

Pro Bono Coordinators Association

History of the FPBCA

The Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association is comprised of Pro Bono program managers and coordinators representing local volunteer attorney projects throughout the state of Florida. Most of the local programs work directly with their county or circuit bar associations and within a local legal aid or legal services office to encourage attorneys to provide legal representation free of charge to indigent clients.

Formally organized in 1985, the FPBCA provides a forum for Pro Bono coordinators to address needs, mentor, and share accomplishments and ideas. In addition, the FPBCA designs and implements Pro Bono projects that benefit the indigent of Florida, as well as, programs that provide statewide recognition to Pro Bono attorneys.

Funding for the FPBCA is provided by Florida Legal Services and the generosity of various organizations such as the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar.



Justice is not justice if only the rich can afford counsel and gain access to the courts

Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association
2425 Torreya Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Pro Bono Service in Florida



It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.

Justice Lewis Powell, Jr.

Florida Pro Bono
Coordinators
Association



www.floridaprobono.org

Pro Bono Service in Florida

History of Pro Bono in Florida

The first version of the Rule of Professional Responsibility was adopted in 1993. In an historic ruling (In re Amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, 573 So.2d 800 (Fla. 1990)) the Supreme Court determined that Florida lawyers should have an aspirational responsibility to assist in the promotion of justice for the poor of this state. The mandatory reporting aspect was felt to be essential in guaranteeing that all lawyers do their part to provide this equal justice.

Pro Bono Public Service– Rule 4-6.1

Each member of The Florida Bar in good standing, as part of that member's professional responsibility, should

- (1) render Pro Bono legal services to the poor and
- (2) participate, to the extent possible, in other Pro Bono service activities that directly relate to the legal needs of the poor

The professional responsibility to provide Pro Bono legal service to the poor may be discharged by:

- (1) annually providing at least 20 hours of Pro Bono legal services to the poor; or
- (2) making an annual contribution of at least \$350 to a legal aid organization

Each member of the bar shall annually report whether the member has satisfied the member's professional responsibility to provide Pro Bono legal services to the poor.

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What is Pro Bono?

- Cases for which no money is charged, received or expected
- Representing a client through an organized Pro Bono Program
- Contributions of \$350.00 to an organized Pro Bono Program
- Legal Clinics

What is NOT Pro Bono?

- Clients who do not pay their bill
- Serving on a board
- Bar activities
- Aunt Tillie's will
- Nephew John's speeding ticket

Just the Facts:

1. I don't have experience in family law, consumer law or other Pro Bono areas.

Although there are certain substantive areas of the law that are typically considered "Pro Bono" areas, there is a need for attorneys to assist indigent clients in many non-traditional "Pro Bono" areas of the law including but not limited to real estate and tax. In addition, There are experienced lawyers who can help and mentor you through the process. In addition, many organized Pro Bono programs sponsor free trainings in the legal areas which have the greatest need.

2. I can't afford the malpractice coverage.

Professional liability coverage is provided by most organized Pro Bono programs for Pro Bono cases assigned.

3. I already do Pro Bono work on my own. I don't need to work through an organized program.

In addition to the benefits of the malpractice coverage, many organized Pro Bono Programs provide reimbursement for costs associated with the case. An organized Pro Bono Program has greater capacity to recruit large numbers of lawyers. As the number of volunteers increases, the demand on individual lawyers decreases. There are also reporting incentives as well as local and statewide recognition.

Now that I want to do Pro Bono work whom do I call?

1st Circuit: Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. 850-385-9007 Ext. 1006; North-west Florida Legal Services 850-432-2336 (Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties)

2nd Circuit: Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. 850-385-9007 Ext. 1006; Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association 850-222-3292 (Leon County only)

3rd Circuit: Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. 386-752-5960

4th Circuit: Three Rivers Legal Services 904-394-7450; Jacksonville Area Legal Aid 904-356-8371

5th Circuit: Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Volunteer Lawyer Project 352-629-0105 Ext. 2927

6th Circuit: Community Law Program, Inc 727-582-7480; Gulfcoast Legal Services 727-443-0657

7th Circuit: Three Rivers Legal Services 904-394-7450; Jacksonville Area Legal Aid 904-827-9921(St. Johns County); Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., Volunteer Lawyer Project 386-255-6573 Ext. 2927 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties)

8th Circuit: Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. 352-372-0519

9th Circuit: Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar 407-841-8310 (Orange County); Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., Volunteer Lawyers Project 352-629-0105 Ext. 2912 (Osceola County)

10th Circuit: Florida Rural Legal Services 863-688-7376

11th Circuit: Put Something Back 305-579-5733

12th Circuit: Legal Aid of Manasota 941-366-0038; Florida Rural Legal Services 239-334-4554 Ext. 4119 (DeSoto County only)

13th Circuit: Bay Area Volunteer Lawyers Program 813-226-8685

14th Circuit: Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. 850-385-9007 Ext. 1006

15th Circuit: Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County 561-655-8944 ; Florida Rural Legal Services 561-820-8902 x14

16th Circuit: Put Something Back 305-579-5733

17th Circuit: Legal Aid Service of Broward County & Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida/Broward Lawyers Care 954-736-2426

18th Circuit: Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society 407-834-1660 Ext. 115; Brevard County Legal Aid, Inc. 321-631-2500; Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., Volunteer Lawyer Project 386-255-6573 Ext. 2425

19th Circuit: Florida Rural Legal Services 772-466-4766 ext. 7014

20th Circuit: Florida Rural Legal Services 239-334-4554 Ext. 4119; Collier Lawyers Care 239-298-8130(Collier County only)

Southern District of Florida: Volunteer Lawyers' Project for Southern District of Florida 305-373-4334

Entire State: Florida Legal Services, Inc. 850-385-7900

Statewide Prisoners Issues: Florida Institutional Legal Services 352-375-2494