



PHILADELPHIA  
BAR ASSOCIATION

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



*photo by B. Krist for GPTMC*

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University, for compiling this directory.*

# **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). Additional information about *pro bono* opportunities in Philadelphia may be found on the Philadelphia Bar Association's [Challenge Ahead](#) website; [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 [www.PALawHELP.org](http://www.PALawHELP.org), an online guide to legal information and legal services in Pennsylvania.

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

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

**P.O. Box 60173, Philadelphia, PA 19102**

**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)**

**Rebecca Cusumano-Seidel, Pro Bono Contact; [rcusmano-seidel@aclupa.org](mailto:rcusmano-seidel@aclupa.org)**

**Mission:** To defend individual civil liberties and constitutional rights in Pennsylvania through impact litigation, advocacy, and public education.

**Description of Cases Handled:** The ACLU-PA is the Pennsylvania affiliate of the National American Civil Liberties Union. Current priority areas for litigation include criminal justice reform, immigrants' rights, LGBTQ rights, and freedom of speech.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** ACLU-PA's legal department regularly partners with other legal service providers and the private bar in Philadelphia to litigate select cases that have the potential to protect the rights of many Pennsylvanians. The ACLU-PA also uses volunteer attorneys in Philadelphia to help review requests for legal assistance.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Lawyers:** Research projects available for law-students, paralegals and graduate students.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** During regular working hours as well as evening hours remotely.

**Training provided:** Yes.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Volunteer Application:** <http://volunteer@aclupa.org>

### ***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)**

**Deborah Gordon Klehr, Executive Director; [dklehr@elc-pa.org](mailto:dklehr@elc-pa.org)**

**Kristina Moon, Pro Bono Contact; [kmoon@elc-pa.org](mailto:kmoon@elc-pa.org)**

**Mission:** To ensure access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania. ELC pursues this mission by advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable students- children living in poverty, children of color, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, English Language Learners, LGBTQ students, and children experiencing homelessness.

**Description of Cases Handled:** 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.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** ELC relies on pro bono assistance from attorneys in private practice to handle smaller individual representation of a student with a single issue, i.e., expulsion hearing- to larger systemic complaints represented in federal court or through an oversight agency. ELC staff train private attorneys who take pro bono cases and ELC acts as consultants or co-counsel on matters as needed.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Attorneys:** Paralegals familiar with special education records can be helpful with document review.

**Average Time Commitment:** Many cases settle and may only require the drafting of a complaint and participation in a resolution session. If a matter is fully litigated at the administrative level, the commitment may range between 15- 60 hours depending on the type of case.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Many pro bono matters are most likely to involve administrative hearings before a hearing officer appointed by a school board. Special education matters may be appealed directly to federal court following an administrative ruling. School discipline and enrollment matters may be appealed to a Court of Common Pleas and then Commonwealth Court within the state court system.

***Elder Justice & Civil Resource Center (EJCRC)***

**Room 278, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

**215-686-7027 (phone)**

[elderresource@courts.phila.gov](mailto:elderresource@courts.phila.gov)

<http://www.courts.phila.gov/ejc/>

**Brian Kisielewski, Manager, Civil Filing Center-Office of Judicial Records;**

[brian.kisielewski@courts.phila.gov](mailto:brian.kisielewski@courts.phila.gov)

**Erica Bray, Pro Bono Contact; [elderresource@courts.phila.gov](mailto:elderresource@courts.phila.gov)**

**Mission:** To provide assistance to self-represented litigants who need help navigating the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas' Civil Trial Division.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Assistance may include initiating legal action or responding to civil case filed in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The office assists litigants by offering procedural information, legal resources and referrals, and free legal advice from volunteer attorneys and law students by appointment or on a walk-in basis if available. The Elder Justice & Civil Resource Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Resource Center is staffed by court personnel and volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and law students during the regular business hours. The EJCRC does not provide in-court representation.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Limited Representation.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Attorneys:** Law students and trained paralegals with previous experience welcome.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Weekdays, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Average Time Commitment:** 2- 3 hours.

**Training Provided:** Yes

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

***Face to Face Legal Center***

**109 E. Price Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144**

**215-438-7939 (phone) 215-843-8040 (fax)**

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

**Mary Kay Meeks-Hanks, Executive Director; [marykay@facetofacegermantown.org](mailto:marykay@facetofacegermantown.org)**

**Anna Brickman, Pro Bono Contact; [annabrickman@facetofacegermantown.org](mailto:annabrickman@facetofacegermantown.org)**

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

**Description of Cases Handled:** Landlord/Tenant, social security and veterans' benefits, legal identification, identity theft, special education, student discipline, and expungement.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Saturday morning intake shifts and criminal record expungement clinics.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Attorneys:** Saturday morning intake shifts and criminal record expungement clinics.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Saturday mornings.

**Average Time Commitment:** 3 hours per month.

**Training Provided:** Yes.  
**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**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)

**Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq., Executive Director;** [cmillerwilson@hiaspa.org](mailto:cmillerwilson@hiaspa.org)

**Mission:** To provide legal and supportive services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all backgrounds in order to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society. HIAS Pennsylvania advocates for just and inclusive public policies and practices.

**Description of Cases Handled:** HIAS Pennsylvania 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.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Assist HIAS Pennsylvania lawyers with their caseloads.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Lawyers:** HIAS Pennsylvania accepts volunteers for social services programming and other volunteer opportunities, including appointment accompaniment, childcare, ESL tutoring, and job mentorship.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Link to Volunteer Sign-Up Form:** <http://hiaspa.org/volunteer>

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work Is Performed:** Federal courts and administrative bodies of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

**Justice at Work (formerly Friends of Farmworkers, Inc.)**

990 Spring Garden Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19123

215-733-0878 (phone) 215-733-0876 (fax)

<http://www.justiceatworklegalaid.org>

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

**Liz Chacko, Pro Bono Contact;** [lchacko@justiceatworklegalaid.org](mailto:lchacko@justiceatworklegalaid.org)

**Mission:** To support low-wage workers as they pursue economic and social justice through the provision of legal services, education, and advocacy.

**Description of Cases Handled:** 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.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Co-counsel on employment litigation

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Lawyers:** Law students, undergraduate, paralegals. Bilingual volunteers preferred.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Weekdays.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Municipal, state, federal court; administrative agencies (EEOC, PHRA, etc.).

**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)

Esther Miller, Pro Bono Contact; [emiller@lcdphila.org](mailto:emiller@lcdphila.org)

**Mission:** To empower low-income people with disabilities and the deaf and hard of hearing in the Philadelphia region to achieve inclusion, independence and justice by providing free, quality, legal representation to overcome legal obstacles that would otherwise affect their independence, health, or quality of life.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Guardianship for special needs children: LCD partners with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children for those pediatric special needs patients transitioning from pediatric to adult providers. Parents are referred to LCD because they want to pursue guardianship for their severely disabled adult child. LCD relies on the support of volunteers to provide this needed legal representation. Volunteers are also needed to work on miscellaneous matters, such as housing (deed transfers; clearing title to property to assist clients to remain in their homes) and consumer protection (home repair contractor problems).

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Volunteers are needed to work at LCD's Community Legal Outreach Clinics (CLOCS), which provide legal aid to clients in the community, including providing planning documents such as powers of attorneys and living wills. CLOCS also assists clients in credit rehabilitation with three major credit reporting agencies.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Attorneys:** Law student interns.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Weekdays; CLOCS take place during business hours and requires a 2-hour commitment.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** State Orphans' Court; Municipal Court small claims.

**Link to Volunteer Sign-up Form Online:** <http://www.lcdphila.org/volunteer/>

**Mazzoni Center, LGBTQ Legal Services**

1348 Bainbridge Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

866-LGBT-LAW (toll free) 215-563-0657 (phone) 215-563-0664 (fax)

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

Thomas W. Ude, Jr., Legal and Public Policy Director; [tude@mazzonicenter.org](mailto:tude@mazzonicenter.org)

**Mission:** To provide quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBTQ-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals served. Mazzoni Center's legal services department is the only program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that specifically provides direct no-cost or low-cost legal assistance to low-income and lower-income, underserved LGBTQ individuals and families. Mazzoni Center also provides advice and representation to LGBTQ people on discrimination matters.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Services provided in a wide range of areas, including elder issues, employment discrimination, family law/parenting issues, name changes, relationship recognition and dissolution, prisoner rights, advanced planning, and youth concerns.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Name change referrals, family law matters, and co-counseling opportunities on discrimination claims, amicus briefs, and policy advocacy.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers and Inactive Attorneys:** Assistance provided by law students, paralegals, inactive attorneys, and non-lawyers in responding to requests for assistance made to the help desk.

**Hours for Pro Bono Opportunities:** Weekdays.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

***Pennsylvania Innocence Project***

1515 Market Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-204-4255 (phone)

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

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

Nilam Sanghvi, Pro Bono Contact; [nilam.sanghvi@temple.edu](mailto:nilam.sanghvi@temple.edu)

**Mission:** To exonerate and restore to freedom those convicted of crimes they did not commit and prevent innocent people from being convicted.

**Description of Cases Handled:** All cases involve post-conviction petitions claiming actual innocence.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Volunteer attorneys serve on every case filed in court as co-counsel to exonerate the convicted innocent. Volunteers may also participate in the Project's active amicus practice in Pennsylvania state courts and federal courts. Most of the Project's amicus briefs are written by pro bono partners with input and oversight from Project attorneys or attorneys with other innocence organizations around the world. Lawyers at a single firm can help review a case at STAGE 3 level or represent a Project client in court. All interested attorneys or firms receive a two hour training seminar we provide. Attorneys interested in scheduled a training session should send email to [innocenceprojectpa@temple.edu](mailto:innocenceprojectpa@temple.edu).

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Lawyers:** Retired or non-lawyers can volunteer to help with case reviews, or with legislative or policy-direct advocacy.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Most of our pro bono partners schedule their own time for working with the Project.

**Average Time Commitment:** Completely case-specific.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Research or Expert Services Available:** Pre-trial consultation provided on a number of matters linked to wrongful convictions.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** The vast majority of the Project's work is in state court, but there are some federal cases as well.

***Philadelphia Family Court Help Center***

Walk-In Help Center: Family Court, 1501 Arch St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia

(215) 686-3805 (phone)

**Operating Hours:** Every week day from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

<https://philalegal.org/familycourthelpcenter>

**Pro Bono Contact:** Deeya Haldar; [dhaldar@philalegal.org](mailto:dhaldar@philalegal.org)

**Mission:** To assist the public with legal information about custody cases in Philadelphia by explaining court rules and legal terms, giving out court forms and providing assistance in preparing pleadings, answering questions, and referring to other sources of assistance.

**Description:** The Family Court Help Center is a collaboration of the Family Court, Philadelphia Legal Assistance, Women Against Abuse, and the Family Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Volunteer attorneys, with the assistance students from local law schools, provide legal information and assistance with preparing and filling pleadings to unrepresented litigants in custody cases.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Volunteer attorneys staff the Help Center along with a Philadelphia Legal Assistance paralegal, and provide legal information and assistance in preparing simple pleadings using the court's forms to pro se litigants in their custody cases. The Help Center only provides legal information, not advice or representation, so there is no ongoing commitment to litigants. Attorneys may volunteer for one Help Center shift, an occasional shift, or may make more of a regular (monthly) commitment. Custody training may be scheduled for non-family law attorneys. Members of the Family Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association should contact Lee Schwartz at [lee@schwartzjordan.com](mailto:lee@schwartzjordan.com) to volunteer.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers and Inactive Attorneys:** Law students, paralegals, or inactive

attorneys may also volunteer to staff the Help Center to provide legal information regarding custody and assistance with preparing pleadings to pro se litigants. Custody training may be scheduled.

**Hours for Pro Bono Opportunities:** Weekdays, 12-3pm

**Average Time Commitment (Hours/Duration):** Flexible - can be one time or occasional involvement, or can be a monthly commitment

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Philadelphia Landlord/Tenant Legal Help Center**

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

**Operating Hours:** Mondays through Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 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 at the Help Center during intake hours by signing in at the Clerk's Counter to meet with an attorney on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Volunteer attorneys are needed to provide representation to tenants and should contact Philadelphia VIP for further information.

**Link to Philadelphia VIP Volunteer Form:** <https://www.phillyvip.org/volunteer-form/>

**Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity**

1501 Cherry St. Philadelphia, PA 19102

267-519-5323 (phone) 215-839-3431 (fax)

<http://plsephilly.org>

**Tobey Oxholm, Executive Director;** [info@plsephilly.org](mailto:info@plsephilly.org)

**Zane Johnson, Pro Bono Contact;** [info@plsephilly.org](mailto:info@plsephilly.org)

**Mission:** To work toward just outcomes for low-income individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system. Through individual representation, strategic litigation, community education, research, and legislative advocacy, PLSE advocates for a more equitable social environment for those with criminal records.

**Description of Cases Handled:** PLSE currently represents individuals in the expungement process, removing harmful non-conviction information from their criminal history records. In fall 2018, PLSE will begin working with Pardon Hubs in Philadelphia to provide free pardon assistance.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Pro Bono opportunities vary based on need and the particular interests of the volunteer.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Lawyers:** Pro Bono opportunities vary based on need and the particular interests of the volunteer.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Flexible.

**Average Time commitment:** Flexible.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Community based organizations, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

**Link to Volunteer Application:** <http://plsephilly.org/get-involved/>

**Philadelphia Legal Assistance: Medical-Legal-Community Partnership (MLCP)**

The Cast Iron Building, 718 Arch St., Suite 300N, Philadelphia, PA 19106



215-981-3800 (phone) 215-981-3860 (fax)

<http://philalegal.org/>

Anita Santos, Executive Director; [asantos@philalegal.org](mailto:asantos@philalegal.org)

Cynthia Haskin, Pro Bono Contact; [chaskin@philalegal.org](mailto:chaskin@philalegal.org)

**Mission:** To enforce and protect the rights of individuals and families by providing accessible, creative and high quality legal assistance and working collaboratively for systemic change.

**Description of Cases Handled:** MLCP's work protects and promotes the provision of clients' basic human needs, including family safety, health, employment, income maintenance, and housing. PLA provides general legal services to patients at two of the City's public health centers through its pro bono driven MLCP. Common areas of practice include: medical assistance, private health insurance, housing, unemployment compensation and debt collection.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Advice and brief services provided to clients of PLA's MLCP.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Attorneys:** The Medical-Legal-Community-Partnership welcomes law students and inactive attorneys to provide the same level of services under the direct supervision of an experience licensed attorney.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Weekdays; regular hours, Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Average Time Commitment:** 2-3 hours per week.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work Is Performed:** Primary administrative forums, including negotiating with County Assistance Offices and the Board of Unemployment Compensation. Negotiations with hospitals and landlords are also common.

### *Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts*

Arts + Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, 200 S. Broad St., Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 790-3836 ext. 1 (phone) (215) 790-3729 (fax)

<http://artsbusinessphl.org/philadelphia-volunteer-lawyers-arts/>

Ryan Morris, Esq., Director of Volunteer Services; [rmorris@artsbusinessphl.org](mailto:rmorris@artsbusinessphl.org)

**Mission:** To provide education and pro bono legal assistance to low-income artists and creative entrepreneurs, as well as small-budget arts and cultural organizations that struggle with complex legal matters frequently unique to the arts and creative sectors.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Common examples of legal issues presented include: 1) IP Protection & Licensing (copyright/trademark registration; patent prosecution; negotiation of royalties; etc.); 2) Contract Review, Negotiation & Drafting (e.g. artist-gallery agreements, performance agreements, etc.); 3) Litigation & Dispute Resolution (e.g. copyright/trademark infringement; contract disputes; etc.); and 4) Entity Formation & Governance (e.g. nonprofit/for-profit incorporation; review/draft bylaws; etc.).

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** PVLA's core legal services include:

- Legal Line: One-time pro bono telephone consultation provided to artists and arts and cultural organizations on arts-related issues.
- ArtFax: One-time pro bono review of short legal documents on arts-related legal issues for artists and arts and cultural organizations.
- Full-Service Representation: Comprehensive pro bono cases for artists and arts and cultural organizations.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Lawyers:** Law students and qualifying emeritus attorneys.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Monday- Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Link to Volunteer Sign-up Form:**

<http://artsandbusinessphila.secure.force.com/webforms/pvlaVolunteerApp>

***Philadelphia VIP and LawWorks, a Project of VIP***

1500 Walnut St., Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-523-9550 (phone) 215-564-0845 (fax)

<http://www.phillyvip.org>

**Sophie Bryan, Executive Director;** [sbryan@phillyvip.org](mailto:sbryan@phillyvip.org)

**Rida Haq, Pro Bono Contact;** [rhaq@phillyvip.org](mailto:rhaq@phillyvip.org)

**Mission:** To leverage the powerful resources of the community to provide quality volunteer legal services and ensure access to justice for low-income Philadelphians.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Provides pro bono legal services to clients with civil legal issues in four priority areas: Supporting Family Stability: adoption, custody, divorce, child and spousal support, protection from abuse, and guardianship; Preventing Homelessness: landlord/tenant (eviction), probate, real estate litigation (adverse possession, lease/purchase, fraudulent conveyance), real estate transactions (deed transfer), mortgage foreclosure; Maintaining Household Income: estate planning, auto accident defense, tort defense, collections, federal/state/local income tax, and name change/birth certificate amendment; Promoting Community Economic Development (for small businesses and nonprofits): incorporation, contract/warranties, intellectual property, tax, zoning, real property, choice of entity, corporate governance, employment practices, insurance, and zoning.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Full representation litigation and transactional volunteer opportunities are available. Limited representation engagements are also available in custody, landlord-tenant (eviction), deed transfer, and mortgage foreclosure cases. VIP arranges several small business and nonprofit clinics, and most ongoing small business and nonprofit matters are limited representation.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus, and Inactive Attorneys:** Volunteer interpreters are an integral part of the VIP volunteer base. Spanish, Arabic, and Mandarin volunteer interpreters are needed frequently, and speakers of other languages are also encouraged to volunteer. In-kind service providers, such as court reporters, notaries, court experts, real estate appraisers, and process servers are highly needed.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Weekdays, weekends, and evenings. Client meetings can be scheduled at the volunteer's discretion. The VIP office space is available for volunteer/client meetings on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Average Time Commitment:** Time commitment varies by type of case, and can range from 1 hour to up to 50 hours for complex cases.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Research or Expert Services Available:** Subject matter experts are available to mentor in all case types. Title insurance companies, notaries, real estate appraisers, private investigators, process servers, and court reporters are often available on a low or no-cost basis.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas - Civil Trial Division; Philadelphia Family Court - Domestic Relations; Philadelphia Orphan's Court; Philadelphia Municipal Court; City, State, and Federal Administrative Agencies.

**Link to Volunteer Sign-up Form Online:** <https://www.phillyvip.org/volunteer-form/>

**Link to Cases That Are Available for Pro Bono Attorneys:** <https://www.phillyvip.org/case-listings>

***Public Interest Law Center***

United Way Building, 1709 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Second Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-627-7100 (phone) 215-627-3183 (fax)

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

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

**Mimi McKenzie, Pro Bono Contact;** [mmckenzie@pubintlaw.org](mailto:mmckenzie@pubintlaw.org)

**Mission:** To use high-impact legal strategies to advance the civil, social, and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region facing discrimination, inequality, and poverty. The Public Interest Law Center uses litigation, community education, advocacy, and organizing to secure their access to fundamental resources and services.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Proves direct legal representation and referrals for pro bono legal representation to create systemic change to benefit impoverished communities, people with disabilities, racial minorities, ex-offenders, and other marginalized groups. The Public Interest Law Center specifically works in the areas of education and special education, access to healthcare, public health and environmental justice, housing and community services, employment, and the right to vote.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Partner on a large, class action lawsuit, which usually requires the commitment of multiple lawyers over an extended period of time. Lawyers working on these cases will gain the full range of experience: motions and pleadings practice; discovery, including depositions; working with experts and document review; and oral arguments and trial. Prepare amicus briefs on issues that pertain to our work. At times the Law Center is the client and at other times interested organizations wish to be heard in the Law Center's cases. Provide research on targeted factual or policy, defined legal issues to support the Law Center's advocacy and training initiatives. Participate in strategic planning sessions—policy circles—to help focus and guide the Law Center's work in the future. Contribute business/corporate/employment law expertise to the Law Center.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Lawyers:** Volunteers welcomed with all levels of experience to assist in administrative tasks including: organizing, indexing and reviewing documents; preparing exhibits, scanning documents; filing; data entry; and client intake and referrals.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** For lawyers, hours are dependent on the case/project and attorney's time. For non-lawyers, the office business hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Average Time Commitment:** 2 hours per week for non-lawyer volunteers.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums where Work is Performed:** State/federal administrative agencies; State trial and/or appellate courts; Federal trial and/or appellate courts.

**Link to Volunteer Application Form:** <https://www.pubintlaw.org/work-with-us/>

### *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)

**Mark Schwartz, Executive Director;** [mark.schwartz@rhls.org](mailto:mark.schwartz@rhls.org)

**Dina Schlossberg, Pro Bono Contact;** [dina.schlossberg@rhls.org](mailto:dina.schlossberg@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.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Represent nonprofit organizations in a variety of transactional and policy matters related to affordable housing and community economic development.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Research and/or co-counsel on matters related to affordable housing, zoning, environmental assessment/environmental clean-up health and/or housing.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Lawyers:** Law students and emeritus or retired attorneys are welcome.

**Average Time Commitment:** Varies.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work Is Performed:** Primarily transactional practice but could involve an administrative hearing or zoning hearing.

**SeniorLAW Center**

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

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

<http://www.seniorlawcenter.org>

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

Wendy Bookler, Legal Director and Pro Bono Contact; [wbookler@seniorlawcenter.org](mailto:wbookler@seniorlawcenter.org)

**Mission:** To seek justice for older people by using the power of the law, educating the community and advocating on local, state and national levels.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Direct representation in: landlord/tenant eviction and other landlord/tenant cases; homeownership matters (forward and reverse mortgage foreclosure, tax foreclosure, probate, tangled title); elder abuse and financial exploitation matters; and kinship care (grandparent/inter-generational custody) matters. Life planning clinics. Statewide PA SeniorLAW HelpLine: advice, information, brief services and referrals for seniors. Systemic advocacy projects. Services for vulnerable older adults: veterans, those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), the homebound, disabled, poor, minorities, and those living in rural areas.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** All clients are seniors, 60 and older. Volunteers can assist with individual cases (described above), life planning clinics, PA SeniorLAW HelpLine. Opportunities are also available to create substantive practice groups within firms and to pursue systemic advocacy projects for community impact.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, Emeritus and Inactive Lawyers:** PA SeniorLAW HelpLine provides opportunities to conduct intake (gather demographic information and elicit information about legal issues).

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Varies by project, most of which are handled independently and on the volunteer's own schedule. Evening hours are available bi-monthly for non-lawyers assisting with intake on the PA SeniorLAWHelpLine.

**Average Time commitment:** Varies. Limited (i.e. one and done clinics or PA SeniorLAWHelpLine) to 10-15 hour research projects. Hours are more extended for litigation and transactional matters.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Research or Expert Services Available:** Varies by project.

**Forums where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Litigation matters in all civil courts in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Statewide services on PA SeniorLAW HelpLine.

**Link to Volunteer Application:** <http://seniorlawcenter.org/volunteer/online-volunteer-application/>

**Support Center for Child Advocates (Child Advocates)**

1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 1200, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

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

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

Jodi Schatz, Director of Intake and Pro Bono Services; 267-546-9228; [jschatz@SCCAlaw.org](mailto:jschatz@SCCAlaw.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 of Cases Handled:** Legal representation provided for children from birth to twenty-one, providing high-quality, child-centered advocacy in courts and other settings in Philadelphia County. All of SCCA 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, SCCA has served more than 10,000 children and youth since 1977.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Litigation, Negotiation, Appeals, Social Service Advocacy

**Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Lawyers, emeritus and Inactive Lawyers:** Paralegals may pair with volunteer attorneys working on cases.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Weekdays; some evenings.

**Average Time Commitment:** Varies. 2-10 hours per month.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Malpractice Insurance Provided:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums Where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Family Court, Juvenile Division; Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Family Court, Domestic Relations Division; Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Trial Division, Criminal; Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

**Link to Volunteer Application:** <https://sccalaw.org/takeastand/>

***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)**

**Kathleen O'Malley, Pro Bono Contact; [komalley@womenagainstabuse.org](mailto:komalley@womenagainstabuse.org)**

**Mission:** To provide quality, compassionate, and nonjudgmental services in a manner that fosters self-respect and independence in persons experiencing intimate partner violence and to lead the struggle to end domestic violence through advocacy and community education.

**Description of Cases Handled:** Offers free legal advocacy and representation for both males and females dealing with relationship violence-related legal matters.

**Volunteer Opportunities for Lawyers:** Litigation, limited representation, research, assistance with appellate matters.

**Times Offered for Pro Bono Work:** Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Training Provided:** Yes.

**Training Required:** Yes.

**Mentoring or Supervision Offered:** Yes.

**Forums where Pro Bono Work is Performed:** Philadelphia Family Court.