

Pro Bono Opportunities for Hillsborough County Attorneys

Donate your time and legal expertise to help low-income residents of Hillsborough County by participating in a pro bono project. There are numerous opportunities to fit your desired level of service and schedule. Take the first step today by deciding how YOU want to help. Contact the program below and we'll get you started!

GENERAL/CIVIL

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES VLP* CASE REFERRAL: Accept civil case referrals in those areas of the law that you have designated. Low-income clients are screened for eligibility and cases are reviewed for legal merit prior to referral. Projects include but aren't limited to **Basic Family Law, Guardian Advocacy, Clearing Title, Probate, Bankruptcy, and Consumer Issues.** <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES VLP* CLIENT INTAKE: Interview and advise legal aid applicants via Zoom two sessions a month from 12 – 1 p.m. No experience is necessary. New volunteers may shadow experienced attorneys. Training provided. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES VLP* MENTOR PANEL: Become a mentor. We need your expertise! Attorneys with specialized expertise assist less experienced volunteer attorneys handling pro bono cases or mentor BALS staff attorneys. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

FEDERAL LITIGATION PROJECT: Provide limited one-time consultations to pro se litigants in civil matters filed in federal courts in the Middle District of Florida. Organized by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. To volunteer, visit <https://federalbartampa.org/resources/pro-bono-information/#pro-bono-hours>.

THE FLORIDA RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION-

The FRRRC offers a program for returning citizens who have served felony sentences and would have their right to vote automatically restored under Amendment 4 but for their inability to pay fines and fees associated with their felony sentence. The pro bono program is well-structured and makes for a user-friendly experience while offering volunteer lawyers a chance to make an enormous difference in the lives of those they're able to assist. Volunteer at <https://floridarrc.com/volunteer/>.

BANKRUPTCY /TAXES

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES LOW INCOME TAXPAYER PANEL: Assist eligible clients with their income tax issues. Matters include victims of ID theft and innocent spouse relief. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

BANKRUPTCY COURT LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Assist low-income litigants in certain adversary proceedings. The program is organized by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/legal_assistance.

PROJECT H.E.L.P. (Homeless Experience Legal Protection): Volunteers provide advice and counsel to homeless individuals at Metropolitan Ministries' Outreach Center. Training is provided. Contact: Ella Shenhav at eshenhav@shutts.com or (813) 273-5000.

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES VLP* COMMUNITY COUNSEL: Provide transactional legal assistance to community groups and nonprofits that serve indigent residents or distressed neighborhoods. The project is an ideal opportunity for transactional attorneys, in-house counsel, and attorneys representing management. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT: This unique disaster recovery project serves those who are survivors of all natural disasters. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer/disaster>

TAMPA BAY BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION'S PRO BONO CLINIC: Provide limited advice/information and assistance with the preparation of court documents for pro se bankruptcy litigants. Contact: tbbaprobonoclinic@gmail.com.

*Bay Area Legal Services Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP), please visit [bals.org/volunteer](https://www.bals.org/volunteer).

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CROSSROADS FOR FLORIDA KIDS, INC.

A nonprofit that trains and mentors pro bono attorneys to represent children in dependency proceedings, including the "Crossovers" charged with delinquencies. The organization also oversees the Juvenile Delinquency Attorney Ad Litem Program. Professional liability insurance is provided. Please join us in helping children in our community. Contact Scott Tolliver at scott@crossroadsfloridakids.org or call 772-473-0800.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

Volunteer to become an appointed guardian to a young child in need. Training is provided. For volunteer opportunities, visit <https://guardianadlitem.org/pro-bono/>.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES VLP* DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE PROJECT (DVAP):

Assist victims of domestic violence complete the forms for an injunction for protection. VLP* staff is on hand to answer any questions. Volunteers would provide assistance at the George Edgecomb Courthouse. Training provided. No family law experience needed. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

FAMILY LAW

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES VLP FAMILY FORMS CLINIC:

Help pro se litigants complete family law forms. The Clinic is located at the George Edgecomb Courthouse. VLP* staff is on hand to answer any questions. New volunteers may shadow experienced attorneys. Training provided. No family law experience needed. <https://www.bals.org/volunteer>

TEEN COURT

Serve as a judge or mentor to help first time juvenile offenders in Teen Court, a court sponsored diversionary program. Volunteers must be admitted to The Florida Bar. The project is organized by the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Contact: Anthony Lopez at 813-272-5953 or anthony.lopez@fjud13.org.

ST. MICHAEL'S LEGAL CENTER: The Center offers free legal services primarily to low-income women and children. The Center does not discriminate as to gender, race, creed or any church or non-church membership. Volunteers assist in family law matters, including child support collection and domestic battery cases, foreclosure defense, bankruptcy and immigration matters. Contact: J. Michael Shea at mike@jmichaelshea.com.

WILLS & ESTATES/ ELDERLY/ VETERANS

AGING SOLUTIONS, OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC

GUARDIAN (OPG): Volunteers assist in providing legal services to guardians for indigent wards. Services may include preparation of annual accountings, scheduling and attending case management conferences. Contact: Lona DiCerb at lonadicerb@aging-solutions.org or Tamara Cribben at (813) 949-1888 or Toll Free at (866) 922-4464.

MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Provide legal assistance to military personnel and veterans. For more information, contact Amanda Allen at aallen@bals.org.

WILLS FOR HEROES: Provide essential legal documents free of charge to first responders in Hillsborough County. The project uses volunteer attorneys and paralegals to provide wills, living wills, and powers of attorney during scheduled events. Training is provided. Contact: Katie Everlove-Stone at Katie@everlovelegal.com.

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