any lawyer who would like further assistance in selecting a pro bono project in New York City should contact the CityBar Public Service Network by phone, (212) 382-4713, or by email, [cpsn@abcny.org](mailto:cpsn@abcny.org), or go to [www.probono.net/ny](http://www.probono.net/ny).

Any lawyer interested in pro bono opportunities in other areas of New York State may contact the Department of Pro Bono Affairs at the New York State Bar Association by phone, (518) 487-5641, or by email, [probono@nysba.org](mailto:probono@nysba.org).

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## Pro Bono Opportunities: Bar Associations

### Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc. (City Bar Fund)

42 West 44th Street  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 382-6629 Fax: (212) 354-7438  
website: [www.abcny.org](http://www.abcny.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** (212) 382-6629, [colp@abcny.org](mailto:colp@abcny.org)  
CityBar Public Service Network: Katie Neilson, (212) 382-4713, [kneilson@abcny.org](mailto:kneilson@abcny.org)  
Monday Night LAW: Russell Bleemer, (212) 949-6490, [rbleemer@cpradr.org](mailto:rbleemer@cpradr.org)

The City Bar Fund recruits, trains and mentors volunteer attorneys to provide advice and representation to indigent and low-income New Yorkers. Volunteers represent political asylum seekers; prepare wills and provide other legal assistance for the elderly; serve as guardians ad litem in housing court; represent cancer survivors in insurance disputes; represent immigrant victims of domestic violence; provide legal assistance to the homeless; advise microentrepreneurs; and provide assistance to individuals, families, and small businesses that were affected by the September 11th disaster. The City Bar Fund also offers matrimonial clinics where volunteer attorneys with matrimonial expertise provide legal advice to pro se clients.

The City Bar Fund's Public Service Network matches volunteer attorneys with legal and non-legal volunteer opportunities at nonprofit organizations. The Network works closely with attorneys and nonprofit organizations to make appropriate matches and develop projects that meet the interests and needs of both parties.

The Association's Monday Night Legal Advisory Workshop (LAW) addresses the public's need for basic legal information and assistance by having volunteer attorneys available at the Association on Monday evenings to provide information, assistance and materials to clients on housing, bankruptcy, employment, family, and consumer law issues.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

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Brooklyn Bar Association  
Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

123 Remsen Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 624-3894 Fax: (718) 624-3926  
website: brooklynbar.org/vlp  
email: info@brooklynvlp.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Gabriella Richman, Esq., Program Coordinator,  
gfr@brooklynvlp.org

The Volunteer Lawyers Project offers free legal assistance to financially eligible low-income residents of Brooklyn. Through the Battered Women's Helpline, the Senior Outreach Program, the Home and Hospital Program for Persons with AIDS and Senior Citizens, the Consumer Bankruptcy Panel, the Family Law Project and several clinics, volunteers offer direct representation, provide brief advice and counsel, and give information and referrals to indigent clients who cannot afford representation.

VLP provides live skills training in all program areas, as well as video-taped training sessions, ongoing mentoring, and printed resource materials. All volunteers must accept two cases for each area in which they receive training. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: family law, consumer law and wills and estates.

**Area Served:** Brooklyn  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA)

14 Vesey Street  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 267-6646 Fax: (212) 406-9252  
website: www.nycla.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Lois Davis, Director, Pro Bono Programs,  
(212) 267-6646 ext. 217, ldavis@nycla.org

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The New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) has developed a variety of pro bono projects to meet the growing need for free legal assistance for the indigent. Individuals who need debt counseling or wish to file for bankruptcy can do so through the Consumer Bankruptcy Project. Advice in the areas of landlord/tenant, family, consumer, bankruptcy and labor/employment is provided to individuals through the Legal Counseling Project.

**Area Served:** Manhattan  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Queens County Bar Association (QCBA)

### Queens Volunteer Lawyers' Project, Inc. (QVLP)

90-35 148th Street  
Jamaica, NY 11435-4097  
(718) 291-4500 (QCBA), (718) 739-4100 (QVLP), Fax: (718) 657-1789  
website: [www.QCBA.org](http://www.QCBA.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Mark Weliky, Pro Bono Coordinator, (718) 739-4100, [WelikyMark2@aol.com](mailto:WelikyMark2@aol.com)

Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc., a not-for-profit legal assistance program, provides pro bono attorneys to residents of Queens County who cannot afford to retain a lawyer to resolve their civil legal problems.

Volunteer lawyers are assigned to represent indigent persons in Housing Court to avoid or delay eviction; in Family Court to secure custody or visitation rights or child support; in administrative hearings to obtain government benefits which have been denied; in actions to secure uncontested divorces; as well as miscellaneous other matters (such as foreclosures and consumer problems).

The volunteer commitment is a minimum of ten hours per year. Assistance is needed in the following areas: landlord/tenant, family law and matrimonial law.

**Area Served:** Queens  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

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## Pro Bono Opportunities: Legal Services and Public Interest Organizations

### Advocates for Children of New York, Inc.

#### Pro Bono Project

151 West 30th Street, Fifth Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 947-9779 Fax: (212) 947-9790  
website: [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)  
email: [info@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:info@advocatesforchildren.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Randee Waldman, (212) 822-9527,  
[rwaldman@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:rwaldman@advocatesforchildren.org)

Advocates for Children (AFC) is a not-for-profit organization which provides advocacy for students and their families on a wide array of educational issues affecting public school students in New York City. The Pro Bono Project assists AFC in its work in the areas of school suspension and special education administrative hearings. Lawyers and paralegals provide pro bono representation for families who have children with disabilities and students who are suspended from high school. Training is provided in the areas of special education and suspension.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

### AIDS Center of Queens County

#### Legal Services Program

97-45 Queens Boulevard, 12th Floor  
Rego Park, NY 11374  
(718) 896-2500 Fax: (718) 275-2094



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website: [www.acqc.org](http://www.acqc.org)  
email: [acqc@aol.com](mailto:acqc@aol.com)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Ruth Cassell, Director of Legal Services,  
(718) 896-2500, [Ruthlaw12@aol.com](mailto:Ruthlaw12@aol.com)

AIDS Center of Queens County (ACQC) provides comprehensive social services for Queens residents with HIV infection or AIDS, their families, partners and caregivers. Services are provided in English and Spanish and include: Case Management, Mental Health, Legal Services, Harm Reduction, Housing Placement Program, Education/Prevention, etc.

The Legal Services Program provides legal advice, referrals, and education on HIV-related issues, including entitlements, housing, family matters, discrimination, debt management and confidentiality. The program provides advocacy and representation in selected matters. Our "wills clinic" offers wills, health care proxies and medical directives, and durable powers of attorney. Permanency planning services help HIV+ parents to develop future care plans for their minor children.

Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: wills, immigration and entitlements.

**Area Served:** Queens  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## American Indian Law Alliance

### Legal Services Project

611 Broadway, Suite 632  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 477-9100 Fax: (212) 477-0004  
website: [www.ailanyc.org](http://www.ailanyc.org)  
email: [aila@ailanyc.org](mailto:aila@ailanyc.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Suzanne Jasper, Associate Director,  
(212) 477-9100, [suzanne@ailanyc.org](mailto:suzanne@ailanyc.org)

The American Indian Law Alliance (AILA) Legal Services Project provides free, culturally sensitive legal services for the New York City Native American community,

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numbering over 40,000. These legal services include, but are not limited to, basic legal services in housing and discrimination, as well as work with the Indian Child Welfare Act and border-crossing issues affected by the Jay Treaty.

Volunteers are required to carry out their cases to completion. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: children's law, family and matrimonial law, government benefits, housing and tenants, welfare, and the Indian Child Welfare Act (adoption and enrollment).

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** No; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10013-2869  
(212) 966-5932 Fax: (212) 966-4303  
email: [info@aaldef.org](mailto:info@aaldef.org)  
website: [www.aaldef.org](http://www.aaldef.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Stanley Mark, Program Director, (212) 966-5932

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) is the oldest non-profit organization on the East Coast that specifically addresses the legal needs of Asian Americans. Founded in 1974, AALDEF is dedicated to protecting the legal rights of Asian Americans through legal advocacy, impact litigation, community education and law student training. Current program issues include voting rights, anti-Asian violence, immigrant rights, affirmative action and employment/labor rights. Volunteers assist with litigation, staff free legal advice clinics, conduct legal rights workshops and training sessions, and produce legal rights pamphlets for community residents. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: family law, labor, housing, civil rights and immigration and naturalization.

**Area Served:** United States  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** No; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

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## Association for the Help of Retarded Children

### Legal Services Department

200 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 780-2586 Fax: (212) 780-2398  
website: [www.ahrcnyc.org](http://www.ahrcnyc.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Laurie Stride, Coordinator of Legal Services,  
(212) 780-2586; [lauries@ahrcnyc.org](mailto:lauries@ahrcnyc.org)

The Association for the Help of Retarded Children provides a wide variety of services to mentally retarded individuals and their families, including adult day services, evaluation services, home health care, and legal services, particularly in the areas of disability, guardianship issues and future care planning. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: disability, family & juvenile, housing, immigration & naturalization and life planning.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Sometimes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## The Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York, Inc.

### Pro Bono Mediation Program

257 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10010  
(212) 533-7500 Fax: (212) 477-4912  
website: [www.newyork.bbb.org](http://www.newyork.bbb.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Brian Rauer, (212) 358-2821, [brauer@newyork.bbb.org](mailto:brauer@newyork.bbb.org)

The Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York (BBB) serves all five boroughs of New York City, Long Island and the Mid-Hudson region. One of the central, longstanding functions of the BBB has been to provide skilled, accessible dispute resolution services to the local consumer-business community. Such services encompass both mediation and arbitration. Through our well-established Attorney Pro Bono Mediation

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Program, the BBB performs a substantial percentage of mediation utilizing skilled local attorneys as neutrals. While mediation opportunities are available throughout the year, arbitration training is more formalized and available less frequently; please contact the BBB for further details on the next scheduled arbitration training.

All mediation training is provided in-house by our professional dispute resolution staff. Formal procedural and basic ADR skills training (usually 2-3 sessions at the outset following orientation) is coupled with on-the-job mediation and feedback sessions. Caseloads will be adjusted according to the individual attorney's time commitment to the BBB, with a flexible schedule to accommodate last minute time conflicts. While prior dispute resolution experience is a plus, it is not mandatory for this pro bono opportunity.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Training - Provided:** Yes

## Bronx AIDS Services, Inc.

### Legal Advocacy Services

540 East Fordham Road  
Bronx, NY 10458  
(718) 295-5598 Fax: (718) 733-3429  
website: [www.basnyc.org](http://www.basnyc.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Cynthia Knox, Director, (718) 295-5598

Bronx AIDS Services (BAS) is an AIDS service organization that helps more than 25,000 Bronx residents each year with an array of free services designed to meet the needs of this ethnically and culturally diverse community. The BAS Legal Advocacy Program (LAP) is the first Bronx-based legal services program advocating on behalf of Bronx residents living with HIV/AIDS. BAS trains volunteers on how to advocate on clients behalf concerning legal issues like housing, benefits, future care and domestic violence.

**Area Served:** Bronx  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

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## Caribbean Women's Health Association, Inc.

123 Linden Blvd.  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
(718) 826-2942 Fax: (718) 826-2948  
website: [www.cwha.org](http://www.cwha.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Dr. Marco A. Mason, (718) 826-2942,  
[mmason@cwha.org](mailto:mmason@cwha.org)

The Caribbean Women's Health Association (CWhA) operates a non-profit Immigrant Service Center, which is accredited to represent clients before the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, The Immigrant Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Caribbean Women's Health Association also provides legal services for adoptions, uncontested divorces, domestic violence, and other types of cases. Volunteer attorneys are primarily needed in the area of immigration & naturalization.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

## Catholic Charities

### Department of Immigrant and Refugee Services

1011 First Avenue, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 419-3700 Fax: (212) 751-3197  
website: [www.catholiccharitiesny.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesny.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Diana Castañeda, (212) 419-3700,  
[Diana.Castaneda@archny.org](mailto:Diana.Castaneda@archny.org)

Catholic Charities assists immigrants and refugees with legal representation, case processing and resettlement services. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: immigration & naturalization.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area, Yonkers, Port Chester, Poughkeepsie, Haverstraw, Middletown, Newburgh, New Rochelle, Mahopac, Monticello  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No

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**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Catholic Migration Office

1258 65th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219  
(718) 236-3000 Fax: (718) 256-9707  
website: [www.catholicmigration.org](http://www.catholicmigration.org)  
email: [cmo11219@aol.com](mailto:cmo11219@aol.com)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Chelley Gordon, Esq., (718) 236-3000

The Catholic Migration Office assists immigrants in a variety of immigration-related issues. The Catholic Migration Service also offers English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship test preparation classes and occupational training. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: immigration & naturalization.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## The Center for Family Representation

175 Remsen Street, 8th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 637-6584  
email: [sjacobs@cfmny.com](mailto:sjacobs@cfmny.com)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Michele Cortese, (718) 637-6565, [mcortese@cfmny.org](mailto:mcortese@cfmny.org)

The Center for Family Representation (CFR) is a not-for-profit law and policy organization whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness of the Family Court and the child welfare system in serving families, primarily by supporting and strengthening legal representation for parents who are involved in these venues. CFR's goals are to provide additional opportunities for training, legal support and other types of practice assistance to attorneys representing parents and to ensure that the perspectives of parents and their advocates are increasingly represented in the many venues where child welfare reform is being addressed.

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Volunteer attorneys are needed to assist CFR's professional staff answering questions from assigned counsel attorneys representing parents in Family Court; answering phone inquiries from parents about Article 10 (child protective) proceedings; and providing representation to a limited number of parents in Article 10 proceedings.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Pending

## Central American Legal Assistance (CALA)

240 Hooper Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
(718) 486-6800 Fax: (718) 486-5287  
email: [cala@igc.org](mailto:cala@igc.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Anne Pilsbury, (718) 486-6800, [cala@igc.org](mailto:cala@igc.org)

Central American Legal Assistance (CALA) provides representation to asylum-seeking immigrants and refugees from Central and South America. CALA defends individuals against deportation/removal and applies for legal status where possible. CALA also gives a free orientation on immigration law and procedures to any indigent or low-income Spanish-speaking immigrant. CALA helps newly arrived asylum seekers (giving priority to those in danger of deportation) free of charge. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: civil rights, immigration & naturalization.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## The Child Welfare Project

Office of the New York City Public Advocate  
One Centre Street, Suite 1034  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-4955 Fax: (212) 669-4493

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**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Hank Orenstein, Director, (212) 669-4298

The Child Welfare Project (CWP), a public/private partnership affiliated with the office of the NYC Public Advocate, provides advocacy to families, children, foster parents and service providers involved with New York City's child welfare system and/or experiencing difficulties with some aspect(s) of a child welfare case. Pro bono attorneys are needed for policy and legislative research and will also be involved in documenting systemic problems in family court and in general assisting CWP's efforts to reform the child welfare system.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Council on Adoptable Children

### AIDS Orphans Adoption Program

589 8th Avenue, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 475-0222 Fax: (212) 714-2838  
website: [www.coac.org](http://www.coac.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Joann Buttarro, Program Director, (212) 475-0222 ext. 212, [jbuttarro@coac.org](mailto:jbuttarro@coac.org)

The Council on Adoptable Children (COAC) is an adoption services agency which offers programs to parents interested in adopting abused, neglected, and hard to place children in the New York City foster care system. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: family & juvenile, health, HIV/AIDS, housing, immigration & naturalization and life planning.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No



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## Covenant House New York

### Legal Services Offices

460 West 41st Street  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 330-0547 Fax: (212) 239-8781  
website: [www.covenanthouseny.org/advocacy.asp](http://www.covenanthouseny.org/advocacy.asp)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Christopher Perry, Deputy Director of Advocacy and Legal Services, (212) 330-0547

Covenant House Legal Services Office provides direct civil legal services to residents of the agency's three homeless shelters. The direct services project represents and counsels young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21, primarily in the areas of immigration, family law, housing and public benefits.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** No; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## The Door – A Center for Alternatives

121 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 941-9090 Fax: (212) 941-0714  
website: [www.door.org](http://www.door.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Monica de la Torre, (212) 941-9090 ext. 3233, [monica@door.org](mailto:monica@door.org)

The Door's Legal Services Center was established in 1992 to address the lack of free legal assistance for youth in New York City. The Center provides a broad range of counsel and advocacy services to young people between the ages of 12 and 21 in the following civil law areas:

- Family law, such as emancipation, foster care, paternity, child support, divorce, domestic violence, child custody and visitation rights;
- Immigration matters for undocumented clients;
- Public benefits issues, including welfare, Medicaid, Food Stamps; and
- Employment matters.

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Volunteer attorneys can assist with intake, research, writing, and educational workshops. The time commitment is flexible. Experience in the areas of family, immigration or public benefits law is preferred. Volunteers must have an interest in working with adolescents.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Eviction Intervention Services, Inc.

150 East 62nd Street  
New York, NY 10021  
(212) 308-2210 Fax: (212) 888-7140  
email: eisny@aol.com

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Mrs. Karen Ingenthron

Eviction Intervention Services (EIS) is a not-for-profit housing organization for people who live on the East Side of Manhattan. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas: housing and public benefits.

**Area Served:** Manhattan: From 42nd Street to 79th Street, Lexington Avenue to Roosevelt Island

**Training - Provided:** Yes

## Gay Men's Health Crisis

### Legal Department

119 West 24th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 367-1040 Fax: (212) 367-1305  
website: www.gmhc.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Debra Wolf, (212) 367-1327, debraw@gmhc.org

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community-based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS. Our mission is to reduce the spread of HIV disease, help people with HIV main-

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tain and improve their health and independence, and keep the prevention, treatment and cure of HIV an urgent national and local priority. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: civil rights, consumer, disability, education, employment, family & juvenile, health, housing, immigration & naturalization, life planning and public benefits.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Goddard-Riverside Community Center

### West Side SRO Law Project

647 Columbus Avenue  
New York, NY 10025  
(212) 799-9638 Fax: (212) 721-1514

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Adam N. Weinstein, (212) 799-9638,  
aweinstein@srolaw.org

The West Side SRO Law Project of the Goddard-Riverside Community Center provides legal assistance to low-income tenants in single-room occupancy (SRO) units in hotels and rooming houses north of 14th Street on Manhattan's West Side. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following area: housing.

**Area Served:** Manhattan - West Side of Manhattan, north of 14th Street  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Housing Conservation Coordinators

500 West 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 541-5996 Fax: (212) 541-5966  
website: [www.hellskitchen.net/housing/hcc](http://www.hellskitchen.net/housing/hcc)

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**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Harvey Epstein, (212) 541-5996 ext. 15,  
hepstein@mindspring.com

Housing Conservation Coordinators (HCC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the low and moderate income residents of the Clinton neighborhood of Manhattan in their efforts to protect and defend their right to safe, secure and affordable housing. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: consumer and housing.

**Area Served:** Manhattan: Clinton neighborhood: zip codes 10001, 10018, 10019, 10036; between 34th and 59th Streets west of Eighth Avenue

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

inMotion, Inc.

Corporate Program

70 West 36th Street, Suite 903  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 695-3800 Fax: (212) 695-9519  
website: [www.inmotiononline.org](http://www.inmotiononline.org)  
email: [inquiries@inmotiononline.org](mailto:inquiries@inmotiononline.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Deirdre Brady, (212) 695-3800 ext. 324,  
[dbrady@inmotiononline.org](mailto:dbrady@inmotiononline.org)

inMotion provides pro bono legal assistance for low-income women with two basic types of legal needs: (1) victims of domestic violence who need divorces, including custody, support and visitation issues, and orders of protection from their batterers; (2) HIV-positive and elderly women who seek wills and other advance directives; and permanency planning for their children.

inMotion provides training in the substantive and procedural issues raised in the cases referred to its volunteers. In addition, inMotion assigns mentors with expertise in matrimonial and family law to law firms and individual volunteers participating in its program, and informs its volunteers of helpful legal and community resources.

Volunteers are needed to provide direct representation in the following areas of law: matrimonial, custody, visitation, orders of protection, child and spousal support, and wills and estates. Volunteers are also needed to serve as instructors at community outreach information programs in many areas of both civil and criminal law. Volunteers who speak Spanish or other foreign languages are frequently needed.

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**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

## Jewish Community Relations Council

### Jewish Legal Assistance Program

70 West 36th Street, Suite 700  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 983-4800 ext. 137 Fax: (212) 983-4084

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Marcia R. Eisenberg

The Jewish Legal Assistance Program (JLAP) provides legal assistance to Jewish communal and religious organizations in corporate and tax exempt areas, real estate and litigation. Volunteer lawyers are trained on an individual basis, and the commitment varies by project.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area (Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland & Westchester Counties)  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Lawyers Alliance for New York

330 Seventh Avenue, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 219-1800 Fax: (212) 941-7458  
website: [www.lany.org](http://www.lany.org)  
email: [info@lany.org](mailto:info@lany.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Carrie Marker, (212) 219-1800 ext. 228,  
[cmarker@lany.org](mailto:cmarker@lany.org)

Founded in 1969, Lawyers Alliance for New York is the primary provider of free and low-cost business and transactional law services available to nonprofit and community

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development organizations in New York City. Lawyers Alliance provides legal services to hundreds of organizations each year, ultimately bettering the lives of many thousands of low-income city residents in all five boroughs. These services are provided by a staff of eleven attorneys and a network of over 650 volunteers from 115 leading law firms and corporations.

Lawyers Alliance for New York has produced a number of publications for attorneys working on matters relevant to nonprofits and hosts the Community Development and Nonprofit Law practice area of [www.probono.net](http://www.probono.net). Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas of law: general corporate, banking, bankruptcy/restructuring, real estate, employment, mergers and acquisitions, tax and intellectual property.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Pending

## Lawyers for Children, Inc.

110 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 966-6420 Fax: (212) 966-0531  
website: [www.lawyersforchildren.org](http://www.lawyersforchildren.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Karen Freedman, Executive Director, (212) 966-6420, [kfreedman@lawyersforchildren.org](mailto:kfreedman@lawyersforchildren.org)

Lawyers for Children (LFC) provides free legal and social work services to children who come before the family courts of New York City in abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, custody, visitation and foster care proceedings. Volunteer attorneys are needed to handle appeals. Volunteers who are able to contribute twenty-four hours per week over a minimum three-month period of time are eligible to participate in LFC's pro bono services program.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Sometimes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

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## Legal Action Center

153 Waverly Place  
New York, NY 10014  
(212) 243-1313 Fax: (212) 675-0286  
website: [www.lac.org](http://www.lac.org)  
email: [lacinfo@lac.org](mailto:lacinfo@lac.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Sally Friedman, (212) 243-1313, [sfriedman@lac.org](mailto:sfriedman@lac.org)

The Legal Action Center (LAC) performs impact litigation and provides legal services to HIV-positive people, persons with histories of alcohol and/or drug dependency and persons with criminal records. LAC's impact litigation focuses on discrimination and privacy. LAC's legal services, which assist HIV-positive people and their families only, include anything from government benefits to family law problems, health care proxies, living wills and housing. The Center also advises ex-offenders about their rights in employment, housing, and elsewhere. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas of law: discrimination and privacy.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** No

## The Legal Aid Society

### Volunteer Division/ Community Law Offices

230 East 106th Street  
New York, NY 10029  
(212) 426-3000 Fax: (212) 876-5365, (212) 996-1608  
website: [www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Ralph Glover, Pro Bono Coordinator, (212) 426-3094, [rgglover@legal-aid.org](mailto:rgglover@legal-aid.org)  
Marlene Halpern, Supervising Attorney for Pro Bono, (212) 426-3022, [mihalpern@legal-aid.org](mailto:mihalpern@legal-aid.org)

The Civil Division's neighborhood offices and the Volunteer Division's Community Law Offices represent poor persons in civil matters such as: landlord/tenant; matrimonial; taxpayer controversies; family law; including adoptions, guardianships and custody proceedings; economic development; Article 78 proceedings; appeals; impact litigation; and administrative proceedings before the Social Security Administration, Department of

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Social Services, Department of Labor and New York City Housing Authority.

Special projects focus on client groups with specialized legal problems, such as the elderly, persons with AIDS, homeless families, immigrants, battered spouses and the disabled, as well as community revitalization and issues relating to community-based organizations.

The Legal Aid Society is the attorney-of-record in most volunteer cases, and the volunteers, called "participating attorneys", serve of counsel. The participating attorneys assume primary responsibility for their cases, including court appearances, but receive one-to-one supervision by the Society attorney who previously screened the matter for legal merit and client financial eligibility. Training manuals, duplicate case files and sample papers are provided in every case. The Volunteer Division coordinates training sessions throughout the year, which are specially designed for pro bono lawyers who may be unfamiliar with some of the areas of law covered. The Volunteer Division's Community Law Offices has an uncontested matrimonial project, which uses volunteer paralegals to handle cases under staff attorney supervision.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

## Legal Services for Children, Inc.

271 Madison Avenue, Suite 1007  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 683-7999 Fax: (212) 683-5544  
website: [www.kidslaw.org](http://www.kidslaw.org)  
email: [lsc@kidslaw.org](mailto:lsc@kidslaw.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Warren Sinsheimer, (212) 683-7999 ext. 222,  
[sinsheimer@kidslaw.org](mailto:sinsheimer@kidslaw.org)

Legal Services for Children, Inc. provides comprehensive civil legal services for children under the age of 18, most of whom are unable to afford adequate legal representation. LSC welcomes on a full- or part-time basis lawyers who wish to join LSC as associates in helping children who cannot help themselves. Associates are given extensive training in the major LSC practice areas. Lawyers who are experts in their areas supervise and co-counsel with them until they become fully familiar with our practice.



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**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Pending

## Legal Services for New York City

350 Broadway, Sixth Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 431-7200 Fax: (212) 431-7232  
website: [www.lsnyc.org](http://www.lsnyc.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Edwina Francis Martin, Director of Communications,  
(212) 431-7200 ext. 132, [emartin@lsnyc.org](mailto:emartin@lsnyc.org)

The neighborhood offices of Legal Services for New York City provide representation in civil legal matters to poor persons who meet the financial eligibility and other guidelines established by the Legal Services Corporation and other grantors. LSNY provides legal representation to clients in such areas as housing, government benefits, and family, consumer and health issues.

Pro bono legal assistance is needed in the following areas: bankruptcy, consumer, discrimination, employment, family, government benefits, housing, matrimonial and wills. Lawyers and law firms interested in working with LSNY are asked to either call the local offices listed below or contact Edwina Frances Martin, LSNY's Director of Communications.

The names of the project directors for each office are also included.

### BRONX

#### LSNY-Bronx

Serving low-income people throughout the Bronx from its north office in Fordham Plaza, its south office on East 148th Street and an outreach center located in the Bronx Housing Court.

Steven B. Telzak, Interim Project Director

369 East 148th Street  
Bronx, NY 10455  
(718) 928-3700

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BROOKLYN

Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services Corp.  
Serving Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights.  
Camille Cooke, Project Director

1368-90 Fulton Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11216  
(718) 636-1155

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A  
Serving low-income people in North and East Brooklyn.  
Martin S. Needelman, Project Director

256-260 Broadway  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
(718) 487-2300

LSNY Brooklyn Branch  
Serving Brooklyn from its main office in downtown Brooklyn and outreach offices  
in Brighton Beach and Williamsburg.  
Steven M. Bernstein, Project Director

180 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 852-8888

South Brooklyn Legal Services  
Serving low-income people in Southern and Western Brooklyn.  
John C. Gray, Jr., Project Director

105 Court Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 237-5500

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## MANHATTAN

### Harlem Legal Services

Serving low-income people living in Manhattan north of 110th Street to the Bronx border and west of 5th Avenue to the Hudson River.

Shirley Traylor, Project Director

55 West 125th Street, 10th Floor

New York, NY 10027

(212) 348-7449

### LSNY-Manhattan

Serving low-income people on the east side of Manhattan, including East Harlem, the Lower East Side and Chinatown, and the West Side below 110th Street.

Peggy Earisman, Interim Project Director

299 Broadway

New York, NY 10007

(917) 661-4500

## QUEENS

### Queens Legal Services

Serving low-income people throughout Queens from offices in Long Island City and Jamaica.

Carl O. Callender, Project Director

89-02 Sutphin Boulevard

Jamaica, NY 11435

(718) 657-8611

## STATEN ISLAND OUTREACH OFFICE

C/O LSNY Brooklyn Branch -- serving low-income people throughout Staten Island.  
Steven M. Bernstein, Project Director, (917) 661-4525.

## CITYWIDE

### Legal Services for the Elderly

Providing legal help to senior citizens by training attorneys and other professionals.

Jonathan A. Weiss, Project Director

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130 West 42nd Street, 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 391-0120

The LSNY Legal Support Unit is the substantive back-up and training center for legal services staff working in LSNY's neighborhood offices throughout New York City, as well as pro bono attorneys and community advocates.

350 Broadway, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 431-7200

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

## Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force

350 West 31st Street, Suite 505  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 714-2904 Fax: (212) 714-2973  
website: [www.lgirtf.org](http://www.lgirtf.org)  
email: [info@lgirtf.org](mailto:info@lgirtf.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Pradeep Singla, (212) 714-2904 ext. 25,  
[legal@lgirtf.org](mailto:legal@lgirtf.org)

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization which addresses the widespread discriminatory impact of immigration laws on the lives of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV through education, outreach, advocacy and the maintenance of a nationwide resource and support network. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: HIV/AIDS, immigration & naturalization.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

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## The Lesbian and Gay Law Association Foundation of Greater New York

799 Broadway, Room 340  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 353-9118 Fax: (212) 353-2970  
website: [www.le-gal.org](http://www.le-gal.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Daniel R. Schaffer, (212) 353-9118  
West Village Trans-Legal Clinic: Thomas Hickey, (212) 815-0884,  
[thomasfickey@aol.com](mailto:thomasfickey@aol.com)

Walk-in legal clinics held at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (208 West 13 Street) and Community Voices Heard (170 East 116th Street from 6-8 p.m.) provide consultations, advice and referrals (where appropriate) on general issues. The clinics do not provide direct representation. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: civil rights, employment, HIV/AIDS, housing, immigration & naturalization and public benefits.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Pending  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Pending

## Medicare Rights Center, Inc.

1460 Broadway, 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 869-3850 Fax: (212) 869-3532  
website: [www.medicarerights.org](http://www.medicarerights.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Robert M. Hayes, President

The Medicare Rights Center provides free counseling services through its telephone hotlines to individuals with Medicare questions or problems. MRC uses volunteer attorneys to represent clients with Medicare-related problems and to enhance its advocacy efforts.

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**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## MFY Legal Services, Inc.

299 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 417-3700 Fax: (212) 417-3791  
website: www.mfy.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Lisa Fischel Wolovich, Pro Bono Coordinator,  
(212) 417-3774, lwolovich@mfy.org ; Lynn Kelly, Executive Director,  
(212) 417-3766, lkelly@mfy.org

MFY has a forty-year history of providing high quality, direct civil legal services to low-income individuals, families and community-based organizations. MFY has a professional staff of twenty attorneys. MFY is located near the courthouses in Lower Manhattan and is convenient to the subway. Volunteer lawyers work in the following areas of need: mental health, employment, housing, family and seniors. MFY has a Guardian ad Litem Program and a Senior Lawyer Volunteer Program for lawyers no longer engaged in the fulltime practice of law who would like to make a longer term commitment to volunteer their services.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area. MFY's Neighborhood Preservation Project serves the entire East Side of Manhattan and West Side from 34th Street to 110th Street. MFY's Mental Health Law Project and Workplace Justice Project serve all of New York City.

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** No; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No; we will be enrolling.

## Minority Task Force on AIDS

3280 Broadway, Suite 302  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 283-9180 Fax: (212) 283-9195  
email: mintask@aol.com  
**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Shirley Daniels, (212) 283-9180

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Minority Task Force on AIDS (MTFA) is a diverse, non-profit organization, that was established to assist persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS. MFTA employs a comprehensive, client-oriented, community-focused approach to provide education, outreach, legal advocacy, supportive housing and direct services to its clients. MTFA services low-income and/or indigent persons who are predominantly diverse people of color. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: consumer, disability, family & juvenile, health, HIV/AIDS, housing, immigration & naturalization, life planning, non-profit organizations and public benefits.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc.

151 West 30th Street, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10001-4007  
(212) 244-4664 Fax: (212) 244-4570  
website: [www.nylpi.org](http://www.nylpi.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Marnie Berk, (212) 244-4664,  
[mberk@nylpi.org](mailto:mberk@nylpi.org)

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a not-for-profit law firm founded in 1976, provides a broad range of pro bono experiences to thousands of attorneys through our Pro Bono Clearinghouse. NYLPI's Pro Bono Clearinghouse matches hundreds of community-based organizations and non-profits working on behalf of underserved neighborhoods with attorneys qualified to meet their legal needs.

Every year NYLPI's 88 member firms and corporate law departments undertake a broad range of pro bono projects that assist the poor, strengthen communities and attack systemic problems. Assistance is provided in three areas: (1) Protecting the Disadvantaged (Litigation); (2) Building Communities & Institutions (Transactional); and (3) Partnership Projects. In addition to the opportunities presented by the clearinghouse, attorneys can pursue more tailored pro bono matters by working with NYLPI's in-house staff.

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NYLPI's in-house legal team does substantive legal work in the areas of disability law, environmental justice and access to health care on behalf of low-income individuals. The Disability Rights Task Force offers peer support to volunteer lawyers working on disability rights cases.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

### New York Legal Assistance Group, Inc.

130 East 59th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 750-0800 Fax: (212) 750-0820  
website: [www.nylag.org](http://www.nylag.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Rich Gruenberger, Pro Bono Coordinator,  
[rgruenberger@nylag.org](mailto:rgruenberger@nylag.org)

NYLAG is a not-for-profit legal services organization founded in 1990 to protect the legal rights of low-income New Yorkers. Largely privately funded, NYLAG has the flexibility to help those turned away from other legal services organizations. A full service agency, NYLAG activities range from direct representation and impact litigation, to legal education for social service and medical professionals.

NYLAG welcomes volunteers in all practice areas, including: family and matrimonial law; government benefits (Social Security, Medicaid, welfare, food stamps, home care services); domestic violence; employment law issues; child advocacy; legal protection for the chronically ill; immigration assistance; bankruptcy; wills and proxies and other elder law issues. All NYLAG volunteers are assigned a supervisor to answer any questions and training is provided, if needed.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes



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## NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund

395 Hudson Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10014  
(212) 925-6635 Fax: (212) 226-1066  
website: [www.nowldef.org](http://www.nowldef.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Wendy Weiser, Staff Attorney, (212) 925-6635,  
[wweiser@nowldef.org](mailto:wweiser@nowldef.org)

The NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund is a national women's rights organization that performs a broad range of legal and educational services in support of efforts to eliminate sex-based discrimination and secure equal rights for women. Cooperating attorneys assist in litigating cases and other advocacy efforts. Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas of law: civil rights, violence against women, economic justice and employment and housing discrimination.

**Area Served:** United States  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** No; **Required:** No

## NOW-NYC

Service Fund of the National Organization for Women  
150 West 38th Street, Room 304  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 627-9895 Fax: (212) 627-9895  
website: [www.nownyc.org](http://www.nownyc.org)  
email: [mail@nownyc.org](mailto:mail@nownyc.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yvonne Rivera

The Service Fund of NOW-NYC offers referrals, support groups, and clinics for women in need. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: civil rights, employment, family & juvenile and nonprofit organizations.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area

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## Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

118 Prospect Street, Suite 307  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 273-2283 Fax: (607) 272-9122

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Betsy Sterling, Associate Director, (607) 273-2283 ext. 229, bsterling@plsny.org

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York provides civil legal services to indigent inmates in New York State correctional facilities in cases where no other counsel is available. Areas of practice include: civil rights, mental health and medical care, brutality, prison disciplinary cases, sentence computations and jail time credit. Litigation is in state and federal court.

**Area Served:** Inmates throughout New York State incarcerated in State prison.

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Project Hospitality, Inc.

### Legal Advocacy Program

100 Park Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10302  
(718) 448-1544 ext. 118 Fax: (718) 448-5129  
website: [www.projecthospitality.org](http://www.projecthospitality.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Laurie Woods, Project Attorney, (718) 448-1544 ext. 117, lawoods@projecthospitality.org

The Legal Advocacy Program of Project Hospitality, Inc. provides free legal services through legal clinics, referrals, and individual legal counsel to HIV-infected Staten Island residents. The legal issues handled include: tenant advocacy, child custody, wills and health proxies, consumer debt, permanency planning, support/visitation, domestic violence, uncontested divorce and entitlements advocacy. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: consumer, disability, family & juvenile, health, HIV/AIDS, housing, life planning and public benefits.

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**Area Served:** Staten Island  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** No; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund

99 Hudson Street  
14th Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 219-3360 Fax: (212) 431-4276  
email: PRLDEF@aol.com  
website: www.PRLDEF.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Foster Maer, Acting Legal Director, (212) 739-7507,  
Foster\_Maer@PRLDEF.org

The mission of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) is "to secure, promote and protect the civil and human rights of the Puerto Rican and wider Latino community." Three divisions, Legal, Policy and Education, carry out PRLDEF's core program areas- *Civil & Human Rights, Civil Engagement & Empowerment, Civil Society & Culture and Equitable Educational Opportunities*. PRLDEF's *Democracy Project* is including more Latinos in the effort to improve this nation's democracy. Other key programs include Project Ayuda, an emergency response program in aid of non-English speaking immigrants seeking assistance following the September 11th attack, built on PRLDEF's long-standing focus on language rights, including lack of access to government services. PRLDEF's *Immigrant Workers' Rights Project* has made advocacy for the immigrant worker community a priority. PRLDEF's *Education Rights Project* promotes equality of opportunity and the fair distribution of resources in public education for Latino students. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas of law: civil rights, education rights, environmental justice, immigrant workers' rights, nonprofit organizations and public benefits.

**Area Served:** Tri-state area; Northeast region  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training-Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

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## Safe Horizon

2 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 577-7700 Fax: (212) 577-3039  
website: [www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Julie Goldscheid, (212) 577-3802,  
[jgoldscheid@safehorizon.org](mailto:jgoldscheid@safehorizon.org)  
Domestic Violence Law Project: Megan Thomas, (212) 577-3220,  
[mthomas@safehorizon.org](mailto:mthomas@safehorizon.org)  
Immigration Law Project: Lynn Neugebauer, (718) 899-1233 ext. 126,  
[lneugebauer@safehorizon.org](mailto:lneugebauer@safehorizon.org)

Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families, and communities. Safe Horizon serves approximately 350,000 New Yorkers each year through nearly 100 programs located throughout New York City, including the City's domestic violence hotline, domestic violence shelters, community offices, and programs in schools, courts and police precincts. *Pro bono* lawyers assist the organization's corporate lawyers, who handle the organization's legal matters, and its government affairs department, which advances the organization's legislative and public policy agendas.

Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Law Project provides legal services for victims of domestic violence who cannot afford a private attorney. Practice areas include orders of protection, child custody and visitation, divorce, child and spousal support, child protective, criminal law, legislative and policy work, and community education. Mentoring is provided by staff and *pro bono* attorneys. Volunteers are required to take one case per year.

Safe Horizon's Immigration Law Project, located in Jackson Heights, counsels immigrants on obtaining legal status. The Immigration Law Project assists low-income and poor clients with services, including asylum, adjustment of status, Violence Against Women Act petitions, and family petitions.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Can be arranged

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Depends on project

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** Pending

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## Sanctuary for Families, Inc.

### Center for Battered Women's Legal Services

67 Wall Street, Suite 2211  
New York, NY 10005-3198  
(212) 349-6009 Fax: (212) 566-0344  
website: [www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org](http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Dorchen Leidholdt, Director, (212) 349-6009 ext. 252,  
[dorchen@sffny.org](mailto:dorchen@sffny.org)

The Center for Battered Women's Legal Services represents victims of domestic violence in family law (order of protection, custody/visitation, abuse/neglect, support and matrimonial) and immigration law (battered spouse waivers, self-petitions under VAWA and asylum) proceedings. The Center provides advocacy to victims in criminal cases. Volunteer lawyers work in-house with the Center's eighteen staff attorneys or over the phone with the Center's mentoring staff.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas of law: family, criminal and immigration.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area. The immigration program is state-wide.

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

## Urban Justice Center

666 Broadway  
10th Floor  
New York, NY 10012  
(646) 602-5600 Fax: (212) 533-4598  
website: [www.urbanjustice.org](http://www.urbanjustice.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:**

Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Project: Wendy Bach, [hopp@urbanjustice.org](mailto:hopp@urbanjustice.org)

Community Development Project: Ray Brescia, [cdp@urbanjustice.org](mailto:cdp@urbanjustice.org)

Mental Health Project: Bill Lienhard, [mhp@urbanjustice.org](mailto:mhp@urbanjustice.org)

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Peter Cicchino Youth Project (serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth):  
pcyp@urbanjustice.org  
Family Violence Project/CONNECT: Alisa Del Tufo, fvp@urbanjustice.org  
Sex Worker Project: Juhu Thukral, swp@urbanjustice.org  
Street Vendor Project: svp@urbanjustice.org  
Human Rights Documentation Project: Ramona Ortega, hrp@urbanjustice.org

Individuals interested in volunteering should check the website to review subject areas and projects. Contact the project director of the project in which you are interested.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

1 East 53rd Street, Sixth Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 319-2787 ext.11; Fax: (212) 752-6575  
website: [www.vlany.org](http://www.vlany.org)  
email: [info@vlany.org](mailto:info@vlany.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Aaron Hauser, (212) 319-2787 ext. 11,  
[aahauser@vlany.org](mailto:aahauser@vlany.org)

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) provides free and low-cost legal services to indigent artists and not-for-profit arts organizations. VLA has been helping artists and arts organizations with their art-related legal issues for nearly thirty years. Volunteer attorneys are provided an orientation and seminars on not-for-profit tax exemption. Volunteers are needed in the following areas of law: corporate, real estate, immigration and bankruptcy.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area. NY, NJ and CT  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

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## Volunteers of Legal Service

54 Greene Street  
New York, NY 10013-2603  
(212) 966-4400 Fax: (212) 219-8943  
email: [info@volsprobono.org](mailto:info@volsprobono.org)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Sara Effron, Assistant Director, (212) 966-4400, [seffron@volsprobono.org](mailto:seffron@volsprobono.org)  
Elderly Law Project: Oscar S. Straus, III, Director, [ostrasus@volsprobono.org](mailto:ostrasus@volsprobono.org)

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) develops programs to provide free civil legal services to poor people living in New York City, and then recruits volunteer lawyers and law firms to undertake these services. Training and mentors are provided to volunteer lawyers.

VOLS has these pro bono programs: Legal assistance to elderly poor persons; a hospital-based project to assist children and their families on legal issues which impact on health outcomes; providing legal services to poor persons with HIV/AIDS in the area of life-time planning; counseling mothers in jail or prison on legal issues relating to child custody and visitation rights; and providing business-related legal services to microentrepreneurs.

VOLS works closely with Legal Services of New York City (LSNY), arranging for law firms to loan associates to work full-time for four-month periods at LSNY neighborhood offices, and matching firms with these offices to take cases on a continuing basis.

VOLS serves as an information and referral source for lawyers interested in doing pro bono work in New York City and works with law firms to develop or expand pro bono programs.

Thirty-six law firms have taken the VOLS Pledge to provide annually at least an average of 30 hours of qualifying pro bono work per attorney. Additional law firms are invited to take the VOLS Pledge.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

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## Welfare Law Center

275 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1205  
New York, NY 10009  
(212) 633-6967 Fax: (212) 633-6371  
website: www.welfarelaw.org  
email: wlc@welfarelaw.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Marc Cohan, Director of Litigation, (212) 633-6967,  
cohan@welfarelaw.org

For 32 years, the Welfare Law Center has worked with, and on behalf of, low-income people to ensure that adequate income support -- public funding provided on the basis of need -- is available, whenever and to the extent necessary, to meet basic needs and foster healthy human and family development.

The Center believes adequate income support is a critical element in any comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty, enable and encourage personal growth, and ensure that all can live with dignity. The Center uses its special expertise in cash income support programs to promote the creation, maintenance, strengthening and fair administration of such programs and, as appropriate, to address other publicly-supported means of improving low-income people's income. Volunteer lawyers are needed in the following areas: civil rights, health and public benefits.

**Area Served:** The United States  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** Yes  
**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Workers Defense League, Inc.

275 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 627-1931 Fax: (212) 627-4628

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Jon Bloom, (212) 627-1931

The Workers Defense League (WDL) assists workers with work-related problems and conducts educational campaigns around various workers' rights issues. WDL provides free representation and phone consultations to hundreds of people who are believed to have been unfairly denied unemployment insurance benefits after losing or leaving their jobs.



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WDL is particularly interested in volunteers to advise unemployment insurance (UI) claimants about their rights and their losses, represent UI claimants at administrative hearings, research UI law; and research and write appeals or replies to appeals of UI Administrative Law Judge decisions.

*Area Served:* New York City Metropolitan Area  
*Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:* No  
*Training - Provided:* Yes; *Required:* Yes  
*CLE credit for trainings:* No  
*CLE credit for pro bono:* No

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## Pro Bono Opportunities: Court and Government Programs

### Bronx County Supreme Court, Civil Branch, 12th Judicial District

Bronx County Pro Bono Indigent Matrimonial Panel  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, NY 10451  
(718) 590-3942 Fax: (718) 590-8899

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Lily Marquez, (718) 590-3942,  
lmarquez@courts.state.ny.us

The Civil Branch of the Supreme Court, Bronx County, utilizes a panel of approximately 100 attorneys designated by the Administrative Judge of the 12th Judicial District to represent indigent litigants in both contested and uncontested matrimonial proceedings.

The criterion for selection is previous experience in representing litigants in matrimonial proceedings in Supreme Court, Bronx County. Attorneys are assigned randomly to the pending matters. The program is supervised by the Administrative Judge. Fluency in Spanish is useful, but not necessary.

Volunteer attorneys are needed for all aspects of matrimonial proceedings, including post-trial motions.

**Area Served:** Bronx

### Civil Court of the City of New York

Office of the Administrative Judge  
111 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 374-8078 Fax: (212) 374-5709  
website: [www.nycourts.gov](http://www.nycourts.gov)

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Verna L. Johnson, (212) 374-8078,  
vlpcivil@courts.state.ny.us

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Volunteer attorneys provide brief advice and information to self-represented litigants in NYC Housing Court. The attorneys provide assistance in one of the Civil Court's Resource Centers, situated throughout the five boroughs. At a minimum, volunteer attorneys are asked to provide 12 hours of *pro bono* service at a rate of two hours per month.

**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** Yes

**CLE credit for trainings:** Yes

**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Kings County District Attorney's Office

350 Jay Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 250-2000  
www.brooklynda.org

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Virginia Modest, Executive ADA, (718) 250-3480, modestv@brooklynda.org

The Kings County District Attorney's office is looking for retired attorneys to serve as Special Assistant D.A.'s on matters affecting senior citizens throughout Brooklyn.

**Area Served:** Brooklyn

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No

**Training - Provided:** Yes

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## New York County District Attorney's Office

Appeals Bureau  
One Hogan Place  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 335-3668 Fax: (212) 335-9288

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Sylvia Wertheimer, (212) 335-3668, wertheimers@dany.nyc.gov

The Appeals Bureau conducts a pro bono program that utilizes volunteer attorneys to do criminal appellate brief writing and oral argument. The entire brief writing process

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usually takes three months and an Assistant District Attorney edits the appellate brief. All first time volunteers are sworn in as a Special Assistant District Attorney. Volunteers are assigned to a liaison Assistant District Attorney who provides advice and editing. Liaisons guide the volunteer attorney through the entire appeal process and provide additional contact by telephone or email. Two face-to-face meetings will be held with the liaison.

**Area Served:** Manhattan  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes

## New York State Division of Human Rights

One Fordham Plaza, 4th Floor  
Bronx, NY 10458  
(718) 741-8398 Fax: (718) 741-8102  
website: www.NYSDHR.com

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Barbara Klar, (718) 741-8444, klarb@nysnet.net

The Legal Bureau participates in all areas of enforcement of the New York State Human Rights Law. Volunteer attorneys work in areas of legal research, writing and trial preparation. Extensive training is available to volunteers who commit to two days of service per week.

**Area Served:** New York State  
**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No  
**Training - Provided:** Yes  
**CLE credit for trainings:** No  
**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## Queens County District Attorney's Office

Appeals Bureau Pro Bono Program  
125-01 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
(718) 286-5800 Fax: (718) 286-5820

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Assistant District Attorney Ellen C. Abbot,  
(718) 286-5846

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The Appeals Bureau of the Queens County District Attorney's Office offers attorneys an opportunity to provide a valuable service to the people of Queens County and to the victims of serious crimes, while receiving in return a valuable and rewarding appellate experience. Under the Appeals Bureau's Pro Bono program, a participating attorney will be appointed a Special Assistant District Attorney and be assigned to work on a criminal appeal from a serious felony conviction. The volunteer attorney will be responsible for reviewing the trial transcript, researching the legal issues raised on appeal, writing the respondent's brief on behalf of the People, and arguing the appeal in the Appellate Division, Second Department. A senior Appeals Bureau assistant will provide the attorney with sample briefs and a style guide, answer any questions that the attorney may have while writing the brief, edit the brief, and prepare the attorney for oral argument by conducting a moot court before a panel of Appeals Bureau assistants. The program tries to the greatest extent possible to ensure that every participating attorney does, in fact, have an oral argument in the Appellate Division.

Prior criminal or appellate experience is useful, but not necessary.

**Area Served:** Queens

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No

**Training - Provided:** Yes; **Required:** No

**CLE credit for trainings:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** No

## United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York Pro Bono Panel

225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 260-4552

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Ana Rodriguez, (718) 260-4552,  
ana\_rodriguez@nyed.uscourts.gov

The Court has the authority under 29 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) to request an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel in a civil matter. The Court recruits volunteers for its cases by sending its panel attorneys a monthly e-mail list of the available pro bono case opportunities. These cases, generally commenced pro se, are screened and selected for pro bono counsel by the assigned judge. Cases are generally in the following substantive areas: civil rights, employment discrimination, social security, cases against the United States or cases brought under the Court's diversity jurisdiction. Pro bono counsel may apply to the Court for reimbursement of costs.

**Area Served:** Kings, Queens, Richmond, Nassau and Suffolk counties

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United States District Court for the Southern District of  
New York Pro Bono Panel

500 Pearl Street, Office 230  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 805-0175

**Contact for Volunteer Lawyers:** Natalie Sobchak, Senior Staff Attorney, (212) 805-0175

The Southern District's Pro Bono Panel provides representation to formerly pro se litigants pursuing civil actions before the Court. Upon application to the Court, a judge may grant a litigant's request for pro bono counsel. Once an application for the appointment of counsel is granted, the Court solicits volunteers from the Pro Bono Panel to represent the particular litigant.

Volunteer attorneys are needed in the following areas of law: civil rights, employment discrimination, social security and other federal litigation. The Court's Employment Discrimination Pro Bono Mediation Panel provides limited representation to pro se litigants pursuing employment discrimination actions before the Court. If both parties consent to mediation, and with the Court's approval, a member of the panel will be assigned to represent the litigant solely for the purpose of the mediation. If the mediation is unsuccessful, the attorney is discharged and the litigant proceeds with the case pro se. Volunteer attorneys are needed with experience in employment law and mediation.

**Area Served:** All counties within SDNY

**Malpractice Insurance for Volunteer Lawyers:** No

**CLE credit for pro bono:** Yes

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Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc.  
42 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036-6689  
Phone: (212) 382-6629  
Fax: (212) 354-7439  
[www.abcny.org](http://www.abcny.org)

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