



“NATIONAL PRO BONO PROJECTS THAT NEED US”

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NFPA Pro Bono Coordinator

*NFPA/ABA Liaison to the Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public
Service*

NFPA/ABA PRO BONO LIAISON CHRISTINE FLYNN

- NFPA/ABA Pro Bono Liaison;
- Pro Bono Committee Chair- The National Federation of Paralegal Associations;
- Paralegal Member of the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service;
- NFPA is the *only* national paralegal association with a seat on this committee;
- Quarterly meetings and hands on involvement at the ABA level;
- Ability to work with the ABA and NFPA on partnering paralegals with local pro bono opportunities;
- Promote the Celebration of Pro Bono Week; and
- Fosters attorney/paralegal relationships and respect.

NFPA PRO BONO COMMITTEE

- Approximately 10 paralegal members;
- Representation from all five regions of NFPA;
- Quarterly conference calls;
- Fosters pro bono paralegal opportunities;
- National webinars on relevant pro bono topics;
- Articles for the *Paralegal Reporter*;
- Goals: Updating NFPA pro bono web page and developing directory of pro bono community chairs;
- Planning annual paralegal pro bono conference or sessions at convention.

AREAS AND DEFINITIONS

PRO BONO PUBLICO

- **for the public good**
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pro%20bono%20publico>
<http://thelawdictionary.org/pro-bono-publico/>
- **involving or doing legal work for free**
<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/pro%20bono>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **voluntary work intended to help people in a particular area**
http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/community-service
- **work that is done without pay to help people in a community**
<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/community%20service>

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **work that someone does as part of a government : the work done by public servants**
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/public%20service>
<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/public%20service>

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• Defining Pro Bono

- **Category 1** pro bono is defined as direct legal representation provided to persons of limited means or organizations that support the needs of persons of limited means for which no compensation was received or expected.
- **Category 2** pro bono is defined as any other law-related service provided for a reduced fee or no cost (without expectation of fee) to any type of client, not including activities performed to develop a paying client or anything that is part of paying job responsibilities.

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• D. Characteristics of Attorneys' Most Recent Category 1 Pro Bono Service

9. What Tasks Were Performed and What Was the Scope of the Work?

The most frequently reported pro bono legal tasks consisted of providing advice, reviewing and drafting legal documents and interviewing/meeting with the client (Fig. 13).

• B. Category 2 Pro Bono Service

3. What Category 2 Pro Bono Services Were Provided?

Speaker, teacher or trainer on legal issues; board member of pro bono organizations; member of bar committee related to pro bono or access to justice

NOT A BOARD MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

• V. Conclusion

It is incumbent on the leaders of the legal profession in all quarters to reflect on the roles they can play to be advocates for expanding pro bono. Institutional leadership needs to come from access to justice commissions, bar associations, law schools, corporate law departments, government attorney offices, national organizations, legal services programs, pro bono projects, law firms and other entities.

NFPA® MODEL CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GUIDELINES FOR ENFORCEMENT

[HTTP://WWW.PARALEGALS.ORG/DEFAULT.ASP?PAGE=31](http://www.paralegals.org/default.asp?page=31)

1.4

A PARALEGAL SHALL SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES, INCLUDING PRO BONO PUBLICO SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

EC-1.4 (Pro Bono Publico)

(a) A paralegal shall be sensitive to the legal needs of the public and shall promote the development and implementation of programs that address those needs.

(b) A paralegal shall support efforts to improve the legal system and access thereto and shall assist in making changes.

(c) A paralegal shall support and participate in the delivery of Pro Bono Publico services directed toward implementing and improving access to justice, the law, the legal system or the paralegal and legal professions.

NFPA MODEL CODE OF ETHICS

(CONTINUED)

(d) A paralegal should aspire annually to contribute twenty-four (24) hours of Pro Bono Publico services under the supervision of an attorney or as authorized by administrative, statutory or court authority to:

1. persons of limited means; or
2. charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the legal needs of persons with limited means; or
3. individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights.

The twenty-four (24) hours of Pro Bono Publico services contributed annually by a paralegal may consist of such services as detailed in this EC-1.4(d), and/or administrative matters designed to develop and implement the attainment of this aspiration as detailed above in EC-1.4(a)(b)(c), or any combination of the two.

NFPA MODEL CODE OF ETHICS

(CONTINUED)

- **EC-1.4 (Community Service)**

(e) A paralegal should aspire to contribute twenty-four (24) hours of Community Service on an annual basis. For purposes of this EC, "Community Service" shall be defined as: volunteer activities that have the effect of providing a valuable service or benefit to a local community, as distinguished from those services which fall within the traditional definition of *pro bono publico*. By way of example and not limitation, several examples of Community Service may include: working with Habitat for Humanity, volunteering with local women's shelters, volunteering for hurricane relief, serving meals at local soup kitchens or local homeless shelters.

THE ABA RECOMMENDS 50 HOURS OF PB SERVICE FOR ATTORNEYS; MANY STATE AND LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS MIRROR THIS RECOMMENDATION

NFPA SUGGESTS 24 HOURS OF PB AND 24 SEPARATE HOURS OF CS FOR PARALEGALS.

NFPA PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY SERVICE- VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF HOURS

- <https://www.paralegals.org>;
- Pro Bono Tab;
- Voluntary Reporting of Pro Bono Hours;
- Log In;
- Complete form- About You and About Pro Bono; check attestation and click "submit";
- Members report for the following reasons: (1) spreadsheet provided to the ABA at quarterly meetings; (2) yearly recognition at convention; and (3) ability to track hours.

NFPA/ABA RELATIONSHIP

- Linda A. Klein, Esquire, Past President of the American Bar Association, (ABA) previously stated:

“The pro bono work accomplished by lawyers across America is dependent, in part, on the invaluable support of trained paralegals and legal assistants. The ABA is appreciative of the National Federation of Paralegal Association’s leadership to promote pro bono by its member organizations and of the tremendous pro bono commitment of individual paralegals throughout the country.”

NFPA 2017 PRO BONO INITIATIVE

- In 2017, NFPA formally adopted the ABA Veterans Legal Services Initiative;
- Ensures veterans have access to justice and receive the legal support they, their families, and their caregivers deserve;
- Armed Forces Members appointed to Pro Bono Committee;
- Working with Jason Vail, Senior Attorney in the American Bar Association Division for Legal Services and Chief Counsel to the Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel;
- Collaborate on pro bono projects with our Armed Forces Committee;
- Webinars= (1) mechanics of completing VA paperwork; the ABA's volunteer income tax preparation for Veterans (continuing in 2018).

NFPA 2018 PRO BONO INITIATIVE

HOMELESS YOUTH LAW NETWORK

Paralegals complete **ABA HYLN Pro Bono Survey**. This short survey is for lawyers, law firms, pro bono programs, law schools, and other legal service providers who are interested in getting involved with the pro bono initiative. Responses to this survey will equip the ABA to begin collaborating with members to potentially match organizations with a local homeless youth shelter or drop-in center to assist in paralegal pro bono.

<https://americanbar.qualtrics.com>

WHERE IS THE NEED?

The majority of paralegals who participate in pro bono activities assist in the area of family law, according to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA). However there are many legal needs in housing, health, employment, community problems, and finance and consumer problems.

Our current NFPA pro bono projects span across a wide area of topics in both civil and criminal law including children, veterans, medical-legal, criminal expungement, homeless youth and the elderly. New 2018 projects include the areas of sexual harassment, immigration and animal law.

LOCATING PARALEGAL PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Partner with local pro bono groups such as Legal Aid; monitor social media/web sites;
- Paralegals speak at local and/or state bar public interest committee meetings;
- Partner with local bar association and the Young Lawyers Division;
- Work with law schools and paralegal programs;
- Partner with their firms or attorneys or other paralegals in the office
- Look to other counties;
- http://www.probono.net/aba_oppsguide/ - ABA National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide;
- www.volunteermatch.org – bringing good people and causes together across the U.S.

LOCATING PARALEGAL PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Find an area of interest;
- Find an opportunity that fits in your schedule;
- Find any opportunity outside of your area/comfort zone;
- Contact me re: suggestions or opportunities.

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO OUR MEMBERS

- Lead by example

The ABA first issued its Model Guidelines for the Utilization of Paralegals over 20 years ago. Although these guidelines state that "lawyers are the intended audience," they are more relevant to paralegals. There are 10 total and it is this last one for which paralegals need to make sure lawyers are well aware:

Guideline #10: A lawyer who employs a paralegal should facilitate the paralegal's participation in appropriate continuing education and pro bono publico activities.

Comment excerpt: The quantity and quality of pro bono work is enhanced when paralegals are included.

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/paralegals/lis_prlgs_modelguidelines_authcheckdam.pdf

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO STUDENTS

- **Don't Forget the students!**

- They are our future;
- Great experience;
- High enthusiasm;
- Eager to learn and happy to help; and
- Paralegals often visit paralegal schools or serve as mentors.

PRO BONO: A TWO-WAY STREET

- Other than feeling good in helping others- many other “hidden” benefits to being involved in pro bono and community service
 - Expand paralegal skills;
 - Gain experience;
 - Network;
 - Foster Relationships;
 - Good for morale; and
 - May lead to writing articles/teaching opportunities.

PRO BONO: A TWO-WAY STREET

- Case Management;
- Problem solving/multi-tasking;
- Working with clients;
- Listening skills;
- Confidence;
- Foster leadership roles; and
- Recognition.

PARALEGAL ROLE IN PRO BONO WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

- Organize/Coordinate Clinics;
- Intake/Interviews;
- Draft forms;
- Assist Attorney;
- Investigation; and
- Administrative Work;

PARALEGAL ROLE IN PRO BONO WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

- Monitor dockets;
- Request records;
- Follow up on requests for records;
- Serve as translator;
- Serve as Notary Public;

PARALEGAL ROLE IN PRO BONO WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

- Return client telephone calls;
- Provide status updates;
- Legal Research; and
- Offer client support.

ABA PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Veterans Claims Assistance Network (VCAN)
 - The American Bar Association *Veterans Claims Assistance Network* (ABA VCAN) is providing unrepresented veterans who need help preparing initial benefits claim packages with the opportunity to work with lawyers who will help the veterans assemble their claim submissions as Fully Developed Claims (FDCs) for expedited rating decisions by the VA—at no cost to the veterans;
 - Working hand-in-hand with our Armed Forces Committee.

ABA PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Veterans Claims Assistance Network (VCAN)
- The process is simple. Just go to www.ABAVCAN.org, click the link For Attorneys and then click Register. On the next page is a drop-down from which "Paralegal" can be selected, and then the individual can provide contact info and areas of interest and expertise;
- CLE and training available (initial webinar just held 5/15);
- Can do remotely-perfect opportunity in rural areas or fit in schedule
- Contact: Holly.Christian@americanbar.org

ABA PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Homeless Youth Initiative
- A new ABA initiative aimed at increasing legal services and improving outcomes for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness;
- Drop In Shelters or Homeless Shelters;
- Homeless Youth Legal Network (HYLN) *Pro Bono* lawyers will collaborate with shelter staff to determine the best approach to legal assistance;
- Examples: expungement, college funding, public assistance benefits; and
- HYLN Hotline.

ABA PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

- Homeless Youth Initiative
- **ABA HYLN Pro Bono Survey:** This short survey is for lawyers, law firms, pro bono programs, law schools, and other legal service providers who are interested in getting involved with the pro bono initiative. Your responses to this survey will equip the ABA to begin collaborating with you to potentially match your organization with a local homeless youth shelter or drop-in center to provide pro bono legal services.
- https://americanbar.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cVbcjMwOLyR7Ngb
- HYLNprobono@americanbar.org

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
- Mission: Foster a system in which all health organizations leverage legal expertise and services to better address communities' health-related social needs.
- Educates health care providers, administrators, and insurers about the need for and impact of legal expertise and services in healthcare settings;
- Conducts research to understand trends in health care organizations and legal services, and to develop best practices for medical-legal partnerships; and
- Generates new public and private funding streams to help pay for medical-legal partnerships.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
- Partners hospitals and health care providers with local law firms
- Example? Lead paint in an apartment- Issue involves both a legal issue and a medical concern
- <http://medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/> for a listings

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
 - LSC is an independent nonprofit established by Congress in 1974 to provide financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans. The Corporation currently provides funding to 133 independent nonprofit legal aid organizations in every state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories;
- <https://www.lsc.gov/what-legal-aid/find-legal-aid>

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
- LSC-funded programs help people who live in households with annual incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines;
- Various areas including family law, housing, consumer issues, employment and military;
- LSC is a grant-making organization, distributing nearly 94% of its federal appropriation to eligible nonprofit organizations delivering civil legal aid. LSC awards grants through a competitive process and currently funds 133 independent legal aid organizations. With nearly 812 offices nationwide, these organizations serve thousands of low-income individuals, children, families, seniors, and veterans in every congressional district.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
 - <https://www.lsc.gov>
 - If you are looking for help with a civil legal problem, enter an address or city to find an LSC-funded legal aid organization near you



NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

▪KIND (Kids in Need of Defense)

- No child should face immigration court alone;
- Need is great in Atlanta, Baltimore, New York, Seattle, and San Francisco;
- KIND provides lawyers to assist in navigating legal system;
- Advocate for policies that protect rights and well being; and
- If child cannot stay in US, assist in return safely to home.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

▪How does KIND work?

- Partner with law firms, corporations & law schools to represent children referred to KIND at no cost;
- KIND provides attorney to represent unaccompanied children at deportation proceedings, legal screenings and Know Your Rights presentations; and
- KIND trains and mentors volunteers so no prior immigration experience is necessary.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

▪KIND needs

- Translators and interpreters;
- Assistance with intakes and screenings;
- Toys and supplies for kids being served at a local KIND office; and
- Donations.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

▪Contact KIND



info@supportkind.org

- Social media pages
- www.supportkind.org

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**
- **Mission:** The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, together with its state and local member programs, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every abused or neglected child in the United States can be safe, have a permanent home and the opportunity to thrive.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**
- CASA/GAL volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA/GAL volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
 - There are nearly 1,000 CASA/GAL programs in 49 states recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):
 - Gather information;
 - Document findings;
 - Recommend services;
 - Monitor case plans; and
 - Keep court informed.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
 - Volunteer advocates:
 - You do not need to be a lawyer to volunteer;
 - Three (3) phase training program (approximately 30 hours);
 - Videos, in person training and field work;
 - Background Check; and
 - Long term commitment (usually one year).

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Find a CASA program in your area- click volunteer tab and then search by state:
 - <http://www.casaforchildren.org>

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Innocence Project/Network
 - The Innocence Project's mission is to free the staggering number of innocent people who remain incarcerated, and to bring reform to the system responsible for their unjust imprisonment;
 - The Innocence Project only accepts cases on post-conviction appeal in which DNA testing can prove innocence;
 - Not available in Arizona, California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Washington, Wisconsin, or Puerto Rico. Intake is currently closed to these states.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

• Innocence Project/Network

- <http://innocencenetwork.org/> has a listing of member organizations through the United States. Innocence Network consists of 56 U.S. based and 12 non-U.S. based organizations;
- Annual Conference.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

• PRO BONO.NET

- Pro Bono Net is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing access to justice through innovative uses of technology and increased volunteer lawyer participation



NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- PRO BONO.NET;
- Provides resources for pro bono and legal services attorneys and others working to assist low income or disadvantaged clients;
- National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide:
- Comprehensive listing of national organizations
- <https://www.probono.net/oppsguide/search>

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide:
- Access to local volunteer opportunities;
- View training calendars;
- Read news;
- View libraries of training and reference materials.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- IMMIGRATION EQUALITY

- Immigration Equality is the nation's leading LGBTQ immigrant rights organization. They represent and advocate for people from around the world fleeing violence, abuse, and persecution because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- IMMIGRATION EQUALITY

- Need for translators is great. Translators assist with interviews with clients, asylum applications, and even in courtroom proceedings;
- Provide services nationwide;
- Contact Mariana Fradman- NYCPA; and
- <https://www.immigrationequality.org/volunteer>

RURAL AREAS

- Criminal Expungement Projects
- Criminal records hinder one-in-four Americans from finding jobs, housing, and accessing services;
- Permanent removal of criminal history record information.

RURAL AREAS

- Expunging criminal arrest records, summary conviction records, and juvenile records;
- Check your state or law school;
- Assist with gathering documentation;
- Can usually be completed at via remote location;
- Assist with reviewing documents, dockets and preparing Petitions.

RURAL AREAS

ABA FREE LEGAL ANSWERS

<https://www.abafreelegalanswers.org/>



RURAL AREAS

• ABA Free Legal Answers

- Project of the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service;
- Chair: Buck Lewis;
- Virtual civil legal advice clinic;
- Qualifying users post their civil legal question to their state's website. Users will then be emailed when their question receives a response. Attorney volunteers, who must be authorized to provide pro bono assistance in their state, log in to the website, select questions to answer, and provide legal information and advice. Volunteer attorneys will not answer criminal law questions

RURAL AREAS

- ABA Free Legal Answers
- Looking for administrators in several states
- Work can be completed remote
- Moderating questions;
- Questions answered in 30 days;
- Monitoring site for any issues;
- Paired with local attorney in that state to address any specific legal questions or issues;

RURAL AREAS

- Training will be provided;
- Additional information: <https://www.abafreelegalanswers.org/>

NEW PROJECTS

2018 Goal: Developing new pro bono opportunities in a wide array of areas for our paralegal members

NEW PROJECTS

- Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)
 - Connection made at the Equal Justice Conference (EJC);
 - Paralegal volunteer opportunities throughout the United States.



NEW PROJECTS

- **Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)**
 - Connection made at the Equal Justice Conference;
 - Mission: Protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. ALDF accomplishes this mission by filing high-impact lawsuits to protect animals from harm, providing free legal assistance and training to prosecutors to assure that animal abusers are punished for their crimes, supporting tough animal protection legislation and fighting legislation harmful to animals, and providing resources and opportunities to law students and professionals to advance the emerging field of animal law.

NEW PROJECTS

- **Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)**
 - ALDF's Pro Bono Program is the nation's largest pro bono network for animal protection. Working to expand the practice and understanding of animal law in the legal community, the Pro Bono Program partners with attorneys and pro bono coordinators across the country. The program utilizes these volunteers to support the Animal Legal Defense Fund's litigation, criminal justice, and legislative goals;
 - Join as a paralegal member- Application: \$15.00;
 - Updates on animal law and fostering animal law committees;
 - Questions? Contact the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Pro Bono Program at ProBono@aldf.org;
 - <http://aldf.org/about-us/programs/pro-bono-program/>

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT- NEW PROJECT

▪ Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative

- Connection made at Equal Justice Conference;
- The Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative is an effort to combat sexual harassment in housing led by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. The goal of the Initiative is to address sexual harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, loan officers or other people who have control over housing;
- DOJ works with other parts of the government, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to help victims of sexual harassment. DOJ also works with state and local governments, law enforcement, and a wide variety of organizations across the country.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT- NEW PROJECT

▪ Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative

- Our contact is R. Tamar Hagler, Esquire- Deputy Chief- Housing & Enforcement;
- Exploring new paralegal pro bono opportunities for our NFPA members;
- <https://www.justice.gov/crt/sexual-harassment-housing-initiative>

COMMUNITY SERVICE?

- Community Services Project Ideas?
 - Operation Gratitude;
 - Wills for Heroes;
 - Partner with Bar Association on Projects, i.e. bar association walks, auction nights, shelters; and
 - Partner with law enforcement agencies- Teddy Bear drive

COMMUNITY SERVICE?

- Example: Lawyers for Literacy
- Assisting children with improving reading skills
 - Operates in several states, such as Florida, North Carolina, Texas and Arizona;
 - Paralegal volunteers accepted;
 - Usually through local bar association; and
 - Limited time commitment (1 hour a week).

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Conflicts;
- UPL;
- Malpractice Insurance offered by organizations to attorneys; and
- Confidentiality.

Thank You
for your time today!
#unitetohelpothers

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