This workshop was held at the 2017 Equal Justice Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Title:
Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities: Meeting the Challenges of the Changing Legal Landscape

Presenters:
David D. Daniels, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
Nancy Drane, DC Access to Justice Commission, Washington, DC
Susan M. Hoffman, Crowell & Moring, Washington, DC
Kitty Wach, Miller & Chevalier Chartered, Washington, DC

This session will explore how providers can better market pro bono in view of pressures on attorneys to spend more time on billable work and skill acquisition. We will discuss different strategies including marketing individual representations as a gateway to policy projects, "unbundling" legal services, and identifying skill building benefits.
MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE

David Daniels, Pro Bono Director, Public Counsel
Nancy Drane, Executive Director, D.C. Access to Justice Commission
Susie Hoffman, Public Service Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP
Kitty Wach, Pro Bono Counsel, Miller & Chevalier Chartered

May 4, 2017 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Introduction and Session Goals

II. Why Pro Bono?

III. Motivating Pro Bono Attorneys

IV. Selling Pro Bono Opportunities

V. The New Reality

VI. Fitting Pro Bono into the Changing Legal Landscape

VII. Conclusion
2017 EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

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PRESENTATION MATERIALS
2017 EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

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SAMPLE PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY SOLICITATIONS

ALONG THE PLACEMENT PYRAMID
Pro Bono Case Placement Pyramid

1. Personal Office Visit
2. Phone Call
3. Targeted E-Mail – One Case to One Person
4. Targeted E-Mail Blast (Urgent) – One Case to Multiple Attorneys or Coordinators
5. General E-Mail Blast – Multiple Cases to Multiple Attorneys or Coordinators
6. Attachable/Pasteable General Sales Menu – in Word
7. Opportunities Posted on Website
GENERAL E-MAIL BLAST
Multiple Opportunities to Multiple Attorneys/Coordinators
How to Use Public Counsel's Top 10 List

This monthly Top 10 List is one of the many ways Public Counsel connects law firms and attorneys to our mission of providing pro bono legal services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

Please communicate directly with the identified case contact for any opportunity on the List. If you have tried to reach the case contact and have been unsuccessful, then please contact me at (213) 637-3801, or at ddaniels@publiccounsel.org.

Also, if you wish other persons in your organization to receive this List, please click here to sign up directly (they will need to select the Top 10 List option) or e-mail me their contact information, including their current e-mail address. If you have received this List in error, or no longer wish to receive this mailing, please e-mail me a request to be deleted from the distribution or unsubscribe via the link at the bottom of the page.

As always, many thanks for your support and for your dedication to ensuring that everyone has equal access to justice.

Thanks for being part of our team!

David Daniels
Pro Bono Director
Public Counsel

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Transactional, Advisory, and Training Opportunities
EMPLOYMENT LAW
NONPROFIT - REVIEW OF A FORM INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT & DRAFTING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
The client is a small nonprofit that promotes women's leadership through dance education programs and performances. The client seeks pro bono assistance from an employment attorney to help review its form independent contractor agreement for participating dancers and draft an employment agreement for the managing director.

Project: Community Development Project
Case Number: CDP # 806824
Volunteer Type: Labor & Employment Attorney
Case Contact: Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827

NONPROFIT - DRAFTING EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR A PART-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PART-TIME EMPLOYEES
The client is a nonprofit that educates African-American women about breastfeeding. The client is in the process of hiring a part-time executive director and three part-time employees and seeks pro bono assistance to draft the employment agreements for these positions.

Project: Community Development Project
Case Number: CDP # 807099
Volunteer Type: Labor & Employment Attorney
Case Contact: Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827

NONPROFIT - REVIEW OF A VOLUNTEER POLICY
The client is a nonprofit that provides temporary housing and other social service support to formerly incarcerated women and their families. The client seeks pro bono assistance to review its volunteer policy.

Project: Community Development Project
Case Number: CDP # 806832
Volunteer Type: Labor & Employment Attorney
Case Contact: Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827

NONPROFIT - EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE
The client is a nonprofit that is dedicated to helping students from underserved communities build confidence and cultivate a passion for innovation through its STEM programs. The client requires pro bono assistance from an employment attorney to update its employee handbook.

Project: Community Development Project
Case Number: CDP # 807186
Volunteer Type: Labor & Employment Attorney
Case Contact: Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827

NONPROFIT - CONDUCTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AWARENESS TRAININGS
The client is a nonprofit that offers transportation and other senior support services to low-income older adults residing in Los Angeles. The client is looking for a pro bono attorney to conduct the mandatory sexual harassment awareness trainings for its staff and managers.
**Community Development Project**

**Case Number:** CDP # 806833  
**Volunteer Type:** Labor & Employment Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827  

**Corporate/Transactional Law**  
**Nonprofit - Bylaws Review**  
The client is a nonprofit program that empowers LGBT Latino high school students by offering social support and promoting activism. The client seeks *pro bono* assistance to review its bylaws.

**Community Development Project**

**Case Number:** CDP # TBD  
**Volunteer Type:** Corporate Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827  

**Privacy Law**  
**Nonprofit - Policies & Procedures Review with Respect to Collecting Personal Information**  
The client is a nonprofit affordable housing developer in Los Angeles. The nonprofit has begun offering resident services, which involves gathering personal information. The client seeks *pro bono* assistance to review its policies & procedures with respect to collecting personal information to ensure that it complies with privacy laws.

**Community Development Project**

**Case Number:** CDP # TBD  
**Volunteer Type:** Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827  

**Speaking Engagement Opportunity**

**Choice of Entity Training**  
The client is a nonprofit small business technical assistance provider that aims to facilitate the start-up and expansion of businesses. The nonprofit's entrepreneurial training program (ETP) is looking for a *pro bono* attorney to present on choice of legal entities to a group of emerging entrepreneurs. Public Counsel has an existing PowerPoint that the attorney can use. The presentation will be held in Van Nuys, CA on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

**Community Development Project**

**Case Number:** CDP # TBD  
**Volunteer Type:** Corporate Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Carlo Castro - ccastro@publiccounsel.org or (213) 637-3827

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**Clinic, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Opportunities**

**Limited Scope Opportunity:** Volunteer at a Clinic for Seniors
Public Counsel, in partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library, has begun a series of consumer law clinics for seniors at the Vermont Square Branch library. The clinics are on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00-7:00, and are currently scheduled for: March 21, April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, June 6, and June 20. The clinic is targeted at seniors who want to discuss issues related to housing and financial well-being, including fraud, foreclosure, debt collection, loans and home improvement contracts. However, we try to provide basic advice and good referrals for other issues. No special knowledge or training is required to volunteer.

**Project:** Consumer Law Project  
**Case Number:** NA  
**Volunteer Type:** Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Adelaide Anderson - (213) 385-2977 x 231 or aanderson@publiccounsel.org

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**HOMEOWNER WITH DEMENTIA TOLD THAT HER HOME WOULD BE RED-TAGGED**

Client needed a bathroom remodel to accommodate her disability. Client's Daughter told the Contractor to deal only with Daughter, because of Client's dementia. Contractor returned to Client's home when Daughter was not present, and told Client that her home would be red-tagged if Client did not do additional repairs. Client apparently signed a contract for those repairs. The contract does not address any issues that would merit red-tagging. Nevertheless, there is now a $50,000 lien on Client's home, for work she did not need, that is being assessed through her property taxes.

**Project:** Consumer Law Project  
**Case Number:** 806548  
**Volunteer Type:** Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Adelaide Anderson - (213) 385-2977 x 231 or aanderson@publiccounsel.org

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**ELDERLY WOMAN BEING FORCED OUT OF HOME BY DAUGHTER**

When Client bought her home on her wages from cleaning houses, she put several relatives, including her eldest Daughter, on title in order to obtain financing. For 35 years, Client has paid all expenses relating to the home. For approximately 30 of those years, Daughter lived in the rear unit, and paid monthly rent to Client. Client paid for repairs and remodel of Daughter's unit. Last year, Daughter began refusing to pay rent. Client is now having to dip into her small savings to pay for Daughter's utilities, and Daughter is harassing Client, who is frail and miserable. Client seeks help, under a theory of constructive trust or otherwise, to regain control of her home and live in peace.

**Project:** Consumer Law Project  
**Case Number:** pending  
**Volunteer Type:** Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Adelaide Anderson - (213) 385-2977 x 231 or aanderson@publiccounsel.org

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**SCAM VICTIMS NEED HELP TO REGAIN TITLE TO THEIR HOMES**

During the financial crisis many homeowners, especially Spanish-speaking homeowners, were tricked into signing grant deeds in favor of people who promised to help them keep their homes. Despite these fraudulent deeds, many of the victims successfully negotiated loan modifications and have regained financial stability. However, they no longer have title, or have strangers on title with them. These are excellent cases for volunteers who want discrete, straightforward litigation matters with minimal litigation costs that will nevertheless have enormous impact for low-income families. Public Counsel will provide a how-to guide about quieting title, and sample pleadings.
**RESOLVING IDENTITY THEFT: PROTECT A CLIENT FROM DOZENS OF LAWSUITS**

Client was the victim of a foreclosure rescue scam. The scammers induced her to file bankruptcy, and to sign over title to her house. Client is in the process of quieting title to her home. Client's current problem is that a second set of scammers hijacked Client's bankruptcies. That means that they used the automatic stay in her case for the benefit of other homeowners facing foreclosure, by having those homeowners convey fractional title to Client. Client was completely unaware of these transfers. However, she is now being sued in multiple quiet title actions, and may face over 150 more. Public Counsel seeks someone to find a creative solution to this problem, so that Client can put these events behind her and not have judgments (even declaratory ones) against her.

**ELDERLY COUPLE FORCED OUT OF OWN HOME: PARTITION NEEDED**

Client and his wife, both in their late 70’s, shared their home with their daughter and son-in-law. Client and son-in-law are both on the Title. The couple was subjected to emotional abuse by their daughter and son-in-law and in July 2016 decided to leave the home due to the stress, which was contributing to their failing health. Client and wife were paying most of their combined monthly Social Security income towards the mortgage through July 2016, but son-in-law handled all payments and kept them in the dark about the status of the loan. Since July 2016, Client and his wife have been living temporarily with other family members but this is not a long-term solution. They asked their daughter and son-in-law to buy them out, but were refused. They tried to mediate their case with the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs but the other party would not participate. Public Counsel seeks an attorney with experience in this area of law to file for partition of the home. Couple is Spanish speaking.

**Imigrants' Rights Opportunities**

**ASYLUM FOR TRANSGENDER WOMAN FROM MEXICO**

This case is an excellent opportunity for pro bono attorneys interested in getting court experience. The client is a 24 year-old transgender woman from Mexico. The client has previously lived in the United States, when she was still a minor. At that time, one of her family members physically abused her because of her gender identity and sexual orientation. The client complained to a social service agency, but did not receive protection. Her family sent her back to Mexico, again while the client was still a minor.
In Mexico, the client suffered extortion and repeated beatings, both at the hands of gang members and police. The police used homophobic slurs when beating her, and took her money and phone. In one incident, gang members beat her with a wooden plank. Gang members also kidnapped her on at least one occasion. Her brother disappeared, and the client believes that gang members are responsible. Finally, her partner's family, one of whom is a drug trafficker, threatened her because they did not want the couple to be together.

The client asked for asylum at the border on October 7, 2016. In order to receive asylum, she must show that she will be persecuted on account of a protected ground if removed to her home country by the government or by a third-party whom the government is unable or unwilling to control. The client likely has a prior expedited removal order from a previous attempt to cross the border. Nevertheless, the client may still apply for asylum, though the case may require making arguments as to eligibility. The client is also eligible for withholding of removal, which is similar to asylum but has a higher burden of proof and does not lead to lawful permanent residency. The client may also be eligible for a U visa based on the abuse she suffered as a child.

The client was released on parole on December 20, 2016, and is currently living with family members in Los Angeles. She had her first master calendar hearing before IJ Ho on the non-detained docket on February 27, 2017. The client's next master calendar hearing will be before IJ Ho at 606 S. Olive St., Los Angeles, CA 90014 on April 17, 2017. The client is Spanish-speaking.

Project: Immigrants' Rights Project
Case Number: IRP# 805440
Volunteer Type: Attorney
Case Contact: Caitlin Bellis - (213) 385-2977 x 189

ASYLUM / WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL FOR GAY MAN FROM HONDURAS
This case is an excellent opportunity for pro bono attorneys looking for a complex case and trial experience. The client is a 38 year-old man from Honduras who has lived in the United States for over a decade, but who spent four of those years in immigration detention, until he was released following an ACLU class action suit. The client was denied asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under CAT in 2013. He appealed his case first to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which he lost, and then to the Ninth Circuit, where he won a remand.

The client knew that he was different from a young age, and members of his family abused him for failing to conform to certain masculine gender roles. He suffered repeated rapes as a child due to his sexual identity, and at least one when he was an adult. A young man, he was also severely beaten by gang members, who used homophobic slurs as they beat him. Police officers arrived at the scene after a time, but when the client told them what had happened, they refused to help him, instead calling him homophobic slurs and saying that he had provoked the beating by being gay.

He eventually fled Honduras and spent several years in Mexico. However, he did not feel safe or able to express his sexuality openly there either. He knew of many acts of violence against members of the gay community, and so he decided to flee again, this time to the United States. He was multiple times by Border Patrol trying to cross, and, fearing Honduras even more than Mexico, claimed to be from Mexico so that he would be returned there instead. The United States was the first place he felt safe and able to publicly express his identity and to participate in an LGBT community.

In order to receive asylum, the client must show that he will be persecuted on account of a protected ground if removed to his home country by the government or by a third-party whom the government is unable or unwilling to control, and that extraordinary circumstances prevented him from applying within a year of entry. The client will likely also have to address the time he spent in Mexico, as well as issues related to proving his
identity. If the client cannot establish eligibility for asylum, he is also eligible for withholding of removal, which is similar to asylum but requires the client to show that it is likelier than not that he will be persecuted on account of a protected ground by the government or by forces the government is unable or unwilling to control.

The client was finally released from immigration detention last year, and is currently living in the Los Angeles area. The client was represented in his first removal proceeding and before the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Ninth Circuit appointed pro bono counsel for his appeal to that court. Because of the extensive proceedings that have already taken place, the length of the record, and the complexity of some of the issues this case presents, this case will be labor intensive, but on an extended timeline given that the client is not detained. The client has not yet had his first master calendar hearing scheduled following remand. The client is Spanish-speaking.

Project: Immigrants' Rights Project
Case Number: IRP# XXXX
Volunteer Type: Attorney
Case Contact: Caitlin Bellis - (213) 385-2977 x 189

ASYLUM FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM FROM HAITI
This case is an excellent opportunity for pro bono attorneys interested in getting court experience and working in a detained setting. The client is a 36-year-old woman from Haiti who has been victimized by both severe child abuse and brutal domestic violence. As a child, the client witnessed the rape and murder of her mother. Her mother's assailants then raped her. After her father remarried, the client was subject to child abuse at the hands of her stepmother. The client was forced to do significant childcare and household work and was prevented from attending school.

At the age of 15, she left her father's home to live with a male partner. She and her partner had three children, but her partner subjected her to regular beatings and rapes. Her partner also abused her children. The client tried to escape the abuse in 2005 by moving to a different region of Haiti, but her partner followed her there and continued to make death threats against her.

The client fled to Brazil in 2011, sending her children elsewhere to live in hiding. Her family reports that her former partner is still searching for her and showed up at her sister's funeral in 2015 hoping to find and harm her.

The client asked for asylum in the United States in December 2016. She received a positive decision in her credible fear interview before the asylum office, and is now seeking asylum on the detained docket of the Los Angeles Immigration Court. In order to receive asylum, she must show that she will be persecuted if removed to her home country by the government or by a third-party whom the government is unable or unwilling to control on account of a protected ground. Immigration law recognizes women unable to leave a relationship as a particular social group for asylum purposes, making this a strong case.

The client is currently detained at the James A. Musick Facility in Irvine, California. Her first court hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 8:30 AM before Immigration Judge Dorman. She has been instructed to request an extension at this hearing to allow time to search for pro bono counsel, and we expect her hearing to be rescheduled within one to three weeks. We anticipate that her case will be resolved by the immigration court within the next 2-3 months.

The client speaks only Creole. Public Counsel can assist the pro bono attorney in finding appropriate translation services to facilitate representation.

Project: Immigrants' Rights Project
Case Number: IRP# TBD
Volunteer Type: Attorney
Children's Rights Opportunities

The Long Beach Bar Association & Public Counsel Present an MCLE Training on School Discipline Advocacy Wednesday March 29, 2017

Public Counsel's Statewide Education Rights Project, Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach, and the Children's Defense Fund of California have documented serious injustices regarding the use of law enforcement and racially disproportionate discipline. We want to support Long Beach attorneys in defending students' human and civil rights, both to due process and basic dignity.

Training will focus on expulsions and suspension appeals and will include specific case examples so participants get to work through scenarios and receive a more in depth training. The presentation will also include an introduction to Public Counsel's School Discipline Advocacy Training Program which offers extensive training and guidance in exchange for pro bono casework in this area. **Attorneys interested in volunteering their time to do this kind of work pro bono for clients of Public Counsel are encouraged to sign up and attend.**

$10 Admission, Lunch and 1.5 hours of CLE credit will be offered:
Registration and Lunch 11:30am, Training 12:00-1:30 pm
LBBA Offices: 3515 Linden Avenue, Long Beach

Please RSVP to director@longbeachbar.com, 561-988-6444, or online at www.longbeachbar.org/mcle

Other Opportunities to Support Public Counsel

**URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS**
For the last 30 years, Public Counsel has been providing essential legal assistance and support to those who flee torture and seek refuge in the U.S. And we now find ourselves inundated with cases. We will continue to lead this fight, in Immigration Court, in Federal Court, and wherever refugees are threatened. Our clients, who are refugees and immigrants seeking freedom from persecution, violence and death, are looking to us to fulfill the promise of America: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Please help us make their dreams a reality.

Public Counsel's Immigrants’ Rights project is seeking volunteer translators to assist with case preparation, including client meetings and accommodation to court hearings. The volunteers do not need to be certified interpreters, and will not translate for the court hearing. We especially need speakers of Spanish and Arabic. Can you help, or share this with someone who can?

To add your name to our volunteer translator database, [please fill out this form](#). We will be in contact with you when an opportunity for you to help arises.
ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Whether you are a partner, a sole practitioner, a lawyer just starting out or a professional in another field, there's a place for you on Public Counsel's team.

Visit our volunteer page at www.publiccounsel.org/volunteer, where you can see additional opportunities to get involved.

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.
2017 Pro Bono Opportunities At Public Counsel

The following volunteer opportunities at Public Counsel represent practice areas or programs that have an ongoing need for pro bono support. The list is divided into three areas: “Discrete Clinics and Matters,” “More In-Depth Case Work,” and “Volunteer Opportunities at Public Counsel’s Offices.” The list includes matters for attorneys, law students, paralegals, and other legal professionals, as well as non-legal professionals like foreign language speakers willing to volunteer to translate. If you would like to sign up to take on a pro bono matter, please review the many offerings on the list to determine which matter best suits your interests and qualifications. Then, please reach out to the identified contact person for the matter you have selected in order to coordinate your volunteer experience. If you are having any difficulty connecting with a particular contact person, please feel free to reach out to Pro Bono Director David Daniels, at ddaniels@publiccounsel.org.

Discrete Clinics and Matters

Federal Pro Se Clinic
For attorneys who want to provide assistance to pro se litigants for several hours on one day in a courthouse clinic setting. You will work under the supervision of an experienced staff attorney. This is a great opportunity to learn or hone your understanding of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and to further acquaint yourself with the forms used in Federal Court.

Location: Downtown Federal Court building. Time Commitment: Clinic takes place Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, mornings, or afternoons. Interested persons could volunteer on a limited basis or commit to an ongoing schedule.

Qualifications: Attorneys with two to three years of litigation experience. Some prior Federal Court experience is helpful, and most welcome, but not required.

Contact Person: Janet Lewis, at jlewis@publiccounsel.org

Bankruptcy Self-Help Desk and Clinic
For attorneys, law students, paralegals, and paralegal students who wish to help individuals through the bankruptcy process, either by counseling individuals one-on-one at the self-help desk or presenting to a group in a workshop-style clinic. You will gain valuable client counseling skills and increase the breadth of your bankruptcy knowledge due to the plethora of bankruptcy and bankruptcy-related issues that arise at the bankruptcy self-help desk and clinic.

Location: Self-help desk located at the Federal Building at 300 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Time Commitment: Self-help desk is open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am -12pm and 2pm-4pm; you could volunteer on a quarterly or monthly basis. Clinics are held twice a month on Fridays, from 12pm-5pm, at the Karsh Family Social Service Center, located at 3750 West 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020.
Qualifications: Attorneys, paralegals, and paralegal students with any level and type of experience [note: no prior bankruptcy experience required].

Contact Person: Christian Cooper at ccooper@publiccounsel.org

**Bankruptcy Reaffirmation Hearings**

For attorneys who would like to gain valuable client counseling skill by advising debtors regarding the consequences of reaffirming a particular debt prior to their reaffirmation hearing.

**Location:** Reaffirmation Hearings take place at the in the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Court and the Woodland Hills Bankruptcy Court. Time Commitment: you could volunteer on a monthly or quarterly basis for a specific hearing date(s) at either court location.

**Qualifications:** Attorneys with any level and type of experience. No prior bankruptcy experience required.

**Contact Person:** Maggie Bordeaux at mbordeaux@publiccounsel.org

**CARES Program (Formerly Known As GRAP)**

For any attorney, law student, or non-attorney professional interested in volunteering, this is a great way to get involved in our mission. Public Counsel's CARES Program is the largest and most well-established legal advocacy program working on-site in multiple offices of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). This is where impoverished, hungry and homeless individuals are most likely to need advice and advocacy assistance. Each year hundreds of volunteer law students, attorneys and persons with no prior legal experience are trained in a one day experience consisting of an informational seminar in the morning and advocacy in the afternoon. In one day you will be able, with the supervision and support of our staff attorneys, to advocate on behalf of impoverished clients, helping them secure desperately needed shelter, food, healthcare, transportation and other social services and benefits.

**Qualifications:** For any attorney, law student, or non-attorney professional with any level of experience. No prior experience in the subject area required.

**Contact Person:** Will Watts, at wwatts@publiccounsel.org; note: if you are from a law firm or business group and wish to coordinate a day of General Relief Advocacy for multiple members of your organization, please contact Mr. Watts to make appropriate arrangements.

**Homelessness Prevention Clinic at People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)**

For attorneys and law students interested in doing intake and providing limited advice to homeless and at-risk individuals at a once-a-month walk-in clinic.

**Location and Time:** PATH's 340 N. Madison Avenue site, near Beverly and Vermont; second Wednesday of every month; from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; could volunteer on a limited one-time basis or commit to an ongoing schedule.

**Qualifications:** This is for attorneys and law students with any level and type of experience.

**Contact Person:** Sarah Evans, at sevans@publiccounsel.org
GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC INTAKE EVENTS AT THE LA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

For attorneys, paralegals, or other legal professionals who are interested in assisting unrepresented parties in filling out the paperwork and court forms necessary to establish a guardianship over a child in need. Public Counsel’s Guardianship Program, which facilitates guardianship appointments for youth, hosts periodic weekday clinics at the Los Angeles County Law Library where a group of attorneys or other legal professionals will be trained in the substantive area of practice, will then meet with clients seeking guardianship appointments, and will then assist them in understanding the process and filling out the legal forms necessary to establish the guardianships. The training provides attorneys with 1 hour of free MCLE credit. Following the training, a same-day clinic will occur in the Library where the volunteers will meet with the clients needing services. During the clinic, the trained volunteers will provide the services under the direct supervision of Public Counsel’s Guardianship attorneys. There will be no legal work or follow up required following the clinic, which makes this program highly compatible with the volunteers’ busy work schedules. Of course, for those volunteer attorneys who wish to get into court more, there is the opportunity to appear in court after the clinic to finalize the guardianship appointments. The volunteers who sign up for this project can participate just once, or can attend the clinics more regularly. The guardianships involved are not contested (typically it is a grandparent or relative seeking the appointment).

Location and Time: Typically the trainings and clinics occur on a weekday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the downtown Los Angeles County Law Library. The dates of the clinics are periodic, so you will need to reach out to the contact person specified below to determine when the next clinic date will occur.

Qualifications: This is for attorneys, paralegals, and other legal professionals with any level and type of experience.

Contact Person: For more information on the clinic schedule and available dates to volunteer, please contact David Daniels, at ddaniels@publiccounsel.org.

HONE YOUR CONTRACT REVIEW AND REVISION SKILLS WHILE ASSISTING A SMALL DAY CARE PROVIDER WITH ITS FORM PARENT-PROVIDER AGREEMENT

For any attorney who is interested in enhancing or utilizing his or her contract preparation skills, consider volunteering to review a small business parent-provider contract. This volunteer opportunity allows attorneys (both transactional and non-transactional lawyers are welcome) to assist small day care provider businesses review and revise a form parent parent-provider contract. The average time commitment for these contracts is 5 or fewer hours over a two to three week period, and the deadline is typically flexible.

Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys with any level and type of experience.

Contact Person: Interested attorneys should contact Ritu Mahajan, at rmahajan@publiccounsel.org.
SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH WALK-IN CLINIC AT THE JACKIE ROBINSON CENTER IN PASADENA

For any attorneys interested in providing information and advice to walk-in client on a variety of legal issues, including landlord tenant law, public benefits, family law, and bankruptcy/consumer debt, this opportunity is for you. No prior experience is required and both litigators and transactional specialists are welcome. The clinic operates on the second Saturday of every month, from 9 AM-12 PM, at the Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103. A supervising attorney is present in the clinic at all times to help volunteer attorneys decide what type of advice and information to provide.

Location and Time: Second Saturday of every month, from 9 AM – 12 PM, at the Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103.

Qualifications: This is for attorneys with any level and type of experience.

Contact Person: For more information on the clinic or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Will Watts and Kelly Evans at wwatts@publiccounsel.org and kevans@publiccounsel.org (be sure to include both of them in your e-mail).

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Many of the clients Public Counsel serves do not speak English. As such, our projects are always in need of translation services, sometimes to assist in conducting a client interview, or often to help present a translated version of a document to a court or administrative tribunal. Any person (you do not need to be a legal professional or certified specialist) 18 or older who is fluent in another language can help. You do not need formal training in translation. Spanish speakers are the biggest need, but we do have a need for other languages as well, including French, Russian, and Arabic.

Qualifications: For any person 18 or older who is fluent in another language (particularly Spanish, French, Russian, and Arabic –but other languages are needed periodically as well). Again, you do not need to be a legal professional or certified specialist, and you do not need any formal translation training.

Contact Person: If you speak a foreign language and are interested in assisting with translations, please contact Public Counsel Pro Bono Coordinator Sandra Madera, at smadera@publiccounsel.org.

More In-Depth Case Work

BANKRUPTCY OPPORTUNITIES

WANT TO REPRESENT A DEBTOR IN A CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CASE OR ADVERSARY PROCEEDING?

Public Counsel’s Debtor Assistance Project places cases with volunteer attorneys who are seeking relief from the mounting pressures of crushing debts, as well as adversary proceedings
in a pending bankruptcy case. Experience handling a Chapter 7 case and/or Adversary Proceeding is required and a quarterly commitment is preferred. This opportunity provides pro bono attorney with the opportunity to gain valuable client interviewing and communication skills, while assisting debtors obtain a “fresh start” with their financial future. Interested volunteers should contact Maggie Bordeaux at mbordeaux@publiccounsel.org.

**Minimum Qualifications:** For licensed bankruptcy attorneys with 1-2 years of consumer bankruptcy and/or bankruptcy litigation experience.

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**CHILDREN’S RIGHTS MATTERS**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP A PARENT WHO IS TERMINALLY ILL APPOINT A GUARDIAN TO TAKE CARE OF THE PARENT’S CHILD?**

For attorneys who wish to help children of terminally ill parents, the Peace of Mind program provides legal assistance and social work support to establish a joint guardianship between the parent and another adult chosen by the parent. Public Counsel works intensively with the family to assist the attorney in developing the necessary facts to establish the joint guardianship. Written submissions to the Probate Court and oral advocacy at a typically non-adversarial hearing are required. Comprehensive training materials will be provided to you prior to a case being assigned and our full-time staff is always available to answer any technical questions you might have. The volunteer commitment is generally no more than 25 hours over a several month period. Interested attorneys should contact Beth Tsoulos, at btsoulos@publiccounsel.org.

**Minimum Qualifications:** This is for California licensed attorneys with any level of experience.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUTH OBTAIN A PERMANENT GUARDIAN SO THE YOUTH CAN GROW UP IN A LOVING HOME?**

For attorneys who want to provide assistance to youth and potential guardians where the parents of the child are unable to care for the child and are not contesting the guardianship appointment. The guardians are typically the grandparents of the children. Each case requires approximately 25 hours of volunteer attorney time, and involves meeting the clients, preparing and filing several judicial council forms that form the basis of the application for guardianship appointment, attending the guardianship hearing in court at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, and giving notice of the decision to the interested parties. Interested attorneys should contact Ylianna Perez-Guerrero, at yguerrero@publiccounsel.org.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Licensed California Attorneys with any level and type of experience.

**DO YOU WANT TO HELP A CHILD IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM BE ADOPTED INTO A PERMANENT HOME?**

If you are an attorney in a law firm or corporate in-house law department who would like to form a legal team at your organization to help foster children realize their dream of being adopted into a permanent and loving home, this opportunity is for you. All cases involve children in the foster care system who have been abused or neglected and are now being adopted. An Adoptions Manual and comprehensive trainings and ongoing technical support from knowledgeable Public Counsel staff attorneys are all part of this highly rewarding experience. In addition to finalizing the adoption, attorneys also advocate for children with special needs to obtain necessary services and the appropriate level of funding, including retroactive benefits. There is a particular need right now for volunteer attorneys who are willing to advocate for these types of services as part of the
ADOPTIONS PROCESS. Adoption cases require approximately 20 - 30 hours of volunteer time over a 3-5 month period, depending on the number of children involved in the adoption and the service/benefits advocacy required. More complex benefits cases may require more time. Interested attorneys should contact Karen Ullman, at kullman@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For a group of California licensed attorneys who are affiliated with a law firm or corporate in-house legal department and who are willing to form a team at their organization dedicated to handling adoptions matters on a periodic basis. It is particularly helpful to have Spanish speakers included on the team, but not required.

DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH AND WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR NEGOTIATION SKILLS AND HELP A FOSTER CARE CHILD WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACCESS LIFE CHANGING SUPPORTS?

Through Public Counsel’s Advocacy for Children with Developmental Disabilities Program, pro bono volunteers assist families caring for children who are either currently in the foster care system or recently adopted out of foster care. The program addresses the specialized needs of this traditionally underserved population by helping families gain access to life changing supports and services through the appropriate regional center. Pro bono assistance includes direct representation at individual program planning meetings with the regional center and follow-up written and oral advocacy at potential administrative hearings if the regional center is unwilling to comply with the law. To get you started we provide you with face-to-face training and a step by step written guide to advocating through the process. Experienced staff will be available to you throughout the life of the case for technical support and to help you strategize. Most cases require approximately 20 to 25 hours of pro bono service over a several month period of time. Interested volunteers should contact Brian Capra at bcapra@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys who are affiliated with a law firm or in-house corporate legal department and who are fluent in Spanish (or have a person fluent in Spanish in their law offices willing to provide support on the case). Such volunteer attorneys may have any level and type of legal experience (note: no special skills, such as litigation, required).

INTERESTED IN HELPING FOSTER YOUTH RESOLVE THEIR OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE TICKETS?

Public Counsel has developed a program to assist non-minor dependent foster youth with outstanding quality of life offenses that need to be resolved (e.g., outstanding tickets and warrants for things like daytime curfew violations or riding the subway without paying the fare). The project involves the pro bono attorney participating in a brief training followed by the assignment of an actual ticket matter. The attorney will be asked to go to court (often times traffic court) to resolve the ticket, either at the arraignment phase or at trial. This is a terrific way to help vulnerable youth while getting some very practical courtroom exposure. Interested attorneys should contact Sharon Balmer Cartagena, at sbalmer@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys with at least three years of practical legal experience. Licensed attorneys with fewer than three years of experience, but who will be supervised by more senior attorneys in their law firms or corporate in-house legal departments, are also encouraged to sign up.
IMMIGRATION CASES

TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERS AND LITIGATORS: HELP UNACCOMPANIED MINORS WHO ARE SEEKING SAFE PERMANENT HOMES IN OUR COUNTRY ESTABLISH THEIR RIGHT TO IMMIGRATION RELIEF: THERE ARE MULTIPLE TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES AND THERE IS A ROLE FOR EVERY ATTORNEY TO PLAY

In the fall of 2014, Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project (“IRP”) created a special “UAC” team to respond to the humanitarian crisis arising from 66,000 children fleeing extreme violence in Central America. UAC stands for unaccompanied alien children, a designation our government gives to a child detained at the border who is under 18 and at the time of detention, without a parent. Approximately 85 percent of children detained at the border are ultimately released to a relative caregiver or “sponsor” within the U.S. Over 5,000 such children now make the Los Angeles area home. These children are in immediate need of counsel.

We need your help more than ever. We have developed what we think is the best model in the country for addressing the needs of these children. Our staff has special training to interview traumatized children and have been leaders in developing legal strategies to address the many unique legal issues arising from the crisis. In addition to securing counsel, we insure children have access to appropriate mental health and medical care. Because of our work, we now have a tremendous amount of resources (briefs, advisories, etc.) to share with our pro bono partners.

There are three distinct pro bono opportunities for you to consider:

1) **Become a Guardian Ad Litem:** A certain portion of our current UAC cases involve youth who have one parent living in the United States and one parent living abroad. In these one-parent cases, the child is entitled to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and is permitted to reside in the United States if the child demonstrates they have been abused, abandoned or neglected by the other parent who still resides in the child’s country of origin. These cases are heard in the Family Law Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The judges in the Family Law Division are currently requiring that in addition to any legal counsel who is representing the child in the proceeding, that the child also have an appointed Guardian Ad Litem to represent the child’s interests in court. This is where your assistance is needed. You can serve as an appointed Guardian Ad Litem. This is the perfect opportunity for both litigators or non-litigators to assist children in an important legal proceeding. You will not be responsible for making arguments in court. You will simply need to interact with the child and their lawyer and attend the court proceedings (typically no more than one or two hearings) to ensure the child’s interests are protected. The overall time commitment for this opportunity is no more than 15 hours over a several month period.

2) **Represent A UAC In An Asylum Matter In Immigration Court:** A number of our UAC cases are not resolved at the administrative level in the U.S. Asylum Office. Instead, the cases must be heard in Immigration Court before an Immigration Court Judge. Attorneys interested in representing youth in Immigration Court and helping youth who face the very real risk of violence and persecution were they to return to their countries of origin should sign up.

3) **Appellate Representation for UAC’s:** There are a variety of appellate matters in our UAC cases, ranging from filing writ petitions in the California Court of Appeals, to appeals of Immigration Court decisions before the Board of Immigration Appeals, to assisting with amicus briefs on a variety of issues.
Attorneys interested in any of the three foregoing UAC opportunities should contact Sara Van Hofwegen at svanhofwegen@publiccounsel.org.

WANT TO HELP AN IMMIGRANT, WHO IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR OTHER CRIMES, OBTAIN LAWFUL RESIDENCY IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH A VAWA OR U-Visa APPLICATION?

Immigrant men, women and children who are victims of domestic violence and other crimes need your assistance in applying for and obtaining lawful residency and access to social services through VAWA and U-Visa applications. These cases offer wonderful opportunities to do written advocacy and develop strong relationships with a vulnerable client who is truly in need. These cases typically require 25 to 30 hours of volunteer attorney time over a three to four month period. Interested attorneys should contact Gina Amato, at gamato@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys with at least two years of practical legal experience in any area of expertise; attorneys with less than two years of experience, but who will be working under the supervision of a more senior attorney in their law firm, may also apply.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING AN ASYLUM SEEKER WHO IS AT RISK OF PERSECUTION IF SENT BACK TO HIS OR HER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN?

Public Counsel’s Immigrants’ Rights Project represents asylum seekers who have been persecuted or fear persecution on account of their nationality, race, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group – including claims based on domestic violence and sexual orientation. This opportunity provides pro bono attorneys with a wide range of skill building experiences, including fact investigation and written and oral advocacy, while fundamentally altering a client’s future. Depending on the procedural posture of the case, the cases require preparation for and an appearance at a non-adversarial interview at the Asylum Office in Anaheim, California, or a one day trial in immigration court, with the opportunity to put on witnesses. No prior experience in this substantive area of the law is required and extensive training and technical support will be provided by Public Counsel staff throughout the life of the case. Volunteers interested in assisting non-detained clients should contact Katka Werth at kwerth@publiccounsel.org. Volunteers interested in assisting detained clients should contact Talia Inlender at tinlender@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For licensed attorneys with any level and type of experience in any area of expertise.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING A FAMILY IN AN IMMIGRATION RELIEF CASE?

Public Counsel’s Immigrants’ Rights Project has recently received funding to assist undocumented families who have arrived in this country and are facing deportation proceedings. These families have individual members with valid immigration relief claims, including valid claims for asylum relief. These cases present unique facts in that potentially more than one member of the family may have a viable claim that would support immigration relief. We are seeking individual attorneys and law firms to work with us in defending this particular client base. The cases are pending in Immigration Court in a defensive posture, so offer the opportunity for court appearances, the presentation of witnesses, and the development of a strong evidentiary record to support the requested relief. No prior experience in this substantive area of the law is required and extensive training and technical support will be provided by Public Counsel staff throughout
the life of the case. Volunteers interested in assisting one or more of these families should contact Rachel Odio at rodio@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For licensed attorneys with any level and type of experience in any area of expertise.

**LITIGATION: ACTUAL TRIALS, COURTROOM, IMPACT AND APPELLATE WORK**

**PARTNER WITH PUBLIC COUNSEL OPPORTUNITY UNDER LAW TO CREATE ANOTHER FORCE IN THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY**

Public Counsel recently announced the launch of a new project, Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law, led by nationally recognized civil rights lawyers Mark Rosenbaum and Gary Blasi. Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law sets as its mission the elimination of causes of economic injustice in communities that are losing ground in the fight for opportunity.

“We do not accept as a given that there must be underachieving schools and out of reach higher education, dead end jobs, homelessness or childhood trauma associated with poverty and the failure of our democratic institutions to strengthen families and afford meaningful opportunity,” said Mark Rosenbaum, director of Opportunity Under Law. “We do not define these conditions as legal problems, legislative conundrums or organizing goals. Rather, they are all of the above and more, calling for comprehensive, innovative strategies to reinvent and reinvigorate those institutions that are the foundation of our democracy. Economic injustice in all its forms is the civil rights issue of the 21st century.”

The creation of Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law dramatically expands its impact litigation program, which was launched in 2009 by David Johnson, founder of Act 4 Entertainment, Brian Strange, managing partner of Strange & Carpenter, Roman Silberfeld, Regional Managing Partner of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. and private foundations. Johnson, Strange and Silberfeld have been instrumental in defining a new vision drawing upon our Constitutional traditions to ensure across-the-board solutions that promise an end to economic injustice once and for all.

Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law is developing alliances with other organizations specializing in economic research and policy analysis, communications, as well as political and social action campaigns to achieve its goals. Consistent with Public Counsel’s long history of *pro bono* collaboration, Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law will also be working closely with the many generous law firms and gifted lawyers in the private bar who are committed to volunteering their time in support of the program’s mission.

Whether you are interested in dedicating a team of litigation attorneys within your firm to partner with Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law in the fight for equality, or you would like to donate much needed communication, data analysis or other supportive services to further the cause, Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law wants to work with you. Please contact David Daniels, Public Counsel’s *Pro Bono* Director, at ddaniels@publiccounsel.org, to indicate your interest or to volunteer.

**HOW ABOUT TAKING ON A CONSUMER FRAUD LITIGATION MATTER THAT INVOLVES COMPELLING CLIENTS AND PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE EXPERIENCES THAT WILL HELP YOU BE A BETTER LAWYER IN YOUR EXISTING BUSINESS LITIGATION PRACTICE?**
At Public Counsel, our Consumer Law Project assists numerous vulnerable clients who have been defrauded out of their homes, personal property, and in many instances their life savings. A significant number of these cases involve bad-acting family members or unethical professionals operating independently from any prominent financial institutions. Consequently, these cases often do not create the types of conflicts of interests that firms might ordinarily run into when taking on a pro bono matter in the business arena. Most of these cases are filed in the local superior courts where Los Angeles litigators regularly practice. These matters offer rich opportunities for lawyers to gain hands-on practical experience, including conducting the client interview, strategizing and shaping the case plan, drafting and filing the complaint, propounding and responding to discovery, preparing and arguing dispositive motions, and even taking the matter to trial. Interested volunteers should contact Anne Richardson at arichardson@publiccounsel.org.

**Minimum Qualifications:** For California licensed attorneys with at least 3 years of litigation experience or who have the commitment of a supervisor with at least 3 years of litigation experience to partner with on the case.

**WANT TO GET SIGNIFICANT COURTROOM EXPERIENCE AND REPRESENT LOW INCOME PARTIES IN AFFIRMATIVE HOUSING RIGHTS MATTERS OR EVICTION DEFENSE CASES?**

Vulnerable low income tenants who are at risk of losing their housing and who are facing landlords with aggressive lawyers need your help in court. Some of these cases involve affirmative lawsuits to prosecute violations of fair housing laws and to protect the habitability and safety of the clients' homes. Other cases involve defending tenants against the immediate threat of eviction. By their landlords. All of these cases offer opportunities to gather evidence, conduct discovery, and get into court. Due to the resources required to handle these cases, interested attorneys should be affiliated with a law firm that can provide the support and supervision necessary to be successful. Public Counsel's housing rights team will provide excellent training and ongoing technical support throughout the trajectory of the case. Attorneys interested in working on affirmative housing cases should contact Deepika Sharma at dsharma@publiccounsel.org. Attorneys interested in eviction defense matters should contact Jessica Schibler at jschibler@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For licensed attorneys who are affiliated with a law firm that can provide the necessary litigation support.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO REVIEW AN APPELLATE RECORD, PREPARE AN APPELLATE BRIEF, OR ARGUE A CASE BEFORE AN APPELLATE COURT?**

Public Counsel’s Appellate Law Program (ALP) helps pro se litigants by evaluating their appeals to determine whether they are appropriate for placement with pro bono counsel for representation on appeal, and then finding pro bon counsel to handle appeals that make it through the screening process. This is a terrific opportunity for experienced litigators and appellate specialists to hone their appellate skills and to further the interests of justice by supporting deserving low income clients. Interested volunteers should contact David Daniels at ddaniels@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys with at least 3 years of litigation experience that includes some practical involvement in appellate brief writing.
 TRANSACTIONAL AND ADVISORY EXPERIENCES

LOOKING TO DO SOPHISTICATED TRANSACTIONAL WORK AND DEVELOP A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A SMALL START-UP BUSINESS THAT IS HELPING IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES GROW AND PROSPER?

The Community Development Project (CDP) provides comprehensive transactional services to numerous nonprofit organizations and small start-up businesses that are helping strengthen communities struggling with poverty. From helping newly conceived nonprofits with incorporation and obtaining tax exemption, to providing advice to established nonprofits and small start-up businesses in numerous practice areas, including contracts, labor and employment, intellectual property, fundraising law, affordable housing, real estate, land use and licensing, and tax compliance, CDP invites interested transactional specialists to contact Carlo Castro, at ccastro@publiccounsel.org, to be connected to an available opportunity.

Minimum Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys with at least three years of transactional or advisory experience in one or more of the identified specialty practice areas.

WANT TO PROVIDE TRANSACTIONAL AND ADVISORY SUPPORT TO A HOME-BASED CHILD CARE PROVIDER THAT SERVES LOW-INCOME FAMILIES?

Public Counsel’s Early Care & Education Project (ECE) serves the legal needs of home-based family child care providers and child care centers caring for children of low income families. These businesses regularly require assistance in the following areas: contract negotiation and review, employment law advice, landlord/tenant representation, licensing and regulatory support, land use and permitting representation, and a number of additional business law services. Public Counsel’s experienced staff attorneys will train you and provide substantive technical expertise on the nuances of Child Care Law.

However, most of the issues are more general in nature and would benefit from the experience of any private attorney who has advised entities in one or more of the identified subject areas. There is a particular need for attorneys with expertise in employment law, workers’ compensation and commercial real estate. Interested volunteers should contact Ritu Mahajan, at rmahajan@publiccounsel.org.

Minimum Qualifications: For California licensed attorneys with at least three years of transactional or advisory experience in one or more of the identified practice areas.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

WANT TO HELP A DISABLED VETERAN BATTLE BUREAUCRACY AND SECURE THE BENEFITS NEEDED TO LEAD A STABLE LIFE?

The Center for Veterans Advancement (CVA) has an ongoing docket of Veterans Benefits cases available for immediate representation. These cases involve claims against the Veterans Administration for service-related disabilities and are largely conducted through written applications and advocacy. Public Counsel staff will provide ongoing technical support throughout the life of each case. For more information on this opportunity, please contact Rick Little, at rlittle@publiccounsel.org, or 213-385-2977, ext. 288.

Minimum Qualifications: For licensed attorneys who have been accredited through the Department of Veterans Affairs and have had some prior experience in veterans claims adjudication.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP A VETERAN REMOVE LEGAL BARRIERS THAT ARE PREVENTING HIM OR HER FROM MOVING FORWARD?

For attorneys who wish to assist veterans with a variety of barriers to stability, including expungements of criminal records, tax issues, consumer fraud and protection matters, family law, bankruptcy, and appearing with veterans before a Superior Court Judge to request dismissal of tickets and warrants for quality of life offenses, this opportunity is ideal. The volunteer commitment is generally no more than 25 hours over a several month period. Interested attorneys should contact Rick Little, at rlittle@publiccounsel.org, or 213-385-2977, ext. 288.

Minimum Qualifications: California licensed attorneys with at least one year of legal experience.
Dear Friends of Children's Law Center:

It has been a pleasure to meet and work with many of you in my first few weeks as Children's Law Center's Pro Bono Director. I look forward to our continued work together and meeting more of you soon!

We continue to rely on pro bono attorneys to assist DC's children and families in need and have various case opportunities listed below. When you take on a pro bono case with us, you have access to experienced mentors and ample resources to assist you throughout your representation. We are in the process of scheduling our next in-person trainings, but online trainings are available here. Additionally, we will be scheduling our next tour of DC Superior Court for late March so please look for details in our next listserv!

Thank you for your time and dedication in support of Children's Law Center!

Sincerely,

Jen Masi
Pro Bono Director

**Pro Bono Opportunities**

**Upcoming Children's Law Center Event**

**D.C. Superior Court Tour**
We are in the process of scheduling our next tour of DC Superior Court for late March. Please stay tuned for details in our next listserv!
**Other Events**

**Family Court Self-Help Center Volunteer Training**
Friday, March 3, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
DC Bar Conference Center - 1101 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

The D.C. Family Court Self-Help Center is a free walk-in service that provides unrepresented people with general legal information in a variety of family law matters. Volunteer attorneys have an opportunity to provide pro se litigants with brief information on matters in the Domestic Relations and Paternity & Support Branches of the Family Court of D.C. Superior Court. This is a great opportunity for attorneys to provide direct pro bono legal services to individual pro se litigants while making a predictable time commitment.

**Pro Bono Shoutouts**

Many thanks to Nathanael DeJonge and Daniele Schiffman of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP who successfully completed a housing conditions case through Children's Law Center. They represented a mother of two in need of legal advocacy to improve the family's housing conditions, which negatively impacted their health. At case closure, all of their client's housing conditions were resolved successfully. Great work, Nathanael and Daniele! Thank you!

**Available Cases**

Attorneys must be admitted to practice in the District of Columbia or be eligible to practice under Rule 49(c) of the Rules of the DC Court of Appeals. Attorneys should attend a relevant Children's Law Center training.

If you are interested in handling one of the following cases, please contact Jen Masi or Molly Rothschild.

**Special Education**

Caregivers seek pro bono representation to help these children secure special education services.

A. **HIGH PRIORITY: Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her ten-year-old son.** The child is in the fourth grade at a DC Public Elementary School. The child currently has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Other Health Impairment (OHI). The potential client is skeptical that the school is providing the necessary services outlined in the child's IEP. The child receives full-time specialized education, but he is reading at a first grade level and is struggling in math. The school has told the potential client that the child is disruptive during class and the child has been pulled out of class a few times. The child has told the potential client that his teacher has been treating him poorly. The potential client believes the child should be receiving more therapy and tutoring at school and that he should have a dedicated aide. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the school provides the services and behavioral supports required for the child. **Experience level: Beginner. (SE)**
B. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her twelve-year-old daughter. The child is in the sixth grade at a DC Public Charter School. The child currently has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and a learning disability. The potential client met with the child's IEP team in September 2016 and repeatedly requested a copy of the revised IEP but only just received a copy last week. When the potential client finally received the IEP, she was surprised to learn that her child was testing at a 2nd grade level for reading and a 3rd grade level for math. The potential client demanded an impromptu meeting with the IEP team, and it became clear to her that some of the child's teachers did not know the child had an IEP. The potential client is concerned the school is not fully implementing the child's IEP and that the goals may be too advanced for the child. The child is also being bullied at school and was suspended for fighting in October 2016. The potential client is open to finding another school for the child for the next academic year. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives the appropriate services and supports. **Experience level: Beginner.** (AW)

C. Caregiver seeks assistance securing special education services for three-year-old child. The child has lived with the potential client since she was three months old and the potential client has temporary sole custody of the child. The final hearing in the custody case is scheduled for April 2017. The child's mother is reportedly consenting to custody and the child's father has not appeared in the case. The child is in Pre-K3 at a DC Public Elementary School. The child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that requires the school to provide speech therapy for the child. However, the school has not provided the services this academic year and has claimed that it is in the process of hiring a new speech therapist. The child's doctors are also now recommending occupational therapy, and the potential client plans to ask the school to provide this service. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the appropriate services are put in place for the child and possibly to explore compensatory education for the missed speech therapy services. **Experience level: Beginner.** (OS)

D. Grandmother seeks assistance securing special education services for her six-year-old grandson. The child's grandmother has full legal and physical custody of the child. The child attends kindergarten at a DC Public Charter School. The child has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), asthma, and epilepsy. The child performs well academically but is easily distracted and has some behavioral concerns. The child began receiving supports through a 504 plan, including counseling and extra time for testing. However, as soon as the child's behavior improved, the supports were removed and since then the behavior has become progressively worse. The potential client suggested the school complete a behavioral chart with the child, and the school stated that it did not think the child needed it. A few days later, the child was suspended for throwing chairs and biting a staff person. When the child had a seizure at school during the last week of January, the school called the potential client three times but did not call an ambulance for the child. When asked why, the school stated that the nurse did not think it was necessary. When the potential client's mother arrived at the school, the child was lying down and incoherent. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives appropriate evaluations and that appropriate services are put in place. **Experience level: Beginner.** (PS)

E. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her ten-year-old son. The child in in the fourth grade at a DC Public School. The child is below grade level and has trouble retaining what he has learned. The potential client believes the child has a learning disability because he will often wander mentally and physically during class. The child suffers from depression and fear of abandonment as well as asthma and...
sinus issues. The potential client has tried to obtain a 504 Plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP) for years, but the school responds that the child does not need one and that performing evaluations is too expensive. The potential client has a meeting with the school on February 23, 2017 to discuss a possible 504 Plan. The potential client would like the child to continue at his current school next year. The family is currently experiencing homelessness. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives appropriate evaluations and that services are put in place to provide him with the necessary supports. **Experience level: Beginner. (CJ)**

**F. Grandmother seeks assistance securing special education services for nine-year-old granddaughter.** The child is in the third grade at a DC Public Elementary school. The potential client is concerned that the child sometimes has behavioral issues and acts younger than her age. On occasion, the child has ripped things apart and thrown tantrums. The school reports that the child is on grade level, but the potential client disagrees because the child reads very slowly. The school has not evaluated the child, but the potential client would like the school to evaluate the child. The potential client and her husband have a power of attorney from the child's mother to make decisions for the child. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure that the child receives appropriate evaluations and that services are put in place to provide her with the necessary supports. **Experience level: Beginner. (AB)**

### Housing Conditions Cases

Caregivers seek pro bono representation to help these children secure a safe and healthy home.

**A. HIGH PRIORITY: Mother seeks legal representation to address housing code violations impacting her children's health.** The potential client, her husband, and their two children have lived in a private studio for nine years. Last year, the children had an unusual number of colds and coughs, which may be related to the conditions in the unit. The potential client reports that the apartment has mold, an infestation of roaches, mice, and old carpeting. There is mold on the walls and in the kitchen drawers, and there are mice holes visible in the walls. The landlord has not filled the holes but has put down mouse traps. The landlord has stated that he will change the old carpeting but never has. Legal advocacy is needed to address these issues with the landlord, and if unsuccessful, file a complaint in the housing conditions calendar of DC Superior Court. **Note: A Spanish speaking attorney is required for this matter. Experience level: Beginner. (MR)**

### Custody Guardian ad Litem Cases

Judges have requested pro bono guardian ad litem to represent these children’s best interests in custody cases.

**A. HIGH PRIORITY: Fifteen-year-old girl needs GAL in custody case between parents.** The child’s mother has temporary sole custody of the child due to allegations that the child's father hit the child. The child was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of the violence. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties’ homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. **Note: Ability to travel to New York may be required**
for this matter. Trial is scheduled for April 6, 2017 before Associate Judge Robert Okun. Experience level: Intermediate. (ID)

B. **HIGH PRIORITY: Two-year-old boy needs GAL in custody case between parents.** The child's parents currently alternate physical custody on a weekly basis. The parents filed cross-civil protection orders and both were granted. There are various allegations made by the parties, including that the child has gone to the doctor without notice to the other parent, that the parents fight, and that exchanges are problematic. The parties have been working with the Office of the Parenting Coordinator at DC Superior Court, but they have made minimal progress. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. Trial is scheduled for May 1, 2017 before Associate Judge Michael O'Keefe. Experience level: Advanced. (PH)

C. **Two-year-old girl needs GAL in custody case between parents.** The child's father has sole legal and physical custody of the child and the child's mother has supervised visitation with the child at the court's supervised visitation center. The child's father alleges that the mother has a significant history of drug use. The child's mother alleges that the child's father has been verbally and physically abusive during their relationship. The child's mother admits to experimenting with an illicit substance at the beginning of 2016, but she denies that she has an addiction. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. There is a status hearing on April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. before Associate Judge Robert Okun. Experience level: Advanced. (SS)

D. **Eight-year-old boy needs GAL in custody case between parents.** The parents currently have joint physical and legal custody. In July 2016, a parenting coordinator was appointed in this case due to the level of conflict between the parties. There have been various contempt motions filed in this matter. The parties have raised serious concerns regarding the child's behavior in school and the ability of the other parent to get the child to school on time. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. There is a status hearing on April 21, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. before Associate Judge Steven Wellner. Experience level: Advanced. (BB)

E. **Fourteen-year-old needs GAL in custody case between parents.** There is currently an active civil protection order on behalf of the child through which the child's mother has sole legal and physical custody and the father is only allowed to communicate with the child by phone. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. There is a status hearing scheduled for May 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. before Associate Judge William Nooter. Experience level: Advanced. (KJ)

F. **Eight-year-old boy needs GAL in custody case between parents.** The child primarily lives with his mother in Georgia. The child's father lives in Maryland and has visitation every other weekend. The child's father has not been very consistent in the child's life and only two visits have taken place since September 2016. The mother alleges that the child is uncomfortable in visits with his father, but the father alleges that the mother prevents him from having consistent and frequent contact with his son. The
court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes and the child's circumstances and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that is in the child's best interest. The child's mother is pro se and the child's father is represented by counsel. **Note: Ability to partner with an attorney located in Georgia or ability to travel to Georgia regularly may be required for this matter.** Trial is currently scheduled on May 15, 2017 and May 16, 2017 before Associate Judge Michael O'Keefe. Experience level: Beginner. (NB)
Dear Friends of Children’s Law Center:

Children’s Law Center continues to fight so every child in the District can grow up with a loving family, good health, and a quality education. This means we continually assess the needs of our clients and strive to meet those needs where we can. Recently, some of our special education attorneys have started to work with immigrant families in need of safety planning and other legal support. To help these immigrant families means that we have less internal capacity to handle special education cases. I hope that you will consider taking a special education case so we can continue to assist immigrant families who are in dire straits. We have several matters below where caregivers are in need of legal representation to secure vital special education services for their children. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, and let us know if you are interested in one of these matters. We continue to provide training and mentoring support to assist you throughout your representation.

We're excited to share our next two in-person pro bono trainings. Our housing conditions training will be held on April 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. If you are available and interested, please register here. Our custody guardian ad litem training will be held on May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. If you are available and interested, please register here.

Finally, our next DC Superior Court tour is scheduled for tomorrow, March 22, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. It’s not too late to attend, so please sign up here if you would like to join us.

Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely,
Jen Masi
Upcoming Children's Law Center Event

**D.C. Superior Court Tour**
**Tomorrow - Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
**DC Superior Court - 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001**
The eight floors of D.C. Superior Court can feel overwhelming even to the most seasoned attorneys. If you're unsure about where to file paperwork, pick up copies of dockets, or arrive for your hearing, CLC's court tour is a perfect introduction! Join Children's Law Center tomorrow, Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for an inside view of family law practice in [DC Superior Court](http://www.dcssc.org) with an interactive tour of the courthouse.

We will meet in front of the Information Desk on the first floor at 11:30 a.m. All attorneys, paralegals, etc. are welcome to attend. Please RSVP [here](#).

Upcoming Children's Law Center Trainings

**Housing Conditions Pro Bono Attorney Training**
**Thursday, April 13, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
**Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP - 1200 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036**
Current and prospective pro bono attorneys are invited to join Children's Law Center for a housing conditions training and learn about how excessive mold, pest infestation, and other housing conditions pose hazards to children with asthma and allergies. Please join us to learn how you can advocate for these families and improve children's health. This training will also feature **Stephen Teach, MD, MPH** from Children's National Medical Center, who partners with Children's Law Center to provide DC's children with the necessary care they need to thrive.

Participants will receive a copy of our housing conditions training materials and CD manual. Breakfast will be provided. To ensure sufficient seating and copies of our manual, please register [here](#).

**Custody Guardian ad Litem Pro Bono Attorney Training**
**Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
**Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher - 1050 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036**
Current and prospective pro bono attorneys are invited to learn about the law and practice of serving as a guardian *ad litem*, representing the best interests of a child in a custody case. Attorneys make a real difference in the life of a child when taking on one of these cases. Please join us to learn more and also hear from **Associate Judge Robert Okun** about his view from the bench.

Participants will receive a copy of our custody guardian *ad litem* training materials and CD manual. A light lunch will be served. To ensure sufficient seating and copies of our manual, please register [here](#).
Congratulations to **Courtney Alvarez** and **Catherine Serafin** of **Lowenstein Sandler LLP** who successfully completed a housing conditions case through Children's Law Center. They effectively advocated for their client's landlord to make significant repairs throughout the client's home as well as place their client on a monthly extermination inspections list to address pest and bed bug concerns. Great work on this case, Courtney and Catherine! Thank you!

### Available Cases

Attorneys must be admitted to practice in the District of Columbia or be eligible to practice under Rule 49(c) of the Rules of the DC Court of Appeals. Attorneys should attend a relevant Children's Law Center training.

**If you are interested in handling one of the following cases, please contact Jen Masi or Molly Rothschild.**

### Housing Conditions Case

**Caregivers seek pro bono representation to help these children secure a safe and healthy home.**

**A. Mother seeks legal representation to address housing conditions impacting her children's asthma.** The potential client lives with her eight children in a District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) apartment that includes the following conditions: potential mold under the kitchen sink and in the bathroom; missing doors for some of the bedrooms; insects, mice, and multiple holes in the walls; possible problems with the windows; and exposed electrical wiring near the garbage disposal. The potential client has complained to the landlord for more than one year. Maintenance repaired some leaks and patched some holes in the fall of 2016 but has otherwise been unresponsive regarding the above conditions. DCHA sued the potential client in the summer of 2016, but the case closed after parties entered a consent judgment. The potential client reports that she is current on required payments and rent. There is no current open case listed against the potential client on DC court cases online. At this time, the conditions are aggravating three of her children's asthma, and her four-year-old son has visited the hospital several times in the past year for asthma/respiratory issues. Legal advocacy is needed to address these conditions with the landlord, and if unsuccessful, file a complaint in the housing conditions calendar of DC Superior Court. **Experience level: Beginner (EV)**

### Special Education Cases

**Caregivers seek pro bono representation to help their children secure special education services.**

**A. HIGH PRIORITY: Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her seven-year-old son.** The child is in the third grade at a DC Public School. The child severely struggles with various behavioral issues, including leaving class, running off school property, being very distracted in class, and rolling on the ground. The child sometimes becomes angry at staff and peers and can take over an hour to deescalate. The child is connected to a community support worker, but the school has not evaluated
him. The potential client receives calls from the school two to three times each day, and the school sends the child home early at least once each week despite no documented suspensions. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives appropriate evaluations and supports. *Experience level: Beginner.* (DB)

**B. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her six-year-old son.** The child attends first grade at a DC Public School. The child struggles academically. He has difficulty with math, reading, and writes some of his letters backwards. The potential client is concerned that the child may have dyslexia and his teacher has told the potential client that the child may need to be retained in the first grade. The child also struggles significantly with his behavior. His behaviors include: getting into fights, throwing objects, jumping on desks, and running out of class. The school has not formally suspended the child but often asks the potential client to pick the child up early from school. The school has never provided any documentation of these incidents. The potential client has been asking the school since last year to evaluate the child and establish an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The school has made vague statements about looking into services, but it has not followed up. The potential client would like the child to remain at the school next year. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives appropriate evaluations and that appropriate services are put in place. *Experience level: Beginner.* (CW)

**C. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her ten-year-old son.** The child attends fifth grade at a DC Public School. The child does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan, but the child has struggled with his behavior since he was in Pre-K4. The child struggles with anger, depression, irritability, and lack of motivation and focus. The child has been suspended between ten and twenty days this school year, and the potential client is concerned that his grades are suffering as a result of his behavior. Legal advocacy is needed to request the appropriate evaluations and ensure that the appropriate services are put in place. *Experience level: Beginner.* (MH)

**D. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her ten-year-old daughter.** The child attends fifth grade at a DC Public School. The child's grandmother passed away in 2013, and the child has been having behavioral issues and learning difficulties since that time. The child was diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), separation anxiety, and complicated bereavement. The potential client estimated that the child has been suspended around twenty-two days this school year for fighting and being aggressive with staff. The school informed the potential client that the child was not eligible for a 504 plan or special education, but it did not specify why. The school also indicated that it would provide supports for the child, but such supports have either not been implemented or ineffective. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives any appropriate evaluations as well as supports and services needed for her success in school. *Experience level: Beginner.* (TM)

**E. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her eight-year-old son.** The child attends third grade at a DC Public Charter School. The child has serious behavioral issues, which have resulted in many suspensions. Last school year, the child had in-school suspensions almost every week and seven out-of-school suspensions. This year, the child has had around fifteen to twenty in-school suspensions and four to five out-of-school suspensions. The child does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or any mental health or behavioral diagnoses. The potential client received a letter from the school suggesting the child may need to be retained. The potential client consented last week to the school performing evaluations. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives expedited evaluations and that interim
services, such as behavioral intervention services, are put in place to support the child. Experience level: Beginner. (AH)

### Custody Guardian ad Litem Cases

Judges have requested pro bono guardians ad litem to represent these children’s best interests in custody cases.

**NOTE:** If you are available and interested in any of the below matters, please do not hesitate to contact us even if the upcoming court date is approaching quickly or if the matter has been marked as advanced. Thank you for considering these high priority cases!

**A. HIGH PRIORITY:** Fifteen-year-old girl needs GAL in custody case between parents. The child's mother has temporary sole custody of the child due to allegations that the child's father hit the child. The child was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of the violence. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. Note: Ability to travel to New York may be required for this matter. Trial is scheduled for April 6, 2017 before Associate Judge Robert Okun. Experience level: Intermediate. (ID)

**B. HIGH PRIORITY:** Two-year-old girl needs GAL in custody case between parents. The child's father has sole legal and physical custody of the child and the child's mother has supervised visitation with the child at the court's supervised visitation center. The child's father alleges that the mother has a significant history of drug use. The child's mother alleges that the child's father has been verbally and physically abusive during their relationship. The child's mother admits to experimenting with an illicit substance at the beginning of 2016, but she denies that she has an addiction. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. There is a status hearing on April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. before Associate Judge Robert Okun. Experience level: Advanced. (SS)

**C. HIGH PRIORITY:** Eight-year-old boy needs GAL in custody case between parents. The parents currently have joint physical and legal custody. In July 2016, a parenting coordinator was appointed in this case due to the level of conflict between the parties. There have been various contempt motions filed in this matter. The parties have raised serious concerns regarding the child's behavior in school and the ability of the other parent to get the child to school on time. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. There is a status hearing on April 21, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. before Associate Judge Steven Wellner. Experience level: Advanced. (BB)

**D. HIGH PRIORITY:** Fourteen-year-old needs GAL in custody case between parents. There is currently an active civil protection order on behalf of the child through which the child's mother has sole legal and physical custody and the father is only allowed to communicate with the child by phone. The court would like the GAL to ensure
that it has relevant evidence about both parties' homes, to explore the child's circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child's best interest. Both parties are pro se. There is a status hearing scheduled for May 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. before Associate Judge William Nooter. Experience level: Advanced. (KJ)
Accomplishing Systemic Reform through Pro Bono Research, Writing, and Community Advocacy

By Rochelle Bobroff* and Jan Allen May†
AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly

Cities such as Washington, D.C. have a tremendous supply of large law firm lawyers who are eager to do pro bono work but do not have the time or the inclination to litigate. The challenge is to tap into law firm lawyers' impeccable skills as legal researchers and writers to benefit low-income individuals with legal problems. Individual cases - such as eviction, the denial of public benefits, and utility disconnection - may provide golden opportunities for pro bono collaboration to develop solutions to assist a significant number of clients. The key is for legal services lawyers to identify potential systemic issues and for legal services programs to have pro bono staff dedicated to developing, placing and supervising systemic reform non-litigation pro bono projects.

At AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) in D.C.,* we have recently developed a system for harnessing the talents of law firm lawyers who prefer to spend their pro bono hours on systemic research and writing projects rather than individual case representation. In two and a half years, we placed approximately 150 projects with law firms. These projects are not rudimentary legal research questions one would assign to a law clerk. Instead, they require in depth analysis of recurring legal problems that are expected to impact numerous clients. Some projects request a research memo while others seek a product, such as a flyer to inform clients of the impact of a change in the law. With the assistance provided by pro bono lawyers, our LCE case handler attorneys have become better able to address systemic issues in individual cases.

LCE has been pitching systemic projects to law firms for over a decade, including the law firm lunch time competition described in a 2004 MIE article. The success of those efforts led to introspection at LCE regarding how to increase pro bono support to even greater levels. The decision was then made to hire a full time staff attorney to develop and oversee systemic reform pro bono projects.

Our Method

LCE's systemic reform attorney meets regularly with case handler attorneys to glean ideas for pro bono projects. The ideas are then developed into short pitches to describe the legal issue, the type of research needed, and the product sought. In most cases, the projects seek a detailed research memo, but in some cases, we request development of a product, such as a resource guide for clients. The type of research has included case law searches, review of statutes and regulations from other states for best practices, and analysis of legislative history from other jurisdictions. The pitches are then emailed either to a list of over one hundred pro bono coordinators or targeted to a few or even just one coordinator.

We have been gratified by the responses of law

The challenge is to tap into law firm lawyers' impeccable skills as legal researchers and writers to benefit low-income individuals with legal problems ... such as eviction, the denial of public benefits, and utility disconnection...
firms to our systemic reform projects. Many pitches have placed in less than an hour, with more than one firm seeking the assignment. (We do not have the firms compete for the projects, but rather give the project to the first firm committed to assembling a team. When feasible, we give firms that were unsuccessful in their bids a sneak preview and exclusive bidding rights to one comparable subsequent project.) Most projects have had at least one partner to supervise the work, though associates generally do the bulk of the research and writing. Over the summer, firms have also utilized summer associates for the projects. While all of the firms taking our projects have a presence in D.C., some of the lawyers have been located on the West Coast or even stationed overseas. For projects that are purely research, there is no need for the attorneys to be licensed in our jurisdiction.

Once the law firm has assembled a full team, usually consisting of two to five attorneys, we schedule an introductory call to fully explain the issue and our product expectations. Some law firms have been extremely prompt in their generation of a product, while others have needed gentle prodding (with repeated emails and/or phone calls) to deliver the goods. In most cases, the products have been extremely high quality and very responsive to our needs. For the few cases in which firms have not produced a suitable response, we discreetly request that another firm take the assignment.

Examples of Completed Projects

A few illustrative projects are summarized below.

1. Bench Card for Elderly Litigants

A law firm drafted a bench card and bench guide for elderly litigants. The card includes information on court representation authorized by a power of attorney, litigants with diminished mental capacity, senior property tax deductions and exemptions, rent control for elderly tenants, and the anti-discrimination provision of the D.C. Human Rights Act. The card and guide also provide phone numbers and websites for seniors, including assistance for seniors who are victims of crimes or financial exploitation. LCE presented the card and guide to the Committee on Fairness and Access to the D.C. Courts requesting that the bench card and guide be distributed to all Superior Court judges.

2. Wear and Tear Legislative Proposal Introduced in D.C. Council

In D.C., tenants have had their security deposits seized or been charged for damages based on ordinary wear and tear of the unit. A law firm researched other state laws regarding protections for tenants whose units experience ordinary wear and tear. The firm found several states have better statutory provisions to ensure that tenants are not charged by their landlords for wear and tear. Based on best practices in other states, the firm drafted a legislative provision to improve D.C. law. LCE's housing manager shared the proposal with a D.C. council member, and the council member has added the language to a bill that she was introducing. The wear and tear language is currently under consideration by the D.C. Council.

3. Tax Policy Changed to Help Seniors at Risk of Losing Their Homes

The D.C. Office of Tax Revenue (OTR) had a policy of refusing to provide the Schedule H property tax credit to homeowners who had not paid their property taxes. Several LCE clients were at risk of losing their homes due to their property tax debt, and the Schedule H credit would help reduce their debt. A law firm wrote a memo arguing that the denial of the credit was contrary to the Schedule H statute. LCE sent a letter to OTR with the legal arguments crafted by the firm. OTR then agreed to change its policy and allow homeowners to reduce their property tax debt with the Schedule H credit. The reduction in their tax debt will help clients avoid foreclosure and the loss of their homes.

4. Due Process Victories Preserve Home Health Benefits

LCE assists beneficiaries of the D.C. Medicaid Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities (EPD) waiver, when their personal care aide services are reduced or terminated. Both federal and D.C. law require adequate and timely notice of the intent to reduce or terminate services. A law firm provided a detailed analysis of notice requirements, including helpful recent cases. The firm further researched the issue of the failure to follow applicable regulations regarding the role of the case manager in terminations and reductions of services. In a recent decision, the administrative law judge invalidated a termination notice for failing to cite the applicable regulations, including the regulations pertaining to the case manager. The invalidation of the notice resulted in the continuation of services. In a second case involving a
proposed reduction in services, LCE cited the decision in the first case in a motion for summary judgment. The agency rescinded the notice in response to our motion, agreeing to continue services. Both of these clients would have been at serious risk of institutionalization if their home health services had been reduced.

5. Safe at Home Program Results from Systemic Advocacy

A 2014 law firm memo identified small dollar home modification programs in other states that enable seniors to age in place in their homes. The D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) noted it had authority under the law to provide small dollar modifications, but in practice its procedures only provided the smaller ticket items as part of more costly home modifications, such as a new roof. A systemic reform volunteer drafted a bill to mandate a small dollar program to assist those who did not need or qualify for more expensive repairs. The bill was introduced in the D.C. Council as the Safe at Home Act. Following a hearing on the bill, DHCD partnered with D.C.’s Office on Aging (DCOA) to implement the Safe at Home program, as a pilot. The program provides up to $10,000 in grants for modifications such as ramps, grab bars, walk-in bathtubs, etc. LCE worked extensively with DCOA to plan the program, including obtaining pro bono support from a second law firm to obtain advice regarding contracts for the implementing non-profit organization. The program began implementation on January 4, 2016. LCE had a third firm draft a flyer informing clients of the new program. The flyer was sent to all LCE clients over the previous six months.

6. Bus Stop and Bench Restoration

LCE’s housing manager learned from a tenant association that a bus stop directly in front of a senior building was cancelled. A law firm sent a letter to the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA), protesting the cancellation of the bus stop and detailing the harm suffered by building residents who were no longer able to travel into the community. WMATA immediately restored the bus stop. Several months later, the bench at the bus stop was removed. A second law firm brought to the attention of the D.C. Council the removal of benches in low-income D.C. neighborhoods, including the bench in front of this senior building. The bench was then returned.

7. Client Informational Flyers

The very first project we pitched was development of a flyer to inform clients of the change in law following the Supreme Court’s decision in United States v. Windsor. The flyer informs clients of the availability of federal benefits to same-sex couples, providing local phone numbers and addresses to apply for Social Security, Medicare, and Veterans benefits. The flyer includes the information that Supplemental Security Income benefits could be reduced due to the Court’s decision, suggesting that clients contact LCE with questions. LCE distributes the flyer, in English and Spanish, at outreach events. The firm also provided LCE with a detailed analysis of benefits available to DC residents under the revised federal regulations.

Conclusion

We recognize the challenges to legal services programs of funding a full-time systemic reform attorney. We have found that the increased involvement of law firms has helped foster deep relationships with law firms that contribute unrestricted funds. Moreover, the expenditure of a legal services program’s limited funds on such a project is prudent because the return on investment is so large in terms of support for systemic activity and financial contributions from law firms to support the organization. Most importantly, our clients are well served when the larger legal community is engaged in understanding their recurring problems and devising viable systemic solutions.

1 Rochelle Bobroff is the Senior Attorney for Systemic Reform at LCE and can be reached at rbobroff@aarp.org.
2 Jan Allen May is the Executive Director of LCE and can be reached at jmay@aarp.org.
3 LCE provides legal services representation to low-income seniors ages sixty and above who reside in D.C. LCE also includes the D.C. long-term care ombudsman which serves nursing home residents and individuals in the community who need nursing home level of care services.
5 We are fortunate to be affiliated with AARP and we partnered with our local office, AARP DC, in this effort. Other legal services providers serving seniors might consider working with the state AARP office in proposing legislative changes that benefit older persons.
While a blizzard is predicted for the DC region, we hope you will consider accepting an LCE systemic reform pro bono project below to assist low-income DC seniors.

34. **NEW! Systemic Reform Issue – Seeking Law Firm to Research Transfer on Death Deed Statutes and Forms in Other States**

LCE’s low-income senior clients often lack funds to pay for probating homes they inherit. Without probate, the deed remains in the name of the deceased, and the relative who would inherit the property is unable to get homestead and senior citizen deductions on their property taxes and other benefits that can only be accessed by owners.

In March 2013, DC passed a law to enable residents to transfer their property through a Transfer on Death Deed, which names the person who inherits the home. The law intended for title to transfer without the need for probate. However, LCE is concerned regarding the implementation. While probating the estate is not required under the law as written, some title companies are asserting the need for probating the estate in order for the title to be insurable for purposes of a sale, accessing home equity, refinancing, etc.

We seek a law firm to analyze other states’ laws and forms for allowing a transfer of title through a Transfer on Death Deed. We are especially interested in states that have had a Transfer on Death Deed law for several years. Thirteen states were identified in the 2012 DC Committee Report as having already enacted legislation permitting Transfer on Death Deeds.

The firm would write a memo analyzing the laws and conforming forms from other states and comparing them to the DC statute. The firm would make recommendations for changes in DC law or forms, if appropriate, to better effectuate the passage of title without needing probate.
35. **NEW! Systemic Reform Issue – Seeking Law Firm to Research Possible Litigation Claims to Recoup Improper Fees for Handling Funds of Vulnerable Residents**

A local non-profit provides housing and other services to vulnerable DC residents with mental illness and addiction. The non-profit obtains funding from the DC Medicaid program. The individuals are charged all of their Social Security benefits, except they are permitted to keep a $100 personal needs allowance. The non-profit has been managing the residents’ money as a representative payee, and charging a small monthly fee. Under the Social Security Administration’s rules, fees are not permitted in these circumstances.

The DC Long-term Care Ombudsman Program (DCLTCOP), located at LCE, has informed the DC regulatory agencies of these improper fees. However, it is uncertain whether the charging of fees will cease and whether previous improper charges will be reimbursed.

We seek a law firm to research the remedies available to the residents to reclaim the funds improperly taken by the non-profit. The firm would write a memo detailing its findings and conclusions. If litigation is warranted, the firm would be offered the opportunity to assist with the litigation.

For more information and/or to accept a referral, please contact LCE’s Senior Attorney for Systemic Reform, Rochelle Bobroff at rbobroff@aarp.org or 202-434-2068.

Best,

Rochelle
TARGETED E-MAIL BLAST
Multiple Opportunities in one Legal Area to Multiple Attorneys
To: All D.C. Attorneys
Subject: Help a Low Income Student Access Education Support Services

The Children’s Law Center has a number of low-income children whose parents or caregivers need assistance in advocating for special education services. These services are often the key to enabling a child to succeed in school and avoid dropping out or acting out in school. Please let me know if you are interested in helping one of the deserving young people listed below. Thank you!! Susie

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**Special Education Cases**

Caregivers seek pro bono representation to help their children secure special education services.

**A. Grandmother seeks assistance securing special education services for her six-year-old grandson.** The child's grandmother has full legal and physical custody of the child. The child attends kindergarten at a DC Public Charter School. The child has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), asthma, and epilepsy. The child performs well academically but is easily distracted and has some behavioral concerns. The child began receiving supports through a 504 plan, including counseling and extra time for testing. However, as soon as the child's behavior improved, the supports were removed and since then the behavior has become progressively worse. The potential client suggested the school complete a behavioral chart with the child, and the school stated that it did not think the child needed it. A few days later, the child was suspended for throwing chairs and biting a staff person. When the child had a seizure at school during the last week of January, the school called the potential client three times but did not call an ambulance for the child. When asked why, the school stated that the nurse did not think it was necessary. When the potential client's mother arrived at the school, the child was lying down and incoherent. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives appropriate evaluations and that appropriate services are put in place. **Experience level: Beginner.** (PS)

**B. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for thirteen-year-old son.** The child is in the seventh grade at a DC Public Charter School. The child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). When he was in fifth grade, the child was evaluated and found to have minor learning disabilities. However, this past school year, the potential client and the child's teachers have noticed that the child is struggling more with focus, processing time, and math. The potential client has noticed a decline in the child's grades, an increase in behavioral issues, and an increase in anxiety. The potential client would like the child to be reevaluated. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives the appropriate evaluations to better understand the child's needs and ensure he receives all needed supports. **Experience level: Beginner.** (WSA)

**C. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her five-year-old son.** The child is in kindergarten at a DC Public Elementary School. The child struggles with speaking, cannot count to five, cannot remember sight words, and cannot write. The child previously participated in speech therapy and physical therapy through an early intervention program. The child entered kindergarten in 2015 with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for a learning disability, but the school stated that it could not implement the IEP due to a high number of absences. The child's attendance has improved this school year, and he has
received Response to Intervention (RTI) since last semester. However, the child is not making
the progress that the potential client thinks he should, and his teacher speculates that he may
have autism. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives the evaluations necessary
to develop an appropriate IEP. Experience level: Beginner. (VH)

D. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her seven-
year-old son. The child is in the first grade at a DC Public Charter School. The child struggles
with reading, speech/language, and other subjects. The child displays tantrum-like behaviors
and the school calls the child's parents multiple times per week. The child has an Individualized
Education Program (IEP) for developmental delays. Through his IEP, the child is supposed to
receive pull-out instruction, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral
support counseling. One of the child's teachers informed the potential client that the school has
stopped providing any pull-out instruction. The potential client is concerned that the child may
also not receive other services required under the IEP. The school has conducted recent
evaluations at the potential client's request. These evaluations show the child is still not making
much progress. The child's behavior also continues to be a significant issue. The potential client
would like the child to remain at his current school but would like the school to implement his
IEP fully. The potential client would also like to see an increase in services for the child's speech
therapy as well as a more effective plan to address the child's behavior. Legal advocacy is
needed to ensure the appropriate assessments and services are put in place to support the
child. Experience level: Beginner. (KJ)

E. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her seven-
year-old son. The child is in the third grade at a DC Public School. The child severely
struggles with various behavioral issues, including leaving class, running off school property,
being very distracted in class, and rolling on the ground. The child sometimes becomes angry at
staff and peers and can take over an hour to deescalate. The child is connected to a community
support worker, but the school has not evaluated him. The potential client receives calls from
the school two to three times each day, and the school sends the child home early at least once
each week despite no documented suspensions. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child
receives appropriate evaluations and supports. Experience level: Beginner. (DB)

F. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her seven-
year-old son. The child is in the first grade at a DC Public Elementary School. The child has
serious behavioral issues at school, including running around the school and disrupting class.
The school considered conducting evaluations for the child last school year but did not because
the child's behavior improved somewhat. However, at the beginning of this school year, the
child's behavior worsened. The school has not yet started testing, and the potential client was
told that it may take several more months before an Individualized Education Program (IEP) can
be established. In the meantime, the school calls the potential client nearly every day to ask that
she sit with the child in the classroom or take him home early. The potential client works and is
unable to continue visiting the child's school during the day. Additionally, the child has been
suspended a few times this school year for his behavior. The potential client would like the
school to establish an interim plan to manage the child's behavior more effectively until
evaluations are completed and an IEP is put in place. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the
child receives the appropriate evaluations as soon as possible and that services are put in place
to address his needs. Experience level: Beginner. (BM)
TARGETED E-MAIL BLAST
One Opportunity to Multiple Selected Attorneys
To: Listserve of Attorneys Interested in Special Education Cases
Subject: Help a Low-Income Kindergartener Get A Good Start through Accessing Education Support Services

The Children’s Law Center has asked for the Firm’s assistance in advocating for an evaluation of and possibly special education services for a kindergartener who may have autism. By evaluating and diagnosing learning issues early, this child can receive the necessary supports to progress through the education system. If you have not handled a special education case before, this would be a good “starter” case. CLC has training materials available and a mentor assigned for each case. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out this young one. Thank you!! Susie

Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her five-year-old son. The child is in kindergarten at a DC Public Elementary School. The child struggles with speaking, cannot count to five, cannot remember sight words, and cannot write. The child previously participated in speech therapy and physical therapy through an early intervention program. The child entered kindergarten in 2015 with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for a learning disability, but the school stated that it could not implement the IEP due to a high number of absences. The child's attendance has improved this school year, and he has received Response to Intervention (RTI) since last semester. However, the child is not making the progress that the potential client thinks he should, and his teacher speculates that he may have autism. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives the evaluations necessary to develop an appropriate IEP. Experience level: Beginner. (VH)
DISCRETE PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY INTERESTED ATTORNEY: HELP IMMIGRANT CRIME VICTIMS ESTABLISH STABLE FUTURES IN THE U.S.
The U visa is a temporary form of immigration relief available to immigrants who have been victims of serious crimes in the U.S and have cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of their perpetrators. A U visa holder may apply for legal permanent residency 3 years after obtaining the U visa, but prior to its expiration. That’s where any interested attorney willing to volunteer just a fraction of their time can help and make all the difference in the world.

The adjustment of status process requires approximately 10-20 hours of attorney time to prepare and file the adjustment petition, and the petition will be adjudicated within approximately 7 months without you having to go to court or attend an administrative hearing. A decision will be rendered solely on the application. Public Counsel will train you, mentor you throughout the process, and provide you with all of the resources you will need to successfully assist the client.

It is a very rewarding experience to assist an immigrant crime victim in this life-changing process and to witness the profound transformation that takes place when one receives permanent status in the U.S. For more information or to sign up for a training and to take a case, please contact Gina Amato directly at gamato@publiccounsel.org.
Dear Pro Bono Supporters:

With the barrage of governmental actions to tighten restrictions on immigration, and the ever-increasing governmental hostility towards our many immigrant brothers and sisters, now -- more than ever -- is the time Public Counsel needs your pro bono assistance to represent vulnerable asylum seekers. These clients’ cases have become a prosecutorial priority for the current administration, and the clients’ only hope of avoiding deportation back to countries where they are certain to face immediate persecution is to have a lawyer representing their interests. There are three cases available for immediate placement -- and the moving client stories are all set forth immediately below by signature. If you or a member of your firm are willing to take on one of these cases, please reach out directly to Caitlin Bellis at cbellis@publiccounsel.org (for either of the first two cases on the list involving members of the LGBTQ community), or Jordan Cunnings, at jcunnings@publiccounsel.org (for the case on behalf of the Haitian domestic violence victim).

Thank you for considering this urgent request.

David
David Daniels
Pro Bono Director
Public Counsel

ASYLUM FOR TRANSGENDER WOMAN FROM MEXICO

This case is an excellent opportunity for pro bono attorneys interested in getting court experience. The client is a 24 year-old transgender woman from Mexico. The client has previously lived in the United States, when she was still a minor. At that time, one of her family members physically abused her because of her gender identity and sexual orientation. The client complained to a social service agency, but did not receive protection. Her family sent her back to Mexico, again while the client was still a minor.

In Mexico, the client suffered extortion and repeated beatings, both at the hands of gang members and police. The police used homophobic slurs when beating her, and took her money and phone. In one incident, gang members beat her with a wooden plank. Gang members also kidnapped her on at least one occasion. Her brother disappeared, and the client believes that gang members are responsible. Finally, her partner's family, one of whom is a drug trafficker, threatened her because they did not want the couple to be together.

The client asked for asylum at the border on October 7, 2016. In order to receive asylum, she must show that she will be persecuted on account of a protected ground if removed to her home country by the
government or by a third-party whom the government is unable or unwilling to control. The client likely has a prior expedited removal order from a previous attempt to cross the border. Nevertheless, the client may still apply for asylum, though the case may require making arguments as to eligibility. The client is also eligible for withholding of removal, which is similar to asylum but has a higher burden of proof and does not lead to lawful permanent residency. The client may also be eligible for a U visa based on the abuse she suffered as a child.

The client was released on parole on December 20, 2016, and is currently living with family members in Los Angeles. She had her first master calendar hearing before IJ Ho on the non-detained docket on February 27, 2017. The client's next master calendar hearing will be before IJ Ho at 606 S. Olive St., Los Angeles, CA 90014 on April 17, 2017. The client is Spanish-speaking.

Project: Immigrants' Rights Project
Case Number: IRP# 805440
Volunteer Type: Attorney
Case Contact: Caitlin Bellis - (213) 385-2977 x 189

ASYLUM / WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL FOR GAY MAN FROM HONDURAS
This case is an excellent opportunity for pro bono attorneys looking for a complex case and trial experience. The client is a 38 year-old man from Honduras who has lived in the United States for over a decade, but who spent four of those years in immigration detention, until he was released following an ACLU class action suit. The client was denied asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under CAT in 2013. He appealed his case first to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which he lost, and then to the Ninth Circuit, where he won a remand.

The client knew that he was different from a young age, and members of his family abused him for failing to conform to certain masculine gender roles. He suffered repeated rapes as a child due to his sexual identity, and at least one when he was an adult. As a young man, he was also severely beaten by gang members, who used homophobic slurs as they beat him. Police officers arrived at the scene after a time, but when the client told them what had happened, they refused to help him, instead calling him homophobic slurs and saying that he had provoked the beating by being gay.

He eventually fled Honduras and spent several years in Mexico. However, he did not feel safe or able to express his sexuality openly there either. He knew of many acts of violence against members of the gay community, and so he decided to flee again, this time to the United States. He was multiple times by Border Patrol trying to cross, and, fearing Honduras even more than Mexico, claimed to be from Mexico so that he would be returned there instead. The United States was the first place he felt safe and able to publicly express his identity and to participate in an LGBT community.

In order to receive asylum, the client must show that he will be persecuted on account of a protected ground if removed to his home country by the government or by a third-party whom the government is unable or unwilling to control, and that extraordinary circumstances prevented him from applying within a year of entry. The client will likely also have to address the time he spent in Mexico, as well as issues related to proving his identity. If the client cannot establish eligibility for asylum, he is also eligible for withholding of removal, which is similar to asylum but requires the client to show that it is likelier than not that he will be persecuted on account of a protected ground by the government or by forces the government is unable or unwilling to control.
The client was finally released from immigration detention last year, and is currently living in the Los Angeles area. The client was represented in his first removal proceeding and before the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Ninth Circuit appointed pro bono counsel for his appeal to that court. Because of the extensive proceedings that have already taken place, the length of the record, and the complexity of some of the issues this case presents, this case will be labor intensive, but on an extended timeline given that the client is not detained. The client has not yet had his first master calendar hearing scheduled following remand. The client is Spanish-speaking.

**Project:** Immigrants' Rights Project  
**Case Number:** IRP# XXXX  
**Volunteer Type:** Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Caitlin Bellis - (213) 385-2977 x 189

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**ASYLUM FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM FROM HAITI**

This case is an excellent opportunity for pro bono attorneys interested in getting court experience and working in a detained setting. The client is a 36-year-old woman from Haiti who has been victimized by both severe child abuse and brutal domestic violence. As a child, the client witnessed the rape and murder of her mother. Her mother's assailants then raped her. After her father remarried, the client was subject to child abuse at the hands of her stepmother. The client was forced to do significant childcare and household work and was prevented from attending school.

At the age of 15, she left her father's home to live with a male partner. She and her partner had three children, but her partner subjected her to regular beatings and rapes. Her partner also abused her children. The client tried to escape the abuse in 2005 by moving to a different region of Haiti, but her partner followed her there and continued to make death threats against her.

The client fled to Brazil in 2011, sending her children elsewhere to live in hiding. Her family reports that her former partner is still searching for her and showed up at her sister's funeral in 2015 hoping to find and harm her.

The client asked for asylum in the United States in December 2016. She received a positive decision in her credible fear interview before the asylum office, and is now seeking asylum on the detained docket of the Los Angeles Immigration Court. In order to receive asylum, she must show that she will be persecuted if removed to her home country by the government or by a third-party whom the government is unable or unwilling to control on account of a protected ground. Immigration law recognizes women unable to leave a relationship as a particular social group for asylum purposes, making this a strong case.

The client is currently detained at the James A. Musick Facility in Irvine, California. We anticipate that her case will be resolved by the immigration court within the next 2-3 months.

The client speaks only Creole. Public Counsel can assist the pro bono attorney in finding appropriate translation services to facilitate representation.

**Project:** Immigrants' Rights Project  
**Case Number:** IRP# TBD  
**Volunteer Type:** Attorney  
**Case Contact:** Jordan Cunnings - jcunnings@publiccounsel.org

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Dear Pro Bono Supporters:

For any attorney looking for deposition and courtroom experience – while helping a vulnerable family preserve their home – this opportunity is for you. The family, now 15 strong, has lived in their South LA, 3-bedroom apartment since 2002. Their extended family (12 people) has lived next door for years. In September, the landlord gave the family and their extended family a 60-day notice to quit. The landlord has now subsequently filed unlawful detainer actions seeking to evict the family from the two units. There are, therefore, two cases. You could take on one of the cases or both of them. They are both pending in the Los Angeles Superior Court, Central Division, 111 North Hill Street.

We think the landlord is trying to get both families out because the Housing Department cited the property for bad conditions. The landlord served the 60-day notice only 1 day after the Housing Department inspected the property and identified multiple Code violations. The Housing Department ultimately decided the violations were so bad that it reduced all tenants’ rent by placing the property in the REAP program [Rent Escrow Account Program; it is a city run program that prevents an owner from collecting full rents, and prevents a buyer from obtaining financing on run down rental properties; when the city identifies a rental property as severely run down, the property may be placed in the REAP program].

This family shouldn’t have to abandon their home because the landlord has failed to live up to its obligations. We need help to assert the family’s defense of retaliation—they don’t have many other defenses because of the no-fault nature of a 60-day notice (this property is not under rent control; hence the family does not get the protection of L.A.’s “just cause” eviction rules – which are applicable to rent controlled properties). The family are monolingual Spanish speakers, and we have set one deposition of the landlord’s Person Most Qualified for April 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. If you need assistance with Spanish translation, Public Counsel will help locate that support. The goal of the representation is for the family to stay in the units. Opposing Counsel is: Kimball, Tirey & St. John, LLP.

Complete conflicts information, including the names of the two primary tenants, the name of the landlord, and the property addresses is attached in the pdf intake forms.

If you or a member of your firm is willing to take on either or both representations, please e-mail Gigi Lam, at glam@publiccounsel.org, immediately, with a copy to me.

Thank you for considering this urgent pro bono request and for all of your support!

Best,

David
TARGETED E-MAIL BLAST
One Opportunity to One Attorney
Hi John:

Hope you are well and the summer tennis season is getting off to a good start for your son (aren’t Sectionals coming up?). We have an interesting pro bono nonprofit tax matter that could really use your assistance. Here’s the general issue:

NONPROFIT – OBTAINING SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION

The client is a nonprofit job developer that has established a food catering program with the intent of providing prepared meals to individuals and families from disadvantaged populations. The meals are paid and sometimes distributed by local government agencies and other charitable organizations with a similar mission. The client seeks pro bono assistance from an experienced state and local tax attorney to help structure the program so some of its services qualify for sales and use tax exemption. Based on the initial advice, the pro bono attorney will also help obtain a tax exempt letter from the State Board of Equalization.

John – if you or a member of your Non Profit Sector group has the capacity to work on this matter, we know the client would be thrilled. If you do you have the ability, we can send you the conflicts information right away and get things going. If you could let us know your thoughts either way, that would be most appreciated.

All good things to you,

David

David R. Daniels
Pro Bono Director
Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities:
Meeting the Challenges of the Changing Legal Landscape

EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE ● May 4, 2017
David Daniels, Public Counsel ● Nancy Drane, DC Access to Justice Commission
Susie Hoffman, Crowell & Moring LLP ● Kitty Wach, Miller & Chevalier Chartered
Session Goals & Introductions

Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities • Equal Justice Conference (May 2017)
Session Goals

- Practical, interactive session
- Leave with a “bag full of tricks” to market pro bono opportunities
- Gain a deeper understanding of attorney motivations and challenges and how to respond to them
- Consider how to apply these strategies at a time of heightened intensity in our legal community
Introductions

David Daniels, Public Counsel
Nancy Drane, DC Access to Justice Commission
Susie Hoffman, Crowell & Moring LLP
Kitty Wach, Miller & Chevalier Chartered
YOU!
Why Pro Bono?

Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities • Equal Justice Conference (May 2017)
Why do attorneys do pro bono?
What we know...
Motivations and Challenges

Associate and Counsel Pro Bono Survey

Shared with permission of Brenna DeVaneey, Skadden Arps, and Jennifer Kroman, Cleary Gottlieb
Two Questions:

1. Why do you do pro bono work?
2. What makes taking on pro bono work challenging?
Who Responded:

- 651 lawyers from 4 large law firms responded
- 2 of the law firms have mandatory pro bono programs and 2 of the law firms have voluntary programs
- Respondents were from 9 different U.S. cities
- 58% of respondents were transactional lawyers and 42% were litigators
Why Do You Do Pro Bono Work? (Select Top Three Reasons)

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<td>Professional or ethical responsibility</td>
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#1 Answer:

It makes me feel good about being a lawyer

60%
Other Top Motivators:

- Passionate about a substantive issue
- Professional or ethical responsibility
- Interest in improving access to justice
- Skills development for advancement at the firm
BRAINSTORM ACTIVITY

What is challenging about pro bono?

What is challenging about encouraging colleagues to do pro bono?
Associate and Counsel Pro Bono Survey

Motivations and Challenges

Shared with permission of Brenna DeVaney, Skadden Arps, and Jennifer Kroman, Cleary Gottlieb
What Makes Taking On A Pro Bono Matter Challenging? (Select Top Three Reasons)

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<td>Not enough time</td>
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<td>I am not interested in pro bono work at all</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am not interested in the pro bono work offered at my firm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training is not readily available</td>
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<td>It is too difficult to work with pro bono clients</td>
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<td>I am worried about making mistakes</td>
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<td>Supervision and mentoring is not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clients should pay for legal work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to do pro bono work that use my existing legal skills are not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pro bono work that will develop the skills I am interested in developing are not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to do transactional pro bono work are not available</td>
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</table>
#1 Answer:

Not Enough Time

85%
Other Top Challenges

- I am worried about making mistakes
- Pro bono work is not considered in promotion or compensation decisions at my firm
- Opportunities to do transactional pro bono work are not available
- I do not think my firm wants me to spend time on pro bono work
- It is too difficult to work with pro bono clients
Only 1.54% of respondents said that they were not interested in pro bono work at all.
Motivating Pro Bono Attorneys

Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities • Equal Justice Conference (May 2017)
Strategy: Create a Culture of Pro Bono

- Review history of pro bono at the firm or organization with new hires
- Have management emphasize importance of pro bono
- Review why pro bono is important for business development
- Leverage role of competition (with other firms; within the firm by practice groups; by firm offices; etc.)
- Incorporate pro bono into larger events (e.g., have client speak at your benefit)
Strategy: Targeted Recruitment

- Provide surveys to new hires to help discern areas of interest
- Conduct one-on-one interviews with attorneys to get to know their areas of interest
- Help attorneys develop individualized pro bono strategy, plan, or goals
Strategy: Connect to Core Competencies

- Law firms are more focused on having lawyers develop core competencies.
- Identify these valued core competencies and connect them with specific types of pro bono opportunities.
- Provide a reference list to supervising partners or professional development staff (e.g., if your associate needs to strengthen oral advocacy skills, try a civil protection order case).
- Work with practice group leaders to develop pro bono opportunities that synergize with professional interests (e.g., market medical-legal partnership cases to health care group).
Selling Pro Bono Opportunities

Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities • Equal Justice Conference (May 2017)
BRAINSTORM ACTIVITY

What is hard about selling pro bono to potential volunteers?
Some Challenges

- Streamlining (and demystifying) a complicated fact pattern
- Ensuring cases don’t sound overwhelming for attorneys unfamiliar with the area of practice
- Estimating time and required duties
- Getting the attention of individual pro bono attorneys
- Making your opportunities stand out!
Strategy: Selling Pro Bono

- Make it personal -- talk to your potential pro bono attorneys
- Think about volunteer management – know your volunteers
- Put pro bono into context – connect to social justice
- Tell them what you want! – can they grasp the legal work required?
- Make it manageable – remind them of the supports they’ll have
Pro Bono Case Placement Pyramid

Strategy:

- Personal Office Visit
- Phone Call
- Targeted E-Mail – One Case to One Person
- Targeted E-Mail Blast (Urgent) – One Case to Multiple Attorneys or Coordinators
- General E-Mail Blast – Multiple Cases to Multiple Attorneys or Coordinators
- Attachable/Pasteable General Sales Menu – in Word
- Opportunities Posted on Website
EXERCISE

Let's look at some pro bono opportunity lists - what works (and what doesn't)?
Strategy: Use Recognition

- What are your goals – what do you want to accomplish by recognizing? (May be different for law firm vs. legal services)
- Consider -- does recognition work?
- Do we recognize individuals or organizations?
- Ideas for recognition:
  - Ceremony at firm or organization
  - Announcement in firm-wide publication
  - Provider gives award at law firm
  - Provider gives individual or firm award at provider event
  - Other?
EXERCISE

Your turn to do the selling!
Drafting Exercise

- Each group will have the same sample provider intake
- Working as a group, draft a blurb that could be sent to potential pro bono attorneys
- We’ll reconvene, share what we wrote, and compare!
- Consider:
  - Who is your audience - entire firm, individual lawyer, both?
  - What is the title of your e-mail or blurb? Be catchy!
  - What facts will you highlight, why, and in what order?
  - How do you describe the legal work?
  - Think back to our motivation list - what motivates?
Closing Thoughts

Marketing Strategies for Pro Bono Opportunities • Equal Justice Conference (May 2017)
Leave with a Take Away

What is one idea you will incorporate into your work based on the discussion today?
THANK YOU!

EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE • May 4, 2017
David Daniels, Public Counsel • Nancy Drane, DC Access to Justice Commission
Susie Hoffman, Crowell & Moring LLP • Kitty Wach, Miller & Chevalier Chartered
2017 EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES:
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE

David Daniels, Pro Bono Director, Public Counsel
Nancy Drane, Executive Director, D.C. Access to Justice Commission
Susie Hoffman, Public Service Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP
Kitty Wach, Pro Bono Counsel, Miller & Chevalier Chartered

May 4, 2017 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL PRESENTATION MATERIALS
WHAT MOTIVATES PRO BONO?

Shared with permission of Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo)
Getting to Yes: Understanding Why Law Firm Attorneys Will or Won't Do Pro Bono

Brenna DeVaney and Jennifer Kroman
APBCo Academy
October 7, 2015
Session Agenda

• Introduction and Goals
• Associate and Counsel Pro Bono Survey
• Theories of Motivation
• Discussion of Survey and Motivation
• Optional: Discussion of Hypotheticals
• Conclusion and Takeaways
Associate and Counsel Pro Bono Survey

Motivations and Challenges
We Asked 3 Questions:

1. Why do you do pro bono work?

2. What makes taking on pro bono work challenging?

3. What was your best or worst pro bono experience?
Who Answered Our Questions?

- 651 lawyers from 4 large law firms responded
- 2 of the law firms have mandatory pro bono programs and 2 of the law firms have voluntary programs
- Respondents were from 9 different cities around the United States
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60%
Other Top Motivators:

• Passionate about a substantive issue
• Professional or ethical responsibility
• Interest in improving access to justice
• Skills development for advancement at the firm
Bests

- The day you learn your client won asylum. Every time. No exceptions.
- I am glad that things have come a long way in the pro bono area and now we have so many more resources.
- The look of gratitude on my client’s face after I helped him prepare end-of-life documents.
- The cases are all different, but the underlying focus is helping someone who really needs your help.
- I am working directly with a partner on a case that is in active litigation, and the partner allows me to handle all the hearings and arguments, which is great for my skill development.
- I like the feeling of having ownership over a case.
- The chance to develop skills that I don’t get to work on much in my billable work.
# What Makes Taking On A Pro Bono Matter Challenging? (Select Top Three Reasons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not enough time</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am not interested in pro bono work at all</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am not interested in the pro bono work offered at my firm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training is not readily available</td>
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<tr>
<td>I do not think my firm wants me to spend time on pro bono work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pro bono work is not considered in promotion or compensation decisions at my firm</td>
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<tr>
<td>It is too difficult to work with pro bono clients</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am worried about making mistakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision and mentoring is not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clients should pay for legal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to do pro bono work that use my existing legal skills are not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro bono work that will develop the skills I am interested in developing are not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to do transactional pro bono work are not available</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
#1 Answer:

Not Enough Time

85%
Other Top Challenges:

• I am worried about making mistakes
• Pro bono work is not considered in promotion or compensation decisions at my firm
• Opportunities to do transactional pro bono work are not available
• I do not think my firm wants me to spend time on pro bono work
• It is too difficult to work with pro bono clients
Only 1.54% of respondents said that they were not interested in pro bono at all.
• Having a client tell me that she is too tired to fight anymore.

• Clients who keep coming back with new questions and requests for help unrelated to the original matter. They do not seem to understand that the representation is intended to be for a specific project.

• A landlord-tenant case that took up way more time than I had anticipated, where I felt completely out of my depth, and where I felt the landlord’s attorney knew the system much better and the mentoring system was not robust enough to help me feel comfortable.

• The less positive experiences have been those where the client is not responsive or is difficult to work with, but that is not unique to pro bono work.

• Having something flare up unexpectedly on a pro bono case when I am already more than fully engaged on billable work and not having any options because I am the only associate on the pro bono case.

• Worst, hands down, was being criticized in my evaluation for too many pro bono hours by the person who staffed me on the case.

• I have not been able to do any pro bono yet but would really like to.
Does Making Pro Bono Mandatory Make A Difference?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Firms with Voluntary Programs Top 3 Reasons to do Pro Bono:</th>
<th>Firms with Mandatory Programs Top 3 Reasons to do Pro Bono:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. It makes me feel good about being a lawyer – 62%</td>
<td>1. It makes me feel good about being a lawyer – 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Passionate about a substantive issue – 47%</td>
<td>2. Professional or Ethical Responsibility – 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Interest in improving access to justice – 42%</td>
<td>3. <em>Firm policy mandates pro bono</em> – 37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Do We Work Together To Overcome Obstacles And Capitalize On Motivating Forces?
Two Theories of Motivation

**Nudge**: an approach to understanding and changing people's behavior, by analyzing, improving, designing, and offering free choices for people, so that their decisions are more likely to produce helpful outcomes for those people and society generally

- A Chapman, Businessballs.com 2014, summarizing Thaler and Sunstein's 2008 book *Nudge*

**Drive**: Motivation is made up of three essential elements:
1. **Autonomy** – the desire to direct our own lives;
2. **Mastery** — the urge to get better and better at something that matters;
3. **Purpose** — the yearning to do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves

- Daniel H. Pink, *Drive*, 2009
We can design available choices based on the way that people think and decide in order to encourage positive decisions by the people doing the choosing – ideally, choices that will also benefit society.

Nudges come in many forms including: anchoring and adjusting, availability, loss aversion, framing, following the heard, priming, etc.

Nudges seek to minimize obstacles and confrontation.

How do we design choices to make it easier to decide to do pro bono?
One powerful form of motivation is intrinsic – the performance of the task itself provides the motivating reward.

“Carrot” type rewards (e.g., money) may undermine intrinsic interest in an activity. Choose “now-that” rewards instead of “if-then” rewards.

Pro Bono work fits the essential elements, autonomy, mastery and purpose perfectly.

When talking to top decision makers, emphasize results, then offer up mastery, autonomy and purpose as a way to get there.
A legal services organization focused on disability rights in education for children would like to place a potential class action lawsuit with a law firm. The legal services organization is open to providing training and mentoring to the law firm attorneys, but does not have the capacity to co-counsel as the matter moves forward. The law firm that is approached has a goal of doing more impact litigation but the litigation department is so busy that it has been a very long time since it has taken on a major case. Associates at the firm are experiencing burnout and at the same time are not entirely pleased with the opportunities for skills development that they are offered. The partners are concerned about time amount of hours the potential pro bono matter will take. One of the partners is on the board of the legal services organization.

How can the law firm work toward successful staffing of this impact litigation?
A law firm has examined its pro bono participation statistics and learned that litigators are disproportionately doing most of the firm's pro bono work. Transactional attorneys report that the pro bono that is made available to them does not match their skill set or allow them to learn skills relevant to their practice.

How does the law firm improve the participation of transactional attorneys in the firm's pro bono work?
Hypothetical #3

There is a desperate need for more pro bono representation in housing court and family court. When pro bono directors at legal services organizations approach pro bono counsel at law firms about placing more of these types of cases, the answer is always the same: associates are scared to go to housing court and family court, they don't think the skills they will learn are transferable to their billable practices, pro bono clients are hard to deal with – or the associates won't respond at all to requests for help.

How do we use what we know about challenges and motivations to get people to do pro bono work where the greatest need exists?
How Do We Work Together To Overcome Obstacles And Capitalize On Motivating Forces?
“Everything changed the day she figured out there was exactly enough time for the important things in her life.”

– Brian Andreas