

MSBA Pro Bono Opportunities

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

Legal Food Hub is a Project of Conservation Law Foundation that matches farmers and food entrepreneurs with pro bono attorneys (www.legalfoodhub.org)

Legal specialty sought: **Real estate, land use, entity formation, IP and trademark, tax, labor and employment, estates and succession planning, contracts, regulatory**

Necessary legal experience: Experience in at least one of the specialties above is preferred, but experience with agricultural or food clients is not required

Type of cases/work available: Drafting leases; drafting purchase and sale agreements; drafting conservation easements; drafting estate and/or succession plans; advising on tax matters; drafting personnel policies; advising on state and federal wage and overtime laws and/or laws concerning seasonal workers, interns, apprentices and volunteers; wage drafting waivers of liability for farms offering public access; advising on entity formation; drafting partnership agreements, cooperative agreements, articles of incorporation, by-laws, etc.; applications for trademark protection of business names, recipes, etc.; defending claims of trademark violation; advising on food safety laws

Training or Mentor Available: NO

Duration of pro bono assignment or commitment required: Duration of matters varies; typically between 1/12 weeks

FMI, contact: Phelps Turner, Staff Attorney, Phone: 207-210-6439, Email: pturner@clf.org

IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT ('ILAP')

Volunteer attorneys to represent asylum seekers in administrative interviews and immigration court.

Type of cases/work available: Legal representation of immigrants seeking asylum. Involves filling out asylum applications, writing declarations, gathering evidence, and preparing applicants to testify.

Necessary legal experience: Experience in immigration law or public interest law helpful but not necessary. Background working with immigrants in non-legal context also helpful

Training or mentor available? **Yes**

Extensive training on representing asylum seekers is offered. Interested attorneys attend a free CLE which teaches the basics of asylum law and how to put together a successful asylum application. The ILAP Asylum Program Team is available to review attorneys' submissions, answer any questions about asylum law or case strategy, provide assistance on locating resources for clients, and provide expertise on preparing applicants for interviews.

Duration of pro bono assignment or commitment required: The duration of a case varies greatly. Cases can be completed in as little as a few months to several years.

ILAP FMI: Jennifer Bailey, Asylum Program Director (207)699-4408 **Email:** jbailey@ilapmaine.org

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

LSE Referral panel: pro bono and reduced fee

Type of cases/work available: LSE's referral panel members agree to take pro bono and reduced fee referrals in legal areas that are not handled by LSE. Cases are reviewed before referral and LSE staff screen clients for financial need. LSE staff make the first contact with the referral attorney

Legal specialty sought: In legal areas that are not handled by LSE, including Real Estate, Probate & Estate Planning, Family, Employment, Consumer Finance

Necessary legal experience: In the legal area of the referral.

Training or mentor available? NO

Duration of pro bono assignment or commitment required: unknown

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, FMI: Jill Randall, Phone: 207-620-3114, Email: jrandall@mainelse.org

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

1. Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

Types of Cases/Work Available: Pine Tree is host to the state's only Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. We assist low income taxpayers throughout Maine with tax disputes including tax liens, innocent spouse claims, offers in compromise & more.

Necessary Legal Experience: **Tax**

Training or Mentor Available: **Yes.**

Duration of Pro Bono Assignment or Commitment required: Duration varies; estimate - between 15/30 hours

2. Veterans Wills Clinic

Types of Cases/Work Available: Drafting simple wills at one of three clinics for low income veterans. Clinics will be held this spring in Augusta, Bangor and Portland.

Necessary Legal Experience: **Experience in working with wills and estates is helpful, but not necessary.**

Training or Mentor Available: **Yes.** We will host a free CLE and provide all necessary documents/materials.

Duration of Pro Bono Assignment or Commitment required: 3 hour CLE + 3 hour clinic

PINE TREE LEGAL FMI: Leana E. Amaez, Director of Pro Bono Services, Phone: (207) 400-3221 , Email: lamaez@ptla.org

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

1. Family Law Courthouse Assistance Projects (CHAP) Limited Rep Walk-in Clinics

Types of Work Available: Volunteer attorneys provide clients with 30 minute consultations only on family matters, specifically divorce and parental rights issues.

Locations: Augusta, Bangor, Biddeford, Ellsworth, Lewiston, Portland, and West Bath Courthouses. Clinics are either weekly, bi-weekly or monthly depending on location. For scheduled days and times: <http://vlp.org/access-justice-today>

Necessary Legal Experience: **Experience in family law.**

Training or Mentor Available: **Yes.** VLP also hosts free CLEs for volunteer attorneys

Duration of Pro Bono Assignment or Commitment required: Clinics are 2-3 hours in length. Commitments are tailored to the attorney and include monthly, quarterly, twice yearly and "when available" assignments.

2. Domestic Violence Panels

Types of Work Available: Volunteer attorneys provide limited representation to unrepresented parties of PFA and PFH orders. Panels are held weekly at Lewiston and Portland District Courts on Fridays, 9am to Noon.

Necessary Legal Experience: **PFA knowledge helpful, but will train through shadowing and mentorship**

Training or Mentor Available: **Yes, both.** VLP also hosts free CLEs for volunteer attorneys

Duration of Pro Bono Assignment or Commitment required: Panels are 2-4 hours in length. Commitments are tailored to the attorney and can include weekly, monthly, quarterly, twice yearly and "when available" assignments.

3. Small Claims Clinic beginning Spring 2019

Types of Work Available: Monthly clinic. Volunteer attorneys will conduct 30 minute consultations with low income clients to help clients understand the legal claim and either how to articulate it in the Small Claims complaint and

describe the desired legal remedy, or how to develop a response in defense of a claim that has been brought against them. **Location:** Portland District Court

Necessary Legal Experience: none necessary

Training or Mentor Available: **Yes, both.** VLP will host free CLE for volunteer attorneys on small claims process

Duration of Pro Bono Assignment or Commitment required: Clinics will be 2 hours in length. Commitments are tailored to the attorney and can include monthly, quarterly, twice yearly and “when available” assignments.

4. Guardianship for Minors Consultation Program, Summer 2019

The Volunteer Lawyers Project will begin referring clients for limited representation pro bono advice and guidance on the process related to the guardianship of minors beginning July, 2019

Types of Work Available: This pro bono service will offer, to parties seeking to obtain guardianship of a minor via phone or in person meetings at a location of the attorney’s choosing, consultation on:

- Maine’s requirements under the new Title 18-C, Article 5 (effective July 1, 2019) on minor guardianship
- The process to be followed and forms used to comply with those requirements
- Guidance on when and whether guardianship is appropriate, and
- Alternatives to guardianship that might be considered

Necessary Legal Experience: Family law preferred but will train and provide mentor.

Training or Mentor Available: **Yes, both.**

The Volunteer Lawyers Project has 10 free admissions for the Thursday April 11 CLE session on “Minor Guardianship and Adoption under Maine’s Revised Probate Code: Overview, Implementation, and Practice Tips” which carries 2.75 CLE PRACPRO credits. More information on the live CLE session is found here: [Maine's New Probate Code CLE](#)

Additional free CLE opportunities will be made available on Maine’s Probate guardianship process and will be led by experienced practitioners and authors of the new code.

Commitment Required: Volunteers for the VLP Guardianship Project may take advantage of the free CLE seats in return for a commitment to provide consultations through the guardianship project from July 2019-June 2020

5. Full Representation Cases

Types of Work Available: **a.** Volunteer attorneys needed to provide client representation to clients located in and north of Bangor and Farmington in the areas of will drafting, estate administration and real estate disputes.

b. Ongoing need state-wide for representation in bankruptcy and Social Security overpayment cases.

Necessary Legal Experience: **Wills, Trusts and Estates; Real Estate; Bankruptcy; Social Security benefits**

Training or Mentor Available: **MENTORS AVAILABLE**

Duration of Pro Bono Assignment or Commitment required: Duration varies by case; estimate - between 5/30 hours

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT: FMI: Beth C. Richardson Esq., Phone: 207-650-0790, Email: brichardson@vlp.org