



PHILADELPHIA  
BAR ASSOCIATION

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## ***PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES IN PHILADELPHIA***



*photo by B. Krist for GPTMC*

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# **PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES IN PHILADELPHIA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This directory contains a brief description of public interest law centers and *pro bono* referral programs that routinely use volunteer attorneys and paralegals in the delivery of legal services in Philadelphia. For a detailed description of these organizations, please review the [\*The Directory of Public Interest Organizations\*](#), which is posted on the Public Interest Section's home page on the Philadelphia Bar Association Web site at [www.philadelphiabar.org](http://www.philadelphiabar.org). You may also want to review the [\*Pro Bono Training Calendar\*](#). Additional information about *pro bono* opportunities in Philadelphia may be found at [www.paprobono.net](http://www.paprobono.net), an on-line legal resource providing information and resources to legal advocates interested in expanding access to justice in Pennsylvania, and at [www.PALawHELP.org](http://www.PALawHELP.org), an online guide to legal information and legal services in Pennsylvania.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania	1
American Civil Liberties Union of PA	1
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	1
Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project	2
Education Law Center of Pennsylvania	2
Face to Face Legal Center	2
Friends of Farmworkers	2
HIAS Pennsylvania	3
Homeless Advocacy Project	3
Legal Clinic for the Disabled	3
Mazzoni Legal Center	4
Nationalities Service Center	4
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center	4
Pennsylvania Innocence Project	4
Philadelphia Landlord/Tenant Legal Help Center	4
Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts	5
Philadelphia VIP and LawWorks	5
Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia	5
Regional Housing Legal Services	6
SeniorLAW Center	6
Support Center for Child Advocates	6
Villanova School of Law: Lawyering Together Program	7
Women Against Abuse Legal Center	7

## ***PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES IN PHILADELPHIA***

### **AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania**

1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 600, Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-587-9377 (phone) 215-587-9902 (fax)

[www.aidslawpa.org](http://www.aidslawpa.org)

**Ronda Goldfein, Executive Director;** [goldfein@aidslawpa.org](mailto:goldfein@aidslawpa.org)

**Mission:** to provide free legal services to Pennsylvanians with HIV/AIDS and others affected by the epidemic; educate the public about HIV/AIDS-related legal issues; and work at local, state and national levels to achieve fair laws and policies.

**Description:** provides direct legal representation and advice on: HIV/AIDS discrimination; access to healthcare; HIV/AIDS confidentiality, privacy and testing; Wills, living wills, powers of attorney; public benefits, including social security disability, Medicaid, Medicare, cash welfare, and food stamps; private insurance coverage, including health, disability and life; housing, including landlord/tenant, utility terminations and mortgage foreclosures; and debt management.

### **American Civil Liberties Union of PA**

P.O. Box 40008, Philadelphia, PA 19106

215-592-1513 (phone) 215-592-1343 (fax)

[www.aclupa.org](http://www.aclupa.org)

**Reginald Shuford, Executive Director;** [rshuford@aclupa.org](mailto:rshuford@aclupa.org)

**Mission:** to defend the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals as guaranteed by the constitutions of Pennsylvania and the United States with a comprehensive program including impact litigation, public education and advocacy.

**Description:** provides direct legal assistance and referrals for *pro bono* legal representation in cases involving free speech, religious liberty, due process and the right to counsel, gay and lesbian rights, and discrimination.

### **Community Legal Services of Philadelphia**

**Center City Office:**

1424 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-981-3700 (phone) 215-981-0434 (fax)

**North Philadelphia Law Center:**

1410 West Erie Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140

215-227-2400 (phone) 215-599-1711 (fax)

[www.clsphila.org](http://www.clsphila.org)

**Catherine C. Carr, Executive Director;** [ccarr@clsphila.org](mailto:ccarr@clsphila.org)

**Mission:** to help low income Philadelphia residents obtain equal access to justice by providing them with advice and representation in civil legal matters, advocating for their legal rights, and conducting community education about the legal issues that affect them.

**Description:** provides direct legal representation; training and technical assistance to *pro bono* attorneys; and referrals on a limited basis for *pro bono* legal representation of low income Philadelphia residents in cases involving nine areas of law, including: aging and disabilities; consumer law; employment; energy & utilities; housing; language access; public benefits and welfare; community economic development; and family advocacy. Individual cases appropriate for *pro bono* representation are generally referred from CLS to VIP for assignment, but CLS often seeks *pro bono* assistance for co-counseling in large or class litigation or in other special cases.

**Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project**

718 Arch St., Suite 200N, Philadelphia, PA 19106

215-523-9511 (phone) 215-981-3866 (fax)

[www.philalegal.org](http://www.philalegal.org)

Mary Anne Lucey, Executive Director; [malluce@gmail.com](mailto:malluce@gmail.com)

**Mission:** to provide free legal advice and representation to low-income persons seeking relief from consumer debts.

**Description:** provides direct *pro bono* debt counseling and referrals for *pro bono* legal representation to low-income clients in Chapter 7 bankruptcy matters.

**Education Law Center**

1315 Walnut Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-238-6970 (phone) 215-772-3125 (fax)

[www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)

Rhonda Brownstein, Executive Director; [rbrownstein@elc-pa.org](mailto:rbrownstein@elc-pa.org)

**Mission:** to ensure that all of Pennsylvania's children have access to quality public schools, including poor children, children of color, children with disabilities, children in the foster care system, English Language learners, and other vulnerable children.

**Description:** ELC provides direct services and referrals for *pro bono* legal assistance to families in matters involving access to school, access to specialized services and programs, student rights, and school improvement. ELC's work includes not only traditional representation but also legislative and policy advocacy aimed at ensuring fair treatment of students, the provision of adequate resources to schools, and other public education reform goals.

**Face to Face Legal Center**

109 E. Price Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144

215-438-1390 (phone) 215-843-8040 (fax)

[www.facetofacegermantown.org](http://www.facetofacegermantown.org)

Veronica Ludt, Legal Center Director; [vludt@facetofacegermantown.org](mailto:vludt@facetofacegermantown.org)

**Mission:** to help support and stabilize Germantown by providing free legal services to the community.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* legal assistance to participants in Face to Face programs and low income neighbors in cases involving legal identification, credit problems, public benefits, utilities, landlord/tenant and boarding home disputes, social security and veterans' benefits. Clinics conducted by staff and volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and law students during the organization's program activities and dining room hours.

**Friends of Farmworkers**

699 Ranstead St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106

215-733-0878 or 1-800-729-1607 (phone) 215-733-0876 (fax)

[www.friendsfw.org](http://www.friendsfw.org)

Meredith Rapkin, Executive Director; [mrapkin@friendsfw.org](mailto:mrapkin@friendsfw.org)

**Mission:** to provide free legal services and education on legal rights to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in Pennsylvania and, to a limited extent, to other low wage immigrant and migrant workers with employment related legal matters.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* legal assistance in cases involving minimum wage and wage payment problems; violations of workers' rights under federal and state protective statutes; discrimination or retaliation against workers for exercising their legal rights; eligibility for public benefits; and discrimination in employment or housing on the basis of race, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status.

**HIAS Pennsylvania**

2100 Arch Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-832-0900 (phone) 215-832-0919 (fax)

[www.hiaspa.org](http://www.hiaspa.org)

**Judith Bernstein-Baker, Executive Director;** [jbernsteinbaker@hiaspa.org](mailto:jbernsteinbaker@hiaspa.org)

**Mission:** to provide refugee resettlement, technical assistance, and legal aid and social services to immigrants and refugees.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* representation to clients seeking refugee status, asylum, family unification, protection from domestic abuse, permanent legal status and citizenship. Legal representation provided before federal courts and administrative bodies of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

**Homeless Advocacy Project**

1429 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-523-9595 or 800-837-2672 (phone) 215-981-3866 (fax)

[www.homelessadvocacyproject.org](http://www.homelessadvocacyproject.org)

**Marsha Cohen, Executive Director;** [marsha@philalegal.org](mailto:marsha@philalegal.org)

**Mission:** to provide free civil legal services to homeless individuals and families in Philadelphia.

**Description:** provides direct legal representation and referrals for *pro bono* representation for homeless individuals and families in cases involving family law, public benefits, veteran's benefits, shelter advocacy, and housing matters, among others; recruits and trains volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students to conduct legal clinics at shelters and soup kitchens throughout Philadelphia.

**Legal Clinic for the Disabled**

1513 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-587-3158 (Phone) 215-587-3166 (fax)

[www.lcdphila.org](http://www.lcdphila.org)

**Linda Peyton, Executive Director;** [lpeyton@lcdphila.org](mailto:lpeyton@lcdphila.org)

**Mission:** Increasing access to our courts and community by providing free legal services to low-income people with physical disabilities and deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the five-county Philadelphia region.

**Description:** provides direct representation in civil matters that fall within five main areas: Consumer Protection, Advanced Planning Documents, Family Law, Housing and Benefits. LCD also provides free legal advice and referral services on a variety of issues. LCD's team of in-house attorneys and dedicated core of volunteer attorneys provide advice and advocacy, helping clients overcome legal obstacles that would otherwise affect their independence, health and quality of life. LCD offers direct services in a community-based setting at Associated Services for the Blind, Inglis House, and the Jewish Family and Children's Services of Greater Philadelphia, and has medical legal partnerships at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, and nurse managed health centers through Family Practice and Counseling Network in Philadelphia.

**Mazzoni Legal Center**

21 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
866-LGBT-LAW (toll free) 215-563-0657 (phone) 215-563-0748 (fax)

[www.mazzonicenter.org](http://www.mazzonicenter.org)

**Barrett Marshall, Staff Attorney;** [bmarshall@mazzonicenter.org](mailto:bmarshall@mazzonicenter.org)

**Mission:** to provide quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBT-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals we serve.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* legal assistance to low income persons

experiencing legal problems relating to LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) status in over 30 distinct practice areas, including LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; school bullying and harassment; second-parent adoption; custody; civil union dissolutions and same-sex divorces; legal name changes; police misconduct; prisoners' rights; and First Amendment claims.

**Nationalities Service Center**

1216 Arch Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-893-8400 (phone) 215-735-9718 (fax)

[www.nationalitiesservice.org](http://www.nationalitiesservice.org)

Steve Larin, Legal Director; [slarin@nationalitiesservice.org](mailto:slarin@nationalitiesservice.org)

**Mission:** to provide legal, education, senior and social services to immigrants and refugees.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* representation in cases involving asylum, family immigration; domestic violence; and nationalization claims.

**Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center**

P.O. Box 20339, York, PA 17402

717-600-8099 (phone) 717-600-8044 (fax)

[www.pirclaw.org](http://www.pirclaw.org)

Mary Weaver, Executive Director; [mweaver@pirclaw.org](mailto:mweaver@pirclaw.org)

**Mission:** to provide legal support and services to adults and children detained by the Department of Homeland Security in Pennsylvania detention facilities.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* representation in cases involving removal/deportation proceedings, with an emphasis on immigrants who have fled torture in their home countries or who fear being tortured if returned to their countries and other vulnerable populations, including unaccompanied children, families, survivors of domestic violence and immigrants with mental health conditions.

**Pennsylvania Innocence Project**

1719 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

215-204-4255 (phone)

[www.innocenceprojectpa.org](http://www.innocenceprojectpa.org)

Marissa Bluestine, Legal Director; [innocenceprojectpa@temple.edu](mailto:innocenceprojectpa@temple.edu)

Richard Glazer, Executive Director

**Mission:** to secure the exoneration, release from imprisonment, and restoration to society of persons who are innocent and have been wrongly convicted; provide clinical training and experience to students in the fields of law, journalism, criminal justice, and forensic science; collaborate with law enforcement agencies and the courts to address systemic causes of wrongful convictions; and strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania through public education and advocacy.

**Description:** screen, evaluate, investigate and develop cases for litigation where an inmate has been wrongfully convicted of a crime but is in fact innocent; advocate for policies and reforms to address systemic causes of wrongful convictions.

**Philadelphia Landlord/Tenant Legal Help Center, A Collaborative Project Administered by SeniorLAW Center and Operated by TURN**

Walk-In Help Center: Municipal Court, 1339 Chestnut Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

Operating Hours: Mondays: 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Mission:** to provide free legal information, advice, and limited representation to unrepresented, low-income individuals who are facing eviction and other legal rental housing problems in Philadelphia

**Description:** Legal information, advice and limited representation services are provided to tenants who live in Philadelphia and whose income is 200% of the federal poverty level or below. Tenants may receive services coming to the Help Center during intake hours. Tenants sign-in at the Clerk's Counter to meet with an attorney on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts**

**Arts and Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, 200 S. Broad St., Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-790-3836 (phone) 215-790-3888 (fax)**

**[www.artsandbusinessphila.org/pvla](http://www.artsandbusinessphila.org/pvla)**

**Miriam K. DeChant, Esq., Director; [mdechant@artsandbusinessphila.org](mailto:mdechant@artsandbusinessphila.org)**

**Mission:** to provide legal services, educational programs and community building events for artists, lawyers and cultural organizations.

**Description:** provides referrals for *pro bono* legal representation of individual artists and arts and cultural organizations in matters involving a wide range of arts-related legal issues, including intellectual property, contracts, leases and real estate, taxes, and non-profit issues.

**Philadelphia VIP, Pro Bono Legal Services  
and LawWorks, a Project of VIP**

**1500 Walnut St., Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-523-9550 (phone) 215-564-0845 (fax)**

**[www.phillyvip.org](http://www.phillyvip.org)**

**Sara Woods, Executive Director; [swoods@phillyvip.org](mailto:swoods@phillyvip.org)**

**Ourania Papademetriou, Managing Attorney; [op@phillyvip.org](mailto:op@phillyvip.org)**

**Mission:** VIP's mission is to recruit, train and support volunteer attorneys to provide free representation to low-income clients in non-fee generating civil cases. LawWorks, a project of VIP, provides *pro bono* assistance to nonprofits, small business owners and low-income homeowners seeking legal title to their homes.

**Description of VIP:** provides referrals for *pro bono* legal representation in cases from adoption to zoning. Focus is on areas of critical legal need for low-income Philadelphians; to maintain or increase income, to stabilize families, to prevent homelessness and to support community economic development.

**Description of LawWorks Project:** provides referrals for *pro bono* representation for eligible nonprofit organizations and small businesses that benefit low-income communities.

**Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia**

**United Way Building, 1709 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Second Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-627-7100 (phone) 215-627-3183 (fax)**

**[www.pilcop.org](http://www.pilcop.org)**

**Jennifer R. Clarke, Executive Director; [jclarke@pilcop.org](mailto:jclarke@pilcop.org)**

**Mission:** To advance the constitutional promise of equal citizenship to all persons irrespective of race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender or poverty. PILCOP uses public education, continuing education for clients and client organizations, research, negotiation and, when necessary, the courts to achieve systemic reforms that advance the central goals of self-advocacy, social justice and equal protection of the law for all members of society.

**Description:** provides direct legal representation and referrals for *pro bono* legal presentation in civil cases

involving public school quality and finance reform, fair housing and lending, child custody and foster care, police accountability, education for children with disabilities, deinstitutionalization for people with disabilities, health care services to children, and employment discrimination.

**Regional Housing Legal Services**

**2 South Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038**

**215-572-7300 (phone) 215-572-0262 (fax)**

**[www.rhls.org](http://www.rhls.org) ; [www.hemap.org](http://www.hemap.org)**

**Judy Berkman, Managing Attorney; [judy.berkman@rhls.org](mailto:judy.berkman@rhls.org)**

**Mission:** to create housing and economic opportunity in under-served communities in Pennsylvania and to effect systematic change for the benefit of lower-income households statewide by providing free legal services and technical assistance to community based organizations that develop affordable housing and engage in economic development activities that benefit low-income people; informing, training and supporting consumers, and those who serve consumers, on housing and utility issues; and engaging in policy analysis and promoting system innovations focused on critical housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization and utility.

**Description:** provides legal representation and referrals for *pro bono* assistance to organizations that develop affordable housing, create economic development opportunities, and revitalize communities for the benefit of lower income persons. The key practice areas are Development Services, the Pennsylvania Housing Law Project (HLP), the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP), and the HEMAP Help Center.

**SeniorLAW Center**

**2 Penn Center, Suite 1501, 1500 JFK Blvd. , Philadelphia, PA 19102**

**215-988-1244 (phone) 215-988-1243 (fax)**

**[www.seniorlawcenter.org](http://www.seniorlawcenter.org)**

**Karen Buck, Executive Director; [kbuck@seniorlawcenter.org](mailto:kbuck@seniorlawcenter.org)**

**Mission:** to improve the lives of older Pennsylvanians and protect their rights through legal representation, education and advocacy.

**Description:** provides direct legal services and referrals for *pro bono* legal assistance to low-income Philadelphia residents who are 60 and over, and legal counseling, advice, information and referral services to seniors throughout Pennsylvania via its statewide SeniorLAW HelpLine. Focus is on housing, domestic violence, consumer protection, family law, economic security, health care and advance planning. *Pro bono* opportunities available to handle individual cases in a wide range of areas, litigation and transactional, in addition to opportunities through the SeniorLAW HelpLine, providing brief legal services to seniors across Pennsylvania on a wide range of civil legal issues by telephone.

**Support Center for Child Advocates**

**1900 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

**267-546-9200 (phone) 267-546-9201 (fax)**

**[www.advokid.org](http://www.advokid.org)**

**Frank Cervone, Executive Director; 267-546-9202; [fcervone@advokid.org](mailto:fcervone@advokid.org)**

**Jodi Schatz, Director of Intake and Pro Bono Services; 267-546-9228; [jschatz@advokid.org](mailto:jschatz@advokid.org)**

**Mission:** to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect with the goal of securing safety, justice, well-being and a permanent, nurturing environment for every child.

**Description:** The Support Center for Child Advocates (Child Advocates) represents children age birth to twenty-one, providing high-quality, child-centered advocacy in courts and other settings in Philadelphia County. All of our clients are victims of some form of child abuse or neglect requiring legal and social service intervention. Teaming specially trained volunteer lawyers with experienced child advocate social workers and staff attorneys, we have served more than 10,000 children and youth since 1977.

**Villanova School of Law: Lawyering Together Program**

**299 North Spring Mill Road, Villanova, PA 19085**

**610-519-7228 (phone) 610-519-5144 (fax)**

**Elizabeth Dunn, Director of Pro Bono Programs; [dunn@law.villanova.edu](mailto:dunn@law.villanova.edu)**

**Mission:** to match attorneys and law students to work on pro bono cases.

**Description:** Lawyering Together is a service learning project that matches attorneys with law student clerks to work on *pro bono* cases. Teams work on cases from Philadelphia VIP; Senior Law Center or Support Center for Child Advocates. If an attorney is already working on a *pro bono* case with another agency, the program will provide a law student clerk if requested.

**Women Against Abuse Legal Center**

**100 South Broad Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19110**

**215-686-7082 (phone) 215-686-7041 (fax)**

**[www.womenagainstabuse.org](http://www.womenagainstabuse.org)**

**Molly Callahan, Legal Center Director; [mcallahan@womenagainstabuse.org](mailto:mcallahan@womenagainstabuse.org)**

**Mission:** to provide free legal services for domestic violence victims relating to protection from abuse, custody, support and divorce matters.

**Description:** provides direct legal representation and referrals for *pro bono* legal representation for victims of domestic violence in civil proceedings to obtain and enforce protection from abuse orders as well as in divorce, custody and support cases.

Director of Intake and Pro Bono Services