Your help is needed & it’s yours to give.
Pro bono for attorneys licensed in Wisconsin

**Brief Legal Advice**
- By Email
  - Increase access to advice and information about non-criminal legal matters for those who cannot afford it. Answer questions from anywhere at any time for as long as you’d like.

**Civil/Family**
- Work with law students at 2-hour shifts once a month at in-person clinics in Milwaukee, Wis. and on Zoom (volunteer from anywhere!)

**Expungement & Pardon**
- Review criminal records and advise clients on their options for relieving barriers to work and housing.
  - (3 hour shift once a month)

**Consumer Debt Defense**
- Evaluate collection cases, identify, and prepare documents for negotiating dismissal, and prepare initial discovery requests.
  - (2.5 hour shift once a month)

**Driver’s License Recovery**
- Resolve driver’s license problems, review the DOT records of clients to provide advice about how the client can reinstate a license or resolve other suspension issues.
  - (3 hour shift once a month)

**Bankruptcy**
- Meet virtually or by phone to evaluate and provide brief services regarding unresolved debt issues, credit harassment, and bankruptcy eligibility.
  - (2 hour shift once a month)

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**Limited Scope Representation**

**Eviction Defense**
- Same day advising and limited scope representation at 1st hearing in front of a court commissioner for people in eviction proceedings in Milwaukee County. (3-hour shift once a month)

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**Full Scale Representation or Longer Term Commitment**

**Tax Clinic**
- Resolve tax controversies with the IRS and in Tax Court for low income clients related to: Return Preparation, Examination Response, Collection Alternatives, Appeals, and Tax Litigation.

**Full Scope Representation**
- High need case types:
  - Security Deposit Return
  - Auto-Fraud (repair and financing)
  - Wills/Probate
  - Domestic Abuse Injunction
  - Divorce/Placement/Support
Why Pro Bono?

**Did you know...**

- Civil legal aid providers in WI turn away over **HALF** of eligible clients because they don’t have capacity to serve them.
- Civil legal aid in WI has a great return on investment: **$8.40 for each $1 of aid**. It makes financial sense to invest in civil legal aid!
- WI has some of the **LOWEST** civil legal aid funding nationwide. Bridging the access to justice gap through pro bono service is critical.
- Only licensed attorneys can provide pro bono legal service. If we don’t do it, no one else can. It is our privilege **AND** our responsibility.

**It’s Your Professional and Ethical Responsibility**

Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least 50 hours of pro bono publico legal services per year. Supreme Court Rule 20:6.1

**Enough CLE for All Reporting Requirements – FREE**

- Free CLE sessions on substantive law, professional development, or professional ethics.
- Earn one CLE credit for every 5- hours of volunteer service per Chapter 31 of the WI Supreme Court Rules.

**Increase Access to Justice While Developing Legal Skills**

Increase access to justice while embodying the best ideals of our profession. Pro bono is also a great place to fine-tune your legal skills and develop new areas of expertise.

**Networking**

- Meet colleagues. Pro bono is a natural networking avenue.
- Build important mentoring relationships with law students.

**Inactive and Emeritus Lawyers Can Participate**

Lawyers in inactive and emeritus status can participate by joining a special practice status per SCR 10.03(3)(am). Ask us how!

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**Why do Wisconsin lawyers do pro bono?**

For all these reasons & more. Read their stories & join them in increasing access to justice.