

PRO BONO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE CHICAGO AREA

Recent law school graduates can help meet the needs of low-income and other vulnerable people in our community through pro bono service. Pro bono not only helps people in need, but also allows recent graduates to develop legal skills, create a network within the legal community and gain the emotional satisfaction that comes with helping people in need. Recent law school graduates of all experience levels can get involved.

Additional pro bono opportunities can be found in the [CBF Guide to Pro Bono Opportunities](#). Recent law school graduates should feel free to contact any of the organizations directly. If you have questions or would like assistance getting involved, contact Angela Inzano at ainzano@chicagobar.org or 312-554-4952.

EVICITION DEFENSE

Volunteer attorneys will defend Chicago's low-income renters families in eviction court. Under the supervision of LCBH staff attorneys, volunteers will have the opportunity to handle all aspects of representation from start to finish, including client interviews, discovery, motion practice, settlement negotiations, court appearances, and both bench and jury trials. Because evictions are heard on an expedited schedule, cases may settle quickly or proceed to trial within a few months. Volunteers may also represent renters in non-litigation matters, such as landlord-tenant disputes, in order to help them avoid eviction filings.

Organization: Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (www.lcbh.org)

Practice areas: Housing

Opportunity type: Litigation

Skills acquired: Client counseling, client/witness interviewing, motion practice, writing/drafting, negotiations, trial skills

Skills required: All attorneys are competent to handle this matter after the training provided.

Time commitment: Completion of the initial 1-hour training and then flexible.

Contact: Julie Pautsch at jpautsch@lcbh.org or 312.784.3515.

Training and support: LCBH provides an initial 1-hour, in-person training on the basics of landlord-tenant law and eviction court practice. This training is offered based on need and demand. LCBH also provides volunteers with a resource manual, samples, and ongoing support.

EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING HELP DESKS

Volunteers conduct criminal history research and provide consultations to individuals seeking to clear their criminal records through expungement and sealing. Volunteers meet with clients, read their criminal history or RAP sheets, determine their eligibility for relief, and help them file the necessary paperwork. The desk at the Daley Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and Thursday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The desk at the Markham Courthouse is open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Organization: Cabrini Green Legal Aid (www.cgla.net)

Practice areas: Expungement, sealing and other forms of criminal records relief

Opportunity type: Non-litigation, self-help desks

Skills acquired: Client counseling, client/witness interviewing

Skills required: All volunteers are competent to handle this matter after the training provided.

Time commitment: Completion of required training (4 hrs). Volunteers are then asked to commit to completing a minimum of six 3.5-hour sessions working at a Help Desk over 6 months, which can be scheduled at the volunteer's convenience.

Contact: Eric Zopf at ericzopf@cgla.net or 312.374.6191

Training and support: Volunteers are required to complete a two-part training orientation at CGLA's office (each training part is 2 hrs. — Total of 4 hours over 2 evenings) prior to volunteering. The volunteer coordinator and staff attorneys support volunteers.

ADVICE AND REFERRAL HOTLINE

Volunteer attorneys answer calls on our legal hotline located in the CARPLS offices. Volunteers counsel clients, prepare documents, and make referrals to network organizations in the areas of landlord/tenant, consumer debt, and domestic relations law. Daily shifts: Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm or 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Evening shifts: Monday or Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Organization: CARPLS (www.carpls.org)

Practice areas: Divorce/separation/annulment, landlord/tenant, consumer law

Opportunity type: Non-litigation, client intake/interview, advice, brief services

Skills acquired: Client counseling, client/witness interviewing, subject matter experience

Skills required: All attorneys are competent to handle this matter after the training provided.

Time commitment: 36-hour volunteer commitment requested after training.

Contact: Leslie Wallin at volunteers@carpls.org or 312.421.4427

Training and support: CARPLS provides extensive training and support to volunteers in the form of online course work and hands-on training. CARPLS supervisors support volunteers during volunteer shifts and are always available to answer questions. Trainings are offered 10 times each year.