

# Maryland Legal Services Pro Bono Programs



410-837-9379

[www.ProBonoMD.org](http://www.ProBonoMD.org)

800-396-1274

***The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc. (PBRC) is the statewide clearinghouse and coordinator of pro bono legal services. PBRC's mission is to inspire volunteerism and enable the Maryland legal community to meaningfully serve those in need.***

As a separate non-profit organization which supports the Maryland State Bar Association, the Center works closely with legal services providers and local bar pro bono projects throughout the state to help recruit pro bono attorneys. Volunteers are referred to pro bono providers according to the providers' needs and attorneys' interest and expertise. The Center also provides support services to volunteers and programs in the way of free or discounted training, technical assistance, and recognition for pro bono contributions.

We have compiled a list of pro bono programs offering a wide range of opportunities for attorneys interested in providing free civil legal services to the disadvantaged. In addition to direct client representation, several programs offer pro bono opportunities through advice clinics, mediation, hotlines, mentoring, and training services. Most programs provide malpractice insurance.

The support services offered by the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland include:

- ♦ Training on a wide variety of topics, offered live, on video, or through webcasts
- ♦ Mentorship
- ♦ Technical Assistance
- ♦ Malpractice Insurance
- ♦ A Litigation Fund
- ♦ An E-bulletin which details volunteer, employment and training opportunities as well as special events occurring in the legal services community

***For more specific information on these pro bono programs and support services, or to volunteer, please contact the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc. at:***

**410-837-9379 or 800-396-1274**

**[pbrc@probonomd.org](mailto:pbrc@probonomd.org)**

**[www.ProBonoMD.org](http://www.ProBonoMD.org)**



***Celebrating Almost 30 Years of Engaging Lawyers for the Public Good.***

## GENERAL STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

### **Legal Aid Bureau** – [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org), 410-951-7777

Legal Aid bureau works closely with Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and other local bar affiliated projects by referring low-income clients to the programs, as well as making direct referrals to attorneys. Provides opportunities for volunteers to assist with training, special projects and Pro Bono Days. Pro Bono Attorneys can join MDJustice at [www.mdjustice.org](http://www.mdjustice.org). Also, provides self help materials to partner website [www.peoples-law.org](http://www.peoples-law.org).

### **Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service** – [www.mvlslaw.org](http://www.mvlslaw.org), 800-510-0050

Utilizing a volunteer panel of over 3,000 attorneys, MVLS places low and moderate income clients facing civil legal issues with lawyers who can help them on a pro bono basis. MVLS can assist individuals in all jurisdictions of the state **EXCEPT Allegany County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Queen Anne's County, Dorchester County, Caroline County, Talbot County, and Kent County**. MVLS also operates a pro se clinic in Washington County and a legal assistance clinic at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore City.

## SPECIALIZED STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

### **CASA de Maryland Legal Services** – [www.wearecasa.org](http://www.wearecasa.org), 410-732-2694

CASA de Maryland provides brief advice and referrals on any type of legal problem impacting low-income immigrants; negotiations and direct representation with landlords and small business owners and retailers on consumer/credit issues and with employers on unpaid wages and other employment issues; assistance to non-English speakers in the preparation of applications or responses to court or government correspondence, and provides advice on how to navigate these situations; assistance to family members in locating their relatives who have been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and assistance filing police complaints and securing legal representation regarding civil rights violations.

### **Community Law Center** – [www.communitylaw.org](http://www.communitylaw.org), 410-366-0922

Community Law Center provides legal services to community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to promote stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods. The Pro Bono Program matches volunteer lawyers with community associations and nonprofit organizations addressing a wide range of legal issues, including: formation, revival, and maintenance of nonprofit organizations (drafting bylaws, filing articles of incorporation, and submitting tax exemption applications); real estate leases; transfer of real property; zoning decision appeals; contracts (drafting and negotiation); employment issues; copyright and trademark issues; drug nuisance abatement; and liquor license protest.

### **Civil Justice, Inc.** – [www.civiljusticenetwork.org](http://www.civiljusticenetwork.org), 410-706-0174

Civil Justice, Inc. is a statewide network of solo, small firm, and community-based attorney volunteers that provide direct representation to clients of low and moderate income in foreclosure, predatory lending, family law, bankruptcy, consumer, tort defense, wills, guardianship, landlord-tenant, real estate, intellectual property, criminal, administrative law, immigration, special education, small business set-up, environmental, disability rights, employment, personal injury. (Reduced fee, not pro bono.)

**Civil Justice Low Bono Foreclosure Mediation Representation Program** assists homeowners with retaining an attorney to represent them at their foreclosure mediation for a flat fee.

**Civil Justice Sustainable Homeownership Project** offers document review on a sliding scale prior to a real estate settlement transaction in an effort to help protect against fraud and predatory lending.

**Civil Justice Creditor Abuse Prevention Project (CAPP)** is designed to help Baltimore residents filing pro se bankruptcies that are often thwarted by predatory practices by some creditors. This program is primarily aimed at assisting debtors in Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

## SPECIALIZED STATEWIDE PROGRAMS, Cont'd

### **Homeless Persons Representation Project – [www.hprplaw.org](http://www.hprplaw.org), 410-685-6589**

HPRP offers legal services through outreach in shelters, soup kitchens, welfare offices, community centers and on the street. In-house direct representation projects include public benefits and housing. HPRP also has a strong legislative advocacy program and participates in impact litigation where appropriate. Finally, HPRP has an extensive pro bono program for volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students and operates four community-based intake centers around the state.

### **House of Ruth Maryland: Marjorie Cook Domestic Violence Legal Clinic – [www.hruth.org/get-help/legal-help](http://www.hruth.org/get-help/legal-help), 888-880-7884**

This clinic provides counseling and direct representation to domestic violence victims in civil protection order proceedings, civil peace order proceedings, divorce, and child custody cases. Also provides expansive non-legal services, such as a 24-hour hotline, shelter, counseling and therapy, children and youth services, community outreach and training, legislative advocacy, and abuser intervention.

### **Disability Rights Maryland – [www.DisabilityRightsMD.org](http://www.DisabilityRightsMD.org), 410-727-6352**

MDLC provides legal advocacy services to people with all types of disabilities statewide. Volunteer attorneys provide representation in special education cases including school disciplinary proceedings and in Medicaid appeals.

### **Public Justice Center – [www.publicjustice.org](http://www.publicjustice.org) - 410-625-9409**

Public Justice Center engages in systemic litigation and legislative work to correct abuses and ensure protection of the unrepresented, including tenants, workers, immigrants, prisoners, homeless children, and families needing medical assistance. Also currently advocates for creating a right to counsel in civil cases.

### **Women's Law Center – [www.wlcmd.org](http://www.wlcmd.org), 410-321-8761**

Staff and experienced volunteer attorneys staff the Family Law Hotline and the Employment Law Hotline to provide free advice and counsel to weekly callers at WLC. They also match low-income clients with reduced-fee experienced attorneys who provide direct representation in contested family law cases through the Judicare Project. Judicare attorneys must have 2-3 years of family law experience; volunteer attorneys staffing the hotlines must have 3-4 years of family or employment law experience.

## **OTHER SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS**

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland – [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org), 410-889-8555**

This group focuses on civil rights and civil liberties of Maryland residents.

### **Assoc. Catholic Charities of Baltimore – Immigration Legal Services – Esperanza Center – [www.cc-md.org](http://www.cc-md.org), 443-825-3433**

This program provides counseling and legal representation for low-income persons with immigration-related problems (i.e., deportation, naturalization, green cards, and visas).

### **Bar Association of Baltimore City Senior Legal Services – [www.baltimoreseiorlegalservices.org](http://www.baltimoreseiorlegalservices.org), 410-396-1322**

Program staff and volunteer attorneys at Senior Legal Services provide advice and consultation, direct representation and education/outreach services for clients 60 years old or older and living in Baltimore City. Volunteers speak to senior groups about legal topics affecting the elderly. Program staff and volunteers handle pro bono, non-fee generating civil cases involving public benefits and pensions as well as consumer, health care, housing, guardianship, and credit-related problems.

### **Chesapeake Legal Alliance – [www.chesapeakelegal.org](http://www.chesapeakelegal.org), 410-216-9441**

Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) is dedicated to using the law to restore and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. CLA coordinates a network of attorneys to provide pro bono legal assistance to environmental organizations, citizen groups, and individuals on a wide range of issues that impact water, land, fish and wildlife and human health. CLA volunteer attorneys assist with litigation, administrative hearings, legal research, strategic planning, legislative advocacy campaigns, and corporate matters.

## OTHER SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, Cont'd

### **Free State Justice** – [www.freestate-justice.org](http://www.freestate-justice.org), 410-625-5428

Free State has a pro bono and reduced-fee panel dedicated to serving low-income lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in Maryland with issues related to their sexual orientation. Cases include name changes, gender identification petitions, small estate planning, employment, housing and school discrimination, and same-sex divorce cases.

### **Jewish Legal Services Clinic** – [www.jcsbaltimore.org](http://www.jcsbaltimore.org), 410-466-9200

JLS provides free brief legal consultation and advice on any non-fee generating legal matter through an evening walk-in clinic. May refer clients to attorneys for further representation. Russian translators available.

### **Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)** – [www.supportkind.org](http://www.supportkind.org), 443-990-1645

KIND provides compassionate legal counsel to children who come to the United States without a parent or guardian. Without volunteer attorneys, these children might face immigration proceedings alone. KIND offers training and ongoing mentorship to all volunteer attorneys.

### **Life Crisis Center** – [www.lifecrisiscenter.org](http://www.lifecrisiscenter.org), 410-749-4357

The Life Crisis Center provides legal assistance, advocacy and representation to victims of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault to residents of Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties. Free representation is provided for peace and protective order hearings and for victims' rights in related criminal hearings. Advocates are available to accompany victims to hospitals, courts, and commissioners' offices 24 hours a day.

### **Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center** – [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org), 301-952-0063

MCVRC assists victims of crime with information, advice, direct representation, and legal referrals. Victim compensation and impact issues are also available.

### **Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence** – [www.msfcv.org](http://www.msfcv.org), 410-690-3222

This council provides assistance to victims of domestic violence, primarily with ex parte protective orders/peace orders. They refer clients to receive legal representation through a panel of reduced fee attorneys.

### **Tahirih Justice Center** – [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org), 410-999-1900

Tahirih Justice Center provides direct representation, advocacy, and public education programs in an effort to protect immigrant women and girls seeking justice in the United States from gender-based violence.

### **Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program** – [www.vetsprobono.net](http://www.vetsprobono.net), 888-838-7727

Volunteer attorneys provide direct representation to veterans/VA claimants or family members before the Court of Veterans Appeals on benefit issues.

### **Whitman-Walker Health Legal Services** – [www.wwc.org](http://www.wwc.org), 202-939-7627

Staff and volunteer attorneys provide legal advice and/or direct representation to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families living in the Washington, DC metro area at this legal services provider. Legal advice and representation is also offered, regardless of HIV status, to Whitman-Walker patients and the LGBT community. Legal issues handled include discrimination and workplace rights; insurance; Social Security disability, Medicaid, Medicare and other public benefits; immigration; estate planning; medical privacy; and identity documents for transgender individuals.

### **YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Legal Services** – [www.annapolisywca.org](http://www.annapolisywca.org), 410-626-7800

This organization provides counseling and direct representation to victims of domestic violence on a fee-scale basis, including pro bono services for those unable to provide payment. Services focus on obtaining peace and protective orders. Also administers the Private Bar Custody Project, which matches low-income families seeking representation for contested custody cases, including claims for custody arising from a divorce, with private attorneys for a reduced fee. Other non-legal support services to domestic violence victims include a 24-hour hotline, shelter, counseling, an abuser intervention program, support and educational programs, and support groups.

## **LOCAL PROJECTS**

*The following counties operate local bar-affiliated projects or a specialized pro bono program for that county. Most of the projects handle numerous civil legal issues including divorce, bankruptcy, wills, tort defense, debt collection, landlord/tenant, taxes, guardianships, and income maintenance. A number of programs utilize volunteers for pro se assistance and/or staff community clinics that target underrepresented populations.*

### **Allegany Law Foundation – [www.alleganylaw.com](http://www.alleganylaw.com), 301-722-3390**

Volunteer attorneys provide legal services to low-income clients and the elderly in Allegany County. Opportunities include senior outreach, hotline assistance and screening, short legal advice through the weekly Self-Help Family Law Clinic, and litigation of civil matters. Issues for direct representation include family law, housing issues, consumer problems, bankruptcy, and debt collection. Issues for elderly clients include advance directives, deeds, powers of attorney, income maintenance problems, and debt collection. Also administers a Judicare Project that matches low-income clients with reduced fee attorneys in contested family law cases.

### **Community Legal Services of Prince George's County – [www.clspgc.org](http://www.clspgc.org), 240-391-6532**

Provides legal education, advice, and free or reduced fee legal representation to low-income persons in Prince George's County. Volunteer attorneys provide direct representation in matters involving family law, domestic violence, foreclosure prevention, wills, guardianship of adults or children, landlord/tenant, unpaid wages, and other non-fee generating legal matters. Volunteer attorneys also provide brief legal advice to unrepresented litigants through the CLS Law Clinics for the Self Represented. Service is provided in English and/or Spanish.

### **Harford County Bar Foundation Lawyer Referral Service – [www.harcohar.org/Harford-County-Bar-Foundation](http://www.harcohar.org/Harford-County-Bar-Foundation), 410-836-0123**

Volunteer attorneys provide pro bono and reduced fee legal services to low-income clients in Harford County. Issues for direct representation include domestic relations, domestic violence, child support, criminal defense, housing (including landlord/tenant), bankruptcy, and unemployment benefits. HCBF promotes community education by holding Child Support Modification classes for Harford County residents, and also provides an attorney to teach a Pro Se Bankruptcy Class in conjunction with the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau.

### **Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. – [www.midshoreprobono.org](http://www.midshoreprobono.org), 410-690-8128**

Volunteer attorneys provide pro bono and reduced fee civil legal services to low-income clients in Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, and Dorchester counties in family law and general civil legal matters, including consumer debt, bankruptcy, will/estate probate, torts, foreclosure, etc. Volunteer programs include a Bankruptcy Clinic, weekly Civil Legal Services Clinic, Foreclosure Assistance, and Lawyer Referral Program.

### **Montgomery County Maryland Bar Foundation Pro Bono Program – [www.montbar.org](http://www.montbar.org), 301-279-910**

Volunteer attorneys provide free legal advice and/or representation in civil matters to low-income Montgomery County residents. Issues for direct representation include absolute divorce, separation agreements, custody, simple name changes, adoption/guardianship, private landlord/tenant matters, bankruptcy (simple chapter 7), limited debt collection defense, limited immigration, limited employment, wills, and powers of attorney. The Pro Bono Program does not handle emergency cases, post decree/order of enforcement, or modification proceedings of any kind. The Pro Bono Program also operates legal advice walk-in clinics at four locations in Montgomery County.

### **Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy – [www.smcfanet.net](http://www.smcfanet.net), 301-373-4141**

Provides advocacy, legal assistance, and information/referral to victims of domestic violence in the Southern Maryland region. Staff attorneys provide victims of domestic abuse with legal advice and representation at Protective Order hearings and other proceedings related to family law and family violence. Volunteer attorneys provide consultation and representation in separation, divorce, custody and related matters to clients who do not qualify for free services but meet moderate income requirements.

## ATTORNEY VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Please return your completed form to:

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc.

520 W. Fayette St., Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21201-1756

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Admitted to MD Bar: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact:    No preference    Work phone    Home phone    Mobile phone    Email

Current area(s) of practice/years in practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous area(s) of practice/years in practice area: \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) other than English spoken: \_\_\_\_\_  fluent  basic   \_\_\_\_\_  fluent  basic

### How did you learn about the Pro Bono Resource Center?

- PBRC website    public interest organization    MSBA    Local/Specialty Bar    newspaper    law firm  
 training    social media    colleague    other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

### I am interested in providing pro bono legal services in the following area(s):

- |                                      |                                       |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> bankruptcy     | <input type="radio"/> divorce         | <input type="radio"/> landlord-tenant    |
| <input type="radio"/> child custody  | <input type="radio"/> elder law       | <input type="radio"/> real estate        |
| <input type="radio"/> civil rights   | <input type="radio"/> estate planning | <input type="radio"/> special education  |
| <input type="radio"/> consumer       | <input type="radio"/> foreclosure     | <input type="radio"/> tax                |
| <input type="radio"/> disability     | <input type="radio"/> guardianship    | <input type="radio"/> veterans' benefits |
| <input type="radio"/> discrimination | <input type="radio"/> immigration     | <input type="radio"/> other: _____       |

### I would like to receive training in the following area(s) in order to provide pro bono legal services:

\_\_\_\_\_

### I prefer to provide pro bono legal services in the following way(s):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> direct representation                       | <input type="radio"/> train pro bono attorneys          |
| <input type="radio"/> give brief legal advice in a clinic setting | <input type="radio"/> conduct public education seminars |
| <input type="radio"/> teach a <i>pro se</i> client clinic         | <input type="radio"/> facilitate family mediation       |
| <input type="radio"/> provide brief legal advice on a hotline     | <input type="radio"/> research/writing                  |
| <input type="radio"/> be a mentor to pro bono attorneys           | <input type="radio"/> other: _____                      |

### I prefer to accept a pro bono case / provide pro bono legal services in the following Maryland county or counties:

\_\_\_\_\_

### I prefer to accept a pro bono case from / conduct my pro bono legal services through the following Maryland pro bono referral program(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive PBRC's E-Bulletin, a bi-weekly e-mail providing information about pro bono service opportunities and training programs for volunteer lawyers.



## Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc.

### Free & Discounted Trainings for Pro Bono Attorneys

In an effort to expand the provision of quality legal assistance to those in need, the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) coordinates training programs specifically geared toward pro bono attorneys, sponsoring its own classes and co-sponsoring courses with other providers. Training programs are offered at **no cost** or a **reduced fee** in exchange for a **pro bono commitment** in the topical area. Once an attorney takes a free or discounted training course, PBRC refers the attorney to a pro bono project or a pro bono legal referral program for fulfillment of the pro bono commitment.

Training covers a broad range of topics, including:

- ♦ Family Law
- ♦ Foreclosure Prevention
- ♦ Tax Sale Prevention
- ♦ Consumer Bankruptcy
- ♦ Immigration
- ♦ Collaborative Law
- ♦ Special Education
- ♦ Veterans' Assistance
- ♦ Criminal Record Expungement
- ♦ Consumer Protection
- ♦ Nonprofit Law
- ♦ Medicaid
- ♦ Elder Law
- ♦ LGBT Law

In addition to live training sessions, PBRC also offers **webcast trainings** that can be viewed on-line at a time and place convenient for attorneys. Thus, attorneys who are interested in a particular training course but are unable to attend in person can still receive the training and provide pro bono services to those in need.

Additionally, Pro Bono Resource Center and the Maryland State Bar Association offer **free and discounted slots** for a selection of **MSBA CLE courses**. Volunteer attorneys are eligible for one of three free slots in exchange for a pro bono commitment, and staff legal services attorneys may register for one of three discounted slots (50% off the regular course cost). For a listing of eligible courses, visit [www.probonomd.org/training](http://www.probonomd.org/training).

For available **LIVE** and **ON-LINE** training courses,  
to **REGISTER**, and for **MORE INFORMATION**, please visit:

[www.ProBonoMD.org/training](http://www.ProBonoMD.org/training)

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