

Pro Bono Opportunities

Our neighbors need our help. But not everyone can afford to pay legal fees. We know we should volunteer at least 50 hours each year to represent low income clients, but it's not always easy. Here are some ways you can build pro bono into a busy practice. The rewards personally and to our system of justice are worth it!

Vermont Volunteer Lawyer Project is a statewide program matching volunteer attorneys with low-income clients. You choose when, where and the types of cases you will accept, and VVLP provides the screening, referral and support. For more information or to sign up, contact Angele Court, VVLP Coordinator, at 802-863-7153, or at acourt@lawlinevt.org.

Vermont Free Legal Answers allows lawyers to answer legal questions on-line for low income Vermonters. Practice pro bono law anywhere, anytime. Learn more or sign up at www.vt.freelegalanswers.org.

Legal Advice Clinics are a great way to offer brief but valuable legal advice. Clinics are hosted by some courts and by various non-profit organization in many areas of the state. Check out the listings on the VBA website at www.vtbar.org. Click on For the Public, then Pro Bono Legal Services.

Pro bono opportunities exist in every state court in Vermont. Consider volunteering in your **local probate or family division**, where the need is especially great. For more ideas, or to start your own pro bono project, contact Mary Ashcroft, Esq, VBA Legal Access Coordinator at mashcroft@vtbar.org

Low Bono Opportunities

The VBA and our partners have established programs that provide reduced fee payments to lawyers who provide legal services for low income or disadvantage clients. You can build your practice and receive some payment while helping your neighbor in any of these projects.

VBA/County Bar Legal Assistance Projects provide representation for low income clients in foreclosure, collections, landlord/tenant cases in civil division; with adult involuntary guardianships in probate division; and in child support contempt defense and post adoption contact agreements in family division. These low bono projects cover Addison, Bennington, Franklin, Grand Isle, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor Counties. Lawyers are paid \$60 per hour for between 3-6 hours; free CLE training programs are provided. For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Ashcroft at mashcroft@vtbar.org .

Vermont Crime Victims Project provides representation in various legal matters for clients who have been the victims of crime. This new project pays \$60 per hour for up to 10

hours of representation in a wide variety of legal matters that range from relief from abuse, to wills and estate planning to collections defense and family matters. Attorneys are needed in all counties. To add your name to this referral list, contact mashcroft@vtbar.org .

Modest Means Project was established to provide legal services for Vermonters who can afford to pay some reduced legal fees to private attorneys. Attorneys on the panel agree to charge no more than \$75 per hour. Clients are screened for eligibility then referred to participating attorneys. For more information and sign up for this program visit the VBA website at www.vba.org Click on For Attorneys then on Modest Means Program on the drop-down menu.

Thank you for your willingness to help!