



FEBRUARY 2018



From the Executive Director

Welcome to the second issue of *Pro Bono Pulse*, where we bring you the latest insights into the world of pro bono and share how your support and commitment make a difference for those in need. On January 16 we celebrated our birthday—28 years of providing advocacy, training, and support for the volunteer lawyers and pro bono programs who form the backbone of pro bono services in Maryland.

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Attorney General Brian Frosh
to Keynote 20th Annual Maryland Partners
for Justice Conference

REGISTER NOW

Thursday, April 26, 2018
Baltimore Convention Center
1 W. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Interested in sponsoring the conference?
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20 YEARS

The Maryland Partners for Justice Conference presents a unique opportunity for legal services program staff, the public and private bar, members of the judiciary, human services agencies, elected officials and others to discuss critical issues facing the poor and underrepresented in our state.

This year marks the 20th annual Maryland Partners for Justice Conference!

[See the Timeline](#)

BOARD PULSE



In 2010, Joe Dyer was reading *the MSBA Bar Bulletin* when he came across an advertisement seeking board members for the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland. To some, he may have seemed an unlikely candidate, having mostly practiced in the fields of government contracts, export controls, and international law. Dyer is, however, a lawyer dedicated to equal justice.

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IN THE NEWS

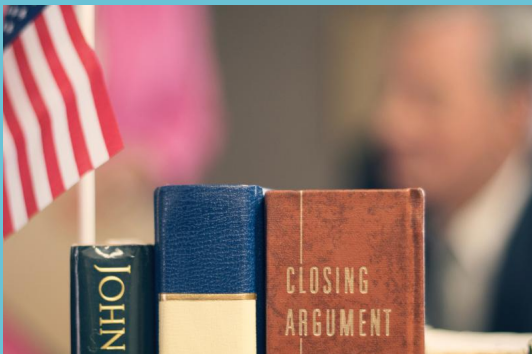


[Maryland ACLU fights for Debt reform](#)

[Volunteer to Help Consumers](#)

[Baltimore court expands tenant aid in housing cases](#)

[Volunteer to Help Tenants](#)



[Here's What To Expect On Immigration In 2018](#)

[Volunteer to Help Immigrants](#)



[Mayor Catherine Pugh orders halt to tax sales for Baltimore homeowners with unpaid water bills](#)

[Volunteer to Help Homeowners](#)



[Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's mandatory arbitration rule overturned](#)

[Read an Editorial](#)

[Volunteer to Help Consumers](#)



[Major change in how people apply for public defender](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Tax Sale Prevention in Baltimore City - Video Replay

Thursday, March 15, 2018 | 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, 201 N. Charles St. Suite 1400, Baltimore MD 21201

[Register Now](#) | [View Flyer](#)

20th Annual Partners for Justice Conference

Thursday, April 26, 2018 | 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

The Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201

[Register Now](#) | [View Flyer](#)

10th Annual Veterans' Legal Assistance Conference & Training

Friday, June 1, 2018 | 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Baltimore

Email [Kiah Pierre](#) to receive updates.

4th Annual Run for Justice 5k

Saturday, June 9, 2018 | 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Meadowood Regional Park, 10650 Falls Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093

Email [Linzey Powers](#) to receive updates.

THANK YOU



Children seeking a safe haven. Seniors facing homelessness. Families overwhelmed by mounting bills. Our volunteers provide a friendly face and sound advice, improving the lives of so many!

Thank you to the following 2017 PBRC volunteers for giving your time and talent to help those in need.

[See the List](#)

STATE OF PRO BONO



PBRC was cited in a recent [press release](#) issued by the Administrative Office of the Courts which reveals that Maryland lawyers donated over 1.15 million hours of pro bono legal services to people of limited means and organizations serving those vulnerable populations.

According to the Current Status of Pro Bono Service Among Maryland Lawyers, 2016, the majority of full-time lawyers donated somewhere between 10 – 50+ hours (19.2% reporting 10-49 hours; and 19.2% reporting more than 50 hours). Overall, among full-time lawyers practicing in Maryland, 53% reported engaging in some type of pro bono activity. Those in solo or small firm practice provide the majority of the free and reduced

fee assistance, and the rate of participation tends to be the highest in more rural communities, such as in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, continuing the trend of years past. **For Key Findings from the report, [click here](#).**

What was new to the report, were questions about why lawyers choose to work directly with low-income clients (as opposed to with an organized program) and why they choose **not** to engage in pro bono. The results and other motivational factors regarding pro bono work were confirmed to some degree in the ABA's own recent survey of pro bono of Maryland practitioners. (see more below)

[Read More](#)



You can ensure fairness for all in the justice system. Legal services, like those provided by the Pro Bono Resource Center and our partners, help people protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families.

Join the heart of pro bono.

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