

Pro Bono Opportunities for Hillsborough County Attorneys

Donate your time and legal expertise to help low-income residents of Hillsborough County by participating in a pro bono project. There are numerous opportunities to fit your desired level of service and schedule. Take the first step today by deciding how YOU want to help. Contact the program below and we'll get you started!

GENERAL/CIVIL

ASK A LAWYER: Respond to calls from local residents seeking legal help. Volunteers appear on Fox 13's morning television show on the first Thursday of the month from 7-9 a.m. No experience necessary. Contact: Lupe Vazquez-Mitcham at (813) 221-7783 or at lupe@hillsbar.com.

BAVLP* CASE REFERRAL: Accept civil case referrals in those areas of the law that you have designated. Low-income clients are screened for eligibility and cases are reviewed for legal merit prior to referral. Projects for which training is provided include **Basic Family Law, Guardian Advocacy, Clearing Title (No Place Like Home Project), and Bankruptcy.** <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

BAVLP* CLIENT INTAKE: Interview and advise legal aid applicants at the George Edgecomb Courthouse two evenings a month from 5:30 to 8 p.m. No experience is necessary. New volunteers may shadow experienced attorneys. Training provided. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

BAVLP* MENTOR PANEL: Become a mentor. We need your expertise! Attorneys with specialized expertise assist less experienced volunteer attorneys handling pro bono cases or mentor BALS staff attorneys. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

FEDERAL LITIGATION PROJECT: Provide limited one-time consultations to pro se litigants in civil matters filed in federal courts in the Middle District of Florida. Organized by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Contact: (813) 227-8418 or scott.mclaren@hwlaw.com.

PROJECT H.E.L.P. (Homeless Experience Legal Protection): Volunteers provide advice and counsel to homeless individuals at Metropolitan Ministries' Outreach Center. Training is provided. Clinics are held Tuesday evenings from 6 - 7:30 pm. Contact: Ella Shenhav at EShenhav@shutts.com, (813) 227-8121 or Katherine Kobos, kkobos@shutts.com (813) 463-4888.

BAVLP* COMMUNITY COUNSEL: Provide transactional legal assistance to community groups and nonprofits that serve indigent residents or distressed neighborhoods. The project is an ideal opportunity for transactional attorneys, in-house counsel, and attorneys representing management. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

iLAWYER: NEW! Provide legal advice and brief services to clients via Skype from the comfort of your own home or office one evening a month from 5 to 7 p.m. This project is ideal for attorneys looking for after hour volunteer opportunities that require no travel and little to no follow up. To volunteer or for more information please e-mail or call Linda Anderson at landerson@bals.org or (813) 232-1222, x128.

TAMPA BAY PRO BONO PARTNERS: Partner with a colleague to handle a pro bono project together. Tampa Bay Pro Bono Partners helps teams find opportunities that fit their interests and availability. Contacts: Traci Koster at traci@nelsonlg.com or Ashley Trehan at ashley.trehan@bjpc.com.

BANKRUPTCY /TAXES

BAVLP* LOW INCOME TAXPAYER PANEL: Assist eligible clients with their income tax issues. Matters include victims of ID theft and innocent spouse relief. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

BANKRUPTCY COURT LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Assist low-income litigants in certain adversary proceedings. The program is organized by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/legal_assistance.

TAMPA BAY BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION'S PRO BONO CLINIC: Provide limited advice/information and assistance with the preparation of court documents for pro se bankruptcy litigants. The clinic is open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Contact: tbkprobonoclinic@gmail.com.

*For more information on a pro bono opportunity with the Bay Area Volunteer Lawyers Program (BAVLP), please call (813) 226-8685, ext. 110.

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CHILDREN'S RIGHTS/GUARDIANSHIP

CROSSROADS FOR FLORIDA KIDS, INC.

A nonprofit that trains and mentors pro bono attorneys to represent children in dependency proceedings, including the "Crossovers" charged with delinquencies. The organization also oversees the Juvenile Delinquency Attorney Ad Litem Program. Professional liability insurance is provided. Please join us in helping children in our community. Contact: rosemary@crossroadsfloridakids.org or Allison.willis.singer@gmail.com.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

Volunteer to become an appointed guardian to a young child in need. Training is provided. Contact: www.galtampa.org.

TEEN COURT

Serve as a judge or mentor to help first time juvenile offenders in Teen Court, a court sponsored diversionary program. Volunteers must be admitted to The Florida Bar. The project is organized by the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Contact: Pam Stokes at (813) 272-5953 or stokespl@fljud13.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

BAVLP* DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE PROJECT:

Assist victims of domestic violence complete petition for injunction forms. Participation does not require court appearances or representation. A one-hour training DVD is provided. The project is located at the George Edgecomb Courthouse. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

ARE YOU SAFE: A nonprofit dedicated to providing free legal and social services to victims of domestic violence. Volunteers represent victims of domestic violence during the injunction process. Training is provided. New volunteers may shadow experienced attorneys. Contact: (813) 997-7432 or r.u.safe.tampa@gmail.com.

FAMILY LAW

FAMILY FORMS CLINIC / FFC EN ESPAÑOL / YLD FFC:

Help pro se litigants complete family law forms. The Clinic is located at the George Edgecomb Courthouse. BAVLP* staff is on hand to answer any questions. New volunteers may shadow experienced attorneys. A thirty-minute training DVD is provided. No family law experience needed. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

FAMILY MATTERS: Handle a family law case or serve as a family law mentor with BAVLP*. Volunteer attorneys new to the practice of family law agree to accept a simple divorce case and are matched with an experienced family law attorney.

Family law training is available. <https://www.bals.org/pro-bono-registration>.

FAMILY LAW GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM:

Experienced volunteer Guardian Ad Litem attorneys are needed to serve as children's representatives in family court proceedings. Contact: Courtney Bowes at Courtney@BowesFamilyLaw.com.

ST. MICHAEL'S LEGAL CENTER: Located at Christ the King Catholic Church. The Center offers free legal services primarily to low-income women and children. The Center does not discriminate as to gender, race, creed or any church or non-church membership. Volunteers assist in family law matters, including child support collection and domestic battery cases, foreclosure defense, bankruptcy and immigration matters. Contact: J. Michael Shea at mike@jmichaelshea.com.

WILLS & ESTATES/ ELDERLY/ VETERANS

AGING SOLUTIONS, OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC

GUARDIAN (OPG): Volunteers assist in providing legal services to guardians for indigent wards. Services may include preparation of annual accountings, scheduling and attending case management conferences. Contact: Lona DiCerb at lonadicerb@aging-solutions.org or Tamara Cribben at (813) 949-1888 or Toll Free at (866) 922-4464.

WILLS FOR HEROES: Provide essential legal documents free of charge to first responders in Hillsborough County. The project uses volunteer attorneys and paralegals to provide wills, living wills, and powers of attorney during scheduled events. Training is provided. Contact: Katie Everlove-Stone at Katie@everlovelegal.com.

MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Provide legal assistance to military personnel and veterans. Contact Greg Orcutt at greg@orcuttlaw.com.

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