

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Many of the programs listed below provide training materials and mentors to assist new volunteers. A star (*) indicates the program is certified by the OSB. Volunteers for OSB-certified programs are covered by PLF insurance and do not need independent coverage on their pro bono cases.

CASA for Children

Attorneys needed to represent CASA advocate when their position is being challenged or when there are complex legal issues.

Contact: Tim Hennessy, 503.988.5115, thennessy@casahelpskids.org.

Children's Representation Project*

Attorneys are appointed by the court to represent children whose parents are involved in custody disputes in Multnomah County. Cases are assigned through the Multnomah County Family Law Court. The Hon. Susan Svetkey and her staff coordinate the project. Attorneys with family law and juvenile law experience are especially needed for this project.

Contact: Brandy Jones, 503.988.3060, brandy.l.jones@ojd.state.or.us.

Community Development Law Center

St. Andrew Legal Clinic

Assists nonprofit organizations that serve low income Oregonians. The CDLC provides legal advice, representation, group training and one-on-one technical assistance to its nonprofit clients. Types of organizations served include: affordable housing sponsors, community development corporations, Head Start programs, community action agencies, rural housing authorities, community land trusts, nonprofit microlenders, community development financial institutions, manufactured home community cooperatives, affordable housing cooperatives, community primary and behavioral healthcare organizations, community lending nonprofits and other social service agencies. Examples of projects include: nonprofit entity formation, board trainings on nonprofit governance, corporate compliance, organizational policy development, planning, employment manuals, nonprofit restructuring and mergers, real estate development focusing on affordable housing, and grant and contract reviews. PLF coverage for pro bono referrals is provided for exempt attorneys.

For more information, visit www.cdlicweb.org.

Contact: Martha Taylor, 503.248.1100 x1, martha.taylor@salcgroup.org.

EI Programa Hispano Low Income Tax Clinic*

Catholic Charities of Oregon

Serves low income Latinos and other low income taxpayers who have a problem with the IRS and any related state and Oregon tax issues. Volunteer attorneys provide advocacy and representation before the IRS or in court on tax collection disputes, audits and a variety of other federal tax issues. Translation services provided. Trainings are periodically offered on cultural competency and specific tax-related issues that commonly affect Latino immigrant taxpayers. Pro bono volunteers can also receive case-specific advice from our qualified tax expert and other experienced volunteers.

Contact: Joaquin Pastor, 503.489.6828, jpastor@catholiccharitiesoregon.org.

Guardianship Appointments

Multnomah County Circuit Court

Court appointment to represent individuals contesting appointment of guardian or conservator. No training provided. Knowledge of area of law required. Please submit a letter regarding your legal background.

Contact: Helga Barnes, 503.988.3538, helga.m.barnes@ojd.state.or.us.

Home Free

Volunteers of America

Advocates provide support, information and assistance with paperwork at the Multnomah County Court restraining order room (Room 211A) to individuals seeking domestic violence restraining orders, stalking orders, and elder and disabled abuse prevention orders. Volunteers do not give legal advice or "represent" clients.

Contact: Jen McKenzie, 503.802.0494, jmckenzie@voaor.org.

Immigration Counseling Service*

ICS provides legal assistance in immigration-related matters to low and moderate income residents of Oregon. In addition, our agency works with unaccompanied and undocumented children in federal custody. We have pro bono opportunities to assist these juveniles who are seeking Voluntary Departure. ICS will provide training and mentoring. For a few hours of your time you can make a huge difference in a child's life.

Contact: Barbara Babcock, 503.221.1689, x103, bbabcock@ics-law.org.

Immigration Legal Services*

Catholic Charities of Oregon

Pro bono attorneys represent adult and child survivors of domestic violence and serious crimes for immigration relief. Immigration Legal Services holds trainings for pro bono attorneys twice a year, often in rural parts of the state, but offers a training video as well. Once a pro bono attorney has received training and taken a client referral, Immigration Legal Services provides ongoing mentoring and technical assistance.

Contact: Geoffrey Scowcroft, 503.688.2710, gscowcroft@catholiccharitiesoregon.org.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Bankruptcy Clinic*

Legal Aid Services of Oregon-Volunteer Lawyers Project

The OSB Debtor-Creditor Section and the VLP sponsor this project that provides information and representation to clients who are considering bankruptcy or who are already in US Bankruptcy Court as pro se litigants. The project consists of two components, a class addressing bankruptcy issues and a clinic during which volunteer attorneys each meet with two clients for 30-minute appointments. Anyone may attend the 45-minute class, which is taught by a member of the bankruptcy bar or bench. Volunteer attorneys meet with clients, help them assess whether bankruptcy is appropriate, and if so, provide ongoing representation. The monthly clinic alternates between sites in Beaverton, east Portland and downtown Portland. Ten to twelve attorneys and one speaker are typically scheduled for each clinic. Clinics are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:15-9 p.m. An online CLE and written training materials are available.

Contact: Maya Crawford, 503.224.4086, maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

Domestic Violence Project*

Legal Aid Services of Oregon-Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Domestic Violence Project matches pro bono attorneys with victims of domestic violence for representation in contested Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) restraining order hearings, Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act hearings and stalking order hearings. These cases tend to have short timelines, limited issues and require a court appearance. Attorneys sign up in advance to be available to take a case on a specific day (restraining order hearings are generally held on Mondays and Thursdays.) This project is an excellent volunteer opportunity for young lawyers, lawyers seeking litigation experience, and attorneys who cannot commit to taking long-term cases. Most of the volunteers are not family law practitioners. Volunteers are not expected to assist clients with family law matters that may exist after the protective order hearing. An online CLE and extensive written materials are available.

Contact: Maya Crawford, 503.224.4086, maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

Legal Aid Night Clinic*

Legal Aid Services of Oregon-Volunteer Lawyers Project/Stoel Rives LLP

LASO co-sponsors this evening clinic with Stoel Rives, LLP. Clinics are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m at the Standard Insurance Building (downtown Portland), and every other clinic is staffed by volunteer attorneys outside of Stoel Rives. Volunteer attorneys screen the cases and provide continuing legal representation to clients with meritorious cases. Two volunteer attorneys are scheduled for each clinic and each attorney meets with up to four clients per clinic. The following issues are referred: consumer law, small claims advice, criminal record expungements, landlord/tenant damage claims, Social Security cases, estate planning, uncontested guardianships and uninsured motorist defense.

Contact: Maya Crawford, 503.224.4086, maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

Pro Se Assistance Project*

Legal Aid Services of Oregon-Volunteer Lawyers Project

This project is co-sponsored by the Multnomah County Family Law Court and volunteer attorneys provide limited assistance to clients requiring discrete legal advice or document review. Attorneys are scheduled to meet with three clients, each for a 45-minute appointment. Clinics are held from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Multnomah County Courthouse. Attorneys respond to discrete family law questions and/or review documents prepared by unrepresented litigants. Attorneys are NOT expected to provide ongoing representation to clients and clients sign a retainer agreement detailing the limited scope of the attorney-client relationship. Volunteer attorneys must have family law experience to participated in this project. A clinic procedural manual is available.

Contact: Maya Crawford, 503.224.4086, maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

Statewide Tax Clinic*

Legal Aid Services of Oregon-Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Statewide Low Income Taxpayer Clinic provides advice and representation to low income clients who have a tax controversy with the IRS or the Department of Revenue. Pro bono tax cases are referred through a listserv where basic case information is posted. An attorney interested in taking the case responds to the email and conflict checking information is provided. Cases cover a range of state and federal personal income tax issues including collections, examinations (audits), innocent spouse claims, and tax court cases. Volunteer opportunities are also available for recent graduates and new members of the bar.

Contact: Jennifer Woodhouse, 503.224.4086, jennifer.woodhouse@lasoregon.org.

Senior Law Project*

Legal Aid Services of Oregon-Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Senior Law Project (SLP) began in 1978 and is the VLP's largest project, with over 25 legal clinics per month. Volunteer lawyers meet with clients who are 60 or over (or who are married to someone 60 or over) at nine senior center locations in Multnomah County. They provide 30-minute consultations, on any civil legal issues, for up to six clients per clinic. All clients 60 or over are eligible for free 30-minute consultations, regardless of their income. SLP volunteers provide continuing pro bono

services for only those clients who meet VLP financial eligibility requirements. The VLP sponsors a monthly Elder Law Discussion Group to provide information and support.

Contact: Maya Crawford, 503.224.4086, maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

Mercy Corps Northwest

Assist low-income micro-entrepreneurs and small business owners with legal issues including -- but not limited to -- advising on type of legal entity to form, dealing with bankruptcy, and reviewing leases and purchase agreements, etc. Training includes orientation with MCNW staff about agency, mission and approach to working with low-income and culturally diverse clients.

Contact: John Haines, 503.896.5070, volunteer@mercycorpsnw.org.

Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section

Attorneys for Youth

Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section

Volunteer attorneys are placed on an on-call list, which is made available to organizations serving homeless and near-homeless teens and teens in job training programs. Attorneys agree to respond quickly to questions about criminal, family, immigration, landlord/tenant and employment law, among other subjects, but are under no obligation to provide continuing representation to the client.

Contact: YLS at 503.276.2166.

Nonprofit Project

Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section

Nonprofit corporations are screened and paired with volunteer attorneys who handle single-issue, non-litigation matters. Typical projects include reviewing bylaws, articles of incorporation, filing for nonprofit status, employment agreements and leases and providing advice on employment and intellectual property matters. This is a great volunteer opportunity for transactional attorneys. Appropriate for new attorneys with their own PLF and access to an experienced attorney mentor.

Contact: YLS at 503.276.2166.

National Crime Victim Law Institute

NCVLI, a nonprofit legal organization affiliated with Lewis & Clark Law School, works to promote the thoughtful development and advancement of victim law on a national level. NCVLI does not provide direct representation of crime victims, but does help train and support a national network of skilled attorneys to represent crime victims in the criminal justice system through the National Alliance of Victims' Rights Attorneys (NAVRA). Pro bono opportunities are not limited to direct representation of crime victims in the criminal justice system. Your help is also needed to serve as local counsel, conduct legal research, and represent crime victims in related civil proceedings. Most importantly, you don't need experience with victim law to help, NAVRA and NCVLI staff will train you to represent crime victims.

Contact: 503.768.6819, ncvli@lclark.edu.

Oregon Crime Victims Law Center

Pro bono attorneys needed to represent petitioners in restraining and stalking order cases that have parallel criminal cases pending against the respondents for sexual assault and/or domestic violence. Pro bono attorneys also may represent crime victims on particular issues in criminal cases, such as on motions to quash subpoenas seeking access to the victim, victim's real property, cell phone, computer, restitution hearings, etc.

The center conducts periodic training in conjunction with the Portland-based National Crime Victim Law Institute. It also has a victims' rights law handbook and staff attorneys available for consultation.

Spanish (or other) language skills and/or location outside of the Portland metro area are pluses.

Contact: Janine Robben, janine@ocvlc.org or Cristina Damiani, cristina@ocvlc.org, www.ocvlc.com, 503.2088160.

Oregon Law Center, Portland Office

Neighborhood Legal Clinic*

Oregon Law Center

Weekly clinics are conducted from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Portland. Each clinic serves 3-4 clients. Common legal needs include collection, contract, landlord/tenant, unemployment, small estates and insurance defense issues. Currently there are two clinics, including one that is geared toward Spanish-speaking clients. Individuals and law firms can schedule one or more appearances each year.

Contact: Lori Alton, 503.473.8326, lalton@oregonlawcenter.org.

ProBonoOregon Listserv*

Oregon Law Center

Legal service offices around the state post cases to this listserv every Thursday. Each program posts only one email per week. Postings are sent to individual attorneys or pro bono coordinators for internal distribution within firms. An attorney who is interested in accepting a pro bono opportunity contacts the listing office for full case information. Listings include the type of case and a brief description of the issue and do not include highly identifying facts or party names. Conflict information is discussed with interested attorneys when they contact the listing office. This project allows pro bono attorneys to take a pro

bono case when it fits best with their schedule. To sign up directly for the listserv, send an email to: probonooregon-subscribe@mail.lawhelp.org.

Portland Women's Crisis Line

Legal advocacy for victims of domestic and sexual violence: protective orders, custody issues, divorce, stalking orders. Time commitment varies.

Contact: Rebecca Peatow Nickels, 503.872.8627 rebecca@pwcl.org.

Re-Entry Court

District Court of Oregon

Assist participants on federal probation with recovery from addiction, employment and issues related to successful re-entry into society. Volunteer attorneys help program participants resolve non-criminal legal issues such as back taxes, garnishment, past due child support and custody matters.

Contact: Pat Ehlers, 503.326.4902, patrick_ehlers@fd.org.

Refugee and Immigrant Family Strengthening Program

Immigration and Refugee Community Organization

Cases involving immigration law such as assisting domestic violence survivors self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), U-visas, and T-visas. Cases involving contested protective orders, divorce and child custody proceedings. Formal or informal domestic violence training as necessary that includes a segment on domestic violence within immigrant and refugee communities.

Contact: Stacey Vu, RIFS Program Coordinator, 503.234.1541, staceyv@irco.org.

St. Andrew Legal Clinic (SALC)

Volunteer attorneys conduct 30-minute intake interviews at "night clinic" on family law issues. Night clinics are held every Wednesday and alternate Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Multnomah County office in NE Portland; Wednesday from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Washington County office in Hillsboro; and alternate Tuesdays from 6:30-9 p.m. and weekday afternoons (except Friday) in the Clackamas County office in Oregon City. Dinner is provided to volunteers at 6 p.m. Volunteers are supervised by a SALC staff attorney and do not need family law experience. Training materials are available.

Contact: Lois Lee, 503.281.1500 x10 for Portland, Patty Hansen, 503.557.9800 x10, phansen@salcgroup.org for Oregon City, and Viviana Mendoza, 503.648.1600 x13, vmendoza@salcgroup.org for Hillsboro.

Small Business Legal Clinic

Lewis & Clark Law School

The SBLC pro bono project provides opportunities for business transaction lawyers to meet with clients at the SBLC on selected days. The SBLC sets up appointments and runs conflict checks. Lawyers are able to specify time slots that work for them to come to the office and meet with pre-screened clients. Volunteer law students who earn pro bono honors credit are available to assist pro bono attorneys. Opportunities include a choice of entity and entity creation, contract review and drafting, debt problems, business financing, compliance with consumer, licensing and regulatory issues and copyright and trademark creation. The SBLC runs brownbag training series.

Contact: Professor Maggie Finnerty, 503.768.6940, finnerty@lclark.edu.

US District Court Pro Bono Program

Appoints attorneys to represent pro se parties in civil cases who, in the Court's opinion, require and are qualified to receive them. Such parties (who are often incarcerated) typically lack the financial means or legal experience to adequately deal with the issues and proceedings in US District Court. The representation may be for all purposes or for the limited purposes of reviewing claims or of participating in mediation or settlement. The court will provide tips on dealing with inmates and obtaining mentors for appointed attorneys. Tutorials for electronic filing and program procedures are available on the court's website. For further details or to volunteer visit www.ord.uscourts.gov.

Contact: Nicole Munoz, 503.326.8014, nicole_munoz@ord.uscourts.gov or JP Voilleque, 503.326.8020, jp_voilleque@ord.uscourts.gov.

Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

Represent a Veteran pro bono case before the US Court of Appeals. The Washington, D.C. based Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program is seeking volunteer lawyers to assist veterans who claim entitlement to VA benefits. Each lawyer agreeing to accept one case will receive free training, a veterans' law manual, a pre-screened case, and ongoing access to a mentor lawyer.

Contact: Meg Bartley, Director of Outreach & Education, 202.621.5670, meg_bartley@nvlsp.org.

WaterWatch of Oregon

Advocate for protection and restoration of instream flows in Oregon's rivers and streams by representing individuals and organizations in water right proceedings before administrative agencies and courts. Mentors and training by experienced attorneys provided. Some cases may require PLF coverage.

Contact: John DeVoe, 503.295.4039 x1, john@waterwatch.org.