PRO BONO

Volunteer Opportunities for In-House Counsel in the Chicago Area

Lawyers and other legal professionals at corporate legal departments make important contributions to pro bono and access to justice in many ways, including through partnerships with the programs below. Unless otherwise specified, each opportunity provides comprehensive training and support for volunteers.

Learn more by following the QR code for each opportunity, contacting an organization directly, or by reaching out to the CBF at sblair@chicagobarfoundation.org for help finding opportunities that are a good fit. A comprehensive directory of pro bono opportunities in Illinois is also available at cbf.joinpaladin.com.

One Day or Less

Ascend Justice: Emergency Order of Protection Clinic

Volunteers work directly with survivors of gender-based violence at the Domestic Violence Courthouse to help them file for Emergency Orders of Protection. Volunteers interview clients, then prepare and submit the Petition for Order of Protection, which includes the client's affidavit and other necessary court forms.

Organization Website: www.ascendjustice.org
Contact: Kimberly Washington at volunteerservices@ascendjustice.org
Practice Areas: Domestic Violence/Orders of Protection
Time Commitment: The EOP Clinic shift for volunteers is 9AM-4PM Monday-Friday. Volunteer dates are limited and must be coordinated with the Director of Pro Bono Services. Due to space and other limitations, Ascend Justice can accommodate a maximum of 3 total volunteers in a group for each volunteer day. Prior to the shift, volunteers must complete a training, which is available on demand.

Quick Look

- ✓ In Person Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ Attorneys and Other Professionals Welcome
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information!

One Day or Less (continued)

Cabrini Green Legal Aid: Criminal Records Relief

Cabrini Green Legal Aid provides holistic legal services to individuals and communities negatively impacted by the criminal legal system. Volunteers help clients remove barriers to jobs, housing, education, and more through the expungement and sealing of criminal records. Opportunities include researching backgrounds, drafting petitions, consulting with and advising petitioners, and representing petitioners at objection hearings. Volunteers can choose one or all of the above opportunities, which can all be done in-person or remotely, and except for hearing representation, on your own schedule.

Organization Website: www.cgla.net
Contact: Alex Antonacci at alexantonacci@cgla.net or 312.374.6891
Practice Areas: Criminal records and related work in civil services, social work, criminal defense, policy and advocacy
Time Commitment: 3 hours per case average

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ In Person Opportunity
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information

Chicago Bar Association: Lawyers in the Classroom

Volunteers partner with teachers in 2nd through 8th grade classrooms to teach students about the U.S. Constitution, the legal system, and law-related careers. Volunteer attorneys draw on their real-life experiences and knowledge to offer young people the opportunity to interact with positive adult role models and help them develop critical thinking and civil discourse skills.

Organization Website: www.chicagobar.org
Contact: Kelli Landes, at klandes@chicagobar.org
Communities Served: Children
Practice Areas: Teaching children
Time Commitment: Required virtual training, then at least three visits to the same classroom over the course of the school year

Quick Look

- ✓ In Person Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ Attorneys and Other Professionals Welcome
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information

One Day or Less (continued)

Center for Disability & Elder Law: Power of Attorney Workshops

Volunteer attorneys work with CDEL staff to prepare Powers of Attorney for Health Care and Property and Illinois Living Will Declarations for low-income seniors at community partners throughout Cook County. These workshops involve a one-hour training via Zoom followed by a 2.5 in person workshop and are great for law firm and corporate client partnerships. Other legal professionals may participate if paired with an attorney.

Organization Website: www.cdelaw.org
Contact: Cheryl Lipton at clipton@cdelaw.org or 312.600.6409
Practice Areas: Estate planning
Time Commitment: Completion of required training (1 hour) and at least one 2.5-hour workshop.

Quick Look

- ✓ In Person Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ No Experience Needed
- ✓ Transactional Law

Scan or click for more information

Equip for Equality: Special Education Clinic Helpline

Volunteers provide legal information and advice about special education law over the phone to parents of children with disabilities, help parents draft letters, and conduct legal research on special education issues.

Organization Website: www.equipforequality.org
Contact: Olga Pribyl at olga@equipforequality.org or 312.895.7321
Practice Areas: Special education
Time Commitment: Completion of online training (1.5 hours) and at least one 4-hour shift consisting of 2 hours of active work time, followed by a telephone meeting with the intake manager.

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information

One Day or Less (continued)

Legal Aid Chicago: ADAPT (Advance Directives and Property Transfers)

Volunteers advise people in preparing Advance Directives and Property Transfers: Powers of Attorney for Health Care and Property, Living Wills, and Transfer on Death Instruments (to allow for the transfer of ownership of a home upon death). Volunteers conduct telephone interviews with clients, then prepare documents for clients according to their wishes. Legal Aid Chicago staff can arrange for mailing the documents to the client and, if possible, remote notarization and execution.

Organization Website: www.legalaidchicago.org
Contact: Barbara Bertini at bbertini@legalaidchicago.com
Practice Areas: Estate planning
Time Commitment: Completion of online training (3 hours) and 3-4 hours of work per client. Attorneys indicate availability for phone appointments via Sign-Up Genius and then prepare documents for the client following the phone appointment.

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ No Experience Needed
- ✓ Transactional Law

Scan or click for more information

Legal Aid Chicago: Criminal Records Relief

Volunteers prepare petitions for expungement and sealing for clients who have been pre-screened by Legal Aid Chicago and are eligible for relief. Volunteers indicate availability via email and are assigned cases after a conflict check. Following completion of the petition by the volunteer, Legal Aid Chicago resumes responsibility for the case including reviewing, signing, filing, court appearances, and providing clients with court orders.

Organization Website: www.legalaidchicago.org
Contact: Barbara Bertini at bbertini@legalaidchicago.com
Practice Areas: Expungement, sealing, and other forms of criminal records relief
Time Commitment: Online CLE training, and 3-4 hours of work per case, including phone consultation with client and document preparation.

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information

One Day or Less (continued)

Legal Aid Chicago: Austin and Woodlawn Community Clinics

Volunteer attorneys and other legal professionals help clients with civil matters such as evictions, child support, custody, and divorce by providing legal advice, referrals, and help filling out paperwork for court. In some cases, volunteers can elect to represent clients in court.

Organization Website: www.legalaidchicago.org
Contact: Barbara Bertini at bbertini@legalaidchicago.com
Practice Areas: Housing, family law, public benefits
Time Commitment: Training plus 3-4 hours at the clinic

Quick Look

- ✓ In Person Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ Attorneys and Other Professionals Welcome
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information

Legal Aid for New Entrepreneurs: Brief Advice Clinics

Monthly virtual clinics where volunteers meet with small business owners for one-hour appointments to provide brief legal advice. Volunteers are matched with clients based on their area of expertise.

Organization Website: www.lanechicago.org
Contact: Melissa Picciola at melissap@lanechicago.org
Practice Areas: Transactional
Experience Required: Some transactional subject matter expertise; volunteers matched with clients based on their expertise
Time Commitment: 1-2 hours per clinic

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ Transactional Law

Scan or click for more information

One Day or Less (continued)

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic: Powers of Attorney Clinic

NSLAC partners with local organizations to hold Power of Attorney clinics in the Lake County and north suburban Cook County areas. Volunteers work with clients in person to help them prepare Powers of Attorney for Health Care and Property.

Organization Website: www.nslegalaid.org
Contact: Kaitlyn Quigley at kquigley@nslegalaid.org
Practice Areas: Advance directive
Time Commitment: On-site training prior to clinic plus 3-4 hours per clinic. Volunteers sign up for individual clinic days.

Quick Look

- ✓ In Person Opportunity
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ Attorneys and Other Professionals Welcome
- ✓ No Experience Needed
- ✓ In the Suburbs

Scan or click for more information

Public Interest Law Initiative: Free Legal Answers

PILI is the state administrator for Illinois Free Legal Answers, a secure website where low-income Illinoisans can ask a lawyer for help with a civil legal issue. Volunteer lawyers can log onto the site at their convenience and answer questions waiting in the queue. Volunteers enjoy total flexibility, choosing where and when to log in and which questions to answer. Volunteer attorneys who provide brief advice and counsel via the website will be covered by professional liability insurance maintained by the ABA. PILI provides all the necessary training and resources. Attorneys can also receive MCLE credit for doing pro bono on the site.

Organization Website: www.pili.org
Contact: Jessica Schneider at jschneider@pili.org
Practice Areas: Civil
Time Commitment: Online training is available and on average 30-45 minutes is required per question. PILI can host 1.5-2-hour workshops at your corporation or virtually where attorneys can get together, receive training, and log on to answer questions.

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ In Person Opportunity (Can Come to You!)
- ✓ Great for Groups
- ✓ No Experience Needed

Scan or click for more information

One Day or Less (continued)

Prairie State Legal Services: Eviction Counseling

Volunteer attorneys provide brief advice about tenants' rights and available rental assistance programs to tenants facing eviction and assist them with negotiating agreements with their landlords.

Organization Website: www.pslegal.org
Contact: Kim Thielbar at kthielbar@pslegal.org
Practice Areas: Housing
Time Commitment: Online training, and each case typically takes less than 5 hours. Note that cases requiring settlement negotiation may extend beyond a single day.

Quick Look

- ✓ Remote Opportunity
- ✓ No Experience Needed
- ✓ Outside Cook County

Scan or click for more information

Multi-Day

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights: Transactional Legal Assistance

Volunteer attorneys provide non-litigation and business law representation to community-based organizations in low-income neighborhoods in the Chicago area. Clients are involved in a range of community development and social service activities. Volunteers also provide business law services to low-income clients starting and operating small businesses and to non-profits.

Organization Website: www.clccrul.org
Contact: Sheila Maloney at smaloney@clccrul.org
Practice Areas: Corporate, tax, real estate, employment, finance, governance, intellectual property
Experience Required: This opportunity relies on volunteers with subject matter experience or law firm support. No formal training is provided but a CLC attorney is available to provide ongoing support.
Time Commitment: 5-30 hours, typically over a few months.

Quick Look

- ✓ Hybrid Opportunity
- ✓ Transactional Law

Scan or click for more information

Multi-Day (continued)

Lawyers for the Creative Arts: Assistance to Artists & Entertainment Professionals

Volunteer attorneys help artists and emerging professionals in the entertainment industry with legal problems ranging from entity formation, to contracts, to intellectual property protection, to disputes and litigation. Volunteers can select matters of interest from LCA's case list, which is published on its website at www.law-arts.com/case-list.

Organization Website: www.law-arts.org
Contact: Weston Dombroski at wdombroski@law-arts.com
Practice Areas: Corporate
Experience Required: Some subject matter experience preferred, but LCA typically has a wide range of available matters that will benefit from lawyers' specific expertise.
Time Commitment: Varies, but generally 5-25 hours.

Quick Look

✓ Remote Opportunity
✓ Transactional Law

Scan or click for more information

Legal Aid for New Entrepreneurs: Brief Services for Small Business

Volunteers assist low-income small business owners with limited-scope transactional matters such as entity formation, contract review and drafting (e.g. lease agreements, purchase agreements, master services agreements), employment issues (e.g. independent contractor agreements), and trademark questions.

Organization Website: www.lanechicago.org
Contact: Melissa Picciola at melissap@lanechicago.org
Practice Areas: Transactional
Experience Required: Some transactional subject matter expertise preferred; volunteers select cases based on their comfort level and experience
Time Commitment: Varies, but generally 5-10 hours per case with flexible scheduling

Quick Look

✓ Remote Opportunity
✓ Transactional Law

Scan or click for more information