

Volunteer Opportunities FAQ

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center offers various volunteer opportunities. Our goal is to make pro bono service meaningful and rewarding by equipping volunteers with the necessary skills and support. Below are answers to our volunteers' most frequently asked questions.

Questions? Please Contact:

- General Volunteering Inquiries: probono@dcbar.org
 - Training Program Inquiries: probonotraining@dcbar.org
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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **I don't have any experience with pro bono matters. Can I still volunteer?** Yes! Each fall and spring, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center holds substantive legal trainings for all its pro bono practice areas. While the program is on pause for the Fall 2024 semester, a list of our on-demand trainings can be found on the [training program website](#). For most trainings, prior expertise is not required. Trainings are a great way to learn a new practice area.
2. **Are there opportunities that have a set time commitment?** Yes, some of our brief services opportunities have set time commitments. For example, our Advice & Referral Clinic provides pro bono services once per month on Saturday, with an estimated same-day time commitment. For more detailed descriptions and to see all available opportunities, please visit our [Volunteer Opportunities Page](#).
3. **How do I get involved in full case representation?** Our Advocacy and Justice Clinic matches pro bono clients in need of full legal representation with volunteer attorneys for extended litigation representation. Please view the [Advocacy and Justice Clinic page](#) for more details or fill out [the questionnaire](#) to register.

4. **Is malpractice insurance provided?** Yes, if you are an approved volunteer with the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center, malpractice coverage is provided. However, if you accept a pro bono case through one of the Training Program's co-sponsoring organizations, malpractice coverage is not guaranteed. If applicable, please consult with the organization through which you accepted your pro bono matter.
5. **I'm not barred in D.C., but I am barred in another U.S. jurisdiction. Can I volunteer?** Under certain circumstances, [D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49](#) permits some attorneys licensed outside of D.C. to provide pro bono services. Please see the rule for more information.
6. **I'm not barred in any U.S. jurisdiction. Can I volunteer?** If you're not licensed to practice law in any U.S. jurisdiction and do not have a pending Bar application, you may not be able to provide pro bono services as an *attorney*. Please refer to [D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49](#) to determine your eligibility. Non-Attorney volunteer opportunities are located on our website here: [DC Bar - How to Volunteer](#).
7. **I do not live in D.C. but can provide pro bono services through phone and email. Are there opportunities for me?** Not at this time. We only have in-person pro bono opportunities. Other legal services providers may have opportunities for online or telephone pro bono work.
8. **Does D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center provide Rule 49 supervisors?** Sometimes, depending on clinic. Our brief services clinics and resource centers, including the Landlord Tenant Resource Center, Consumer Law Resource Center, Advice & Referral Clinic, and Immigration Legal Advice and Referral Clinic, often provide on-site Rule 49 supervision. Our full representation programs, including the Advocacy & Justice Clinic, require volunteers to find their own Rule 49 supervisor.
9. **I am an inactive or retired D.C. Bar member. Do I need to be active to volunteer?** Many inactive or retired D.C. Bar members may be able to provide pro bono services under certain circumstances. Please refer to [D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49](#) to determine your eligibility.

10. **As an attorney, what is my pro bono professional responsibility in D.C.?** Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 governs the pro bono responsibilities of D.C.-licensed attorneys. Please consult [Rule 6.1](#) for more information and contact the D.C. Bar Ethics at 202-737-4700 ext. 1010 with any questions.
11. **Can I Volunteer as a Non-Attorney?** Yes. Opportunities are often available for non-attorney professionals. These opportunities are located on our website here: [DC Bar - How to Volunteer.](#)"
12. **I am ready to volunteer. What's next?** If you are interested in volunteering, please review the list of opportunities below. Each clinic includes an application form, where available, for you to sign up directly. If an application is not provided for a specific clinic, you can reach out to the designated contact person for more information and to sign up.

Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

- **[Advocacy & Justice Clinic](#)**
 - **Application:** [Advocacy & Justice Clinic Application](#)
 - **Contact:** Adrian Gottshall (agottshall@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Provides full representation for clients with civil legal problems.
- **[Advice & Referral Clinic](#)**
 - **Application:** [Advice and Referral Clinic Application](#)
 - **Contact:** Anitra Ash Shakoor (aashshakoor@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Offers civil brief advice and referral services to pro se individuals (Monthly).
- **[Nonprofit & Small Business Legal Assistance Program \(NPSB\)](#)**
 - **Application:** [NPSB Application](#)
 - **Contact:** Lauren Paley (lpaley@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Provides legal information, representation, and training to community-based nonprofits and small businesses.
- **[Immigration Legal Advice & Referral Clinic](#)**
 - **Application:** [Immigration Clinic Application](#)
 - **Contact:** Jenadee Nanini (jnanini@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Offers (quarterly) legal advice and referrals for immigration-related issues.
- **[Landlord Tenant Resource Center \(LTRC\)](#)**
 - **Application:** Contact your law firm coordinator
 - **Contact:** Angelica Ayala (aayala@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Assists unrepresented tenants and small landlords with legal issues.
- **[Consumer Law Resource Center](#)**

- **Application:** Contact your law firm coordinator
 - **Contact:** Anitra Ash Shakoor (aashshakoor@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Provides legal assistance and resources for consumer law issues.
- **Probate Legal Assistance Network (PLAN)**
 - **Application:** [Future Planning and Probate Program Application](#)
 - **Contact:** Murray Scheel (mscheel@dcbar.org)
 - **Description:** Offers brief advice and in-depth assistance with probate matters.

For more information, visit the [D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center website](#). If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please reach out to the respective clinic's contacts listed above.