

# Narrowing the Justice Gap: Pro Bono Opportunities 2025

Every project listed includes professional liability coverage, training, supervision and consultation, and the ability to shadow experienced volunteers. The projects expect to host volunteer attorneys with limited or no background in the relevant area of law. **The following is not an exhaustive list of all pro bono opportunities in Wisconsin.**

For additional opportunities, visit the State Bar of Wisconsin Pro Bono Portal: <https://app.joinpaladin.com/!/probonowi/opportunities/>

## Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics

Project Name & Description	Primary Contact Person & Contact Information	Time and Place of Work	Commitment Required
<p><b>Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics</b></p> <p>Provide brief legal advice to clients in a walk-in legal clinic setting, provide assistance with court forms and drafting legal documents, work with law students and undergraduate students who by greeting clients, explaining the limits of your service, taking notes for clients, and conducting on-the-spot research. Common areas of law presented by clients on a walk-in basis include small claims, eviction, landlord tenant, debt, and more. Family law matters are addressed by family law attorneys.</p>	<p>All Other Clinics: Katie Mertz or Angela Schultz <a href="mailto:Katie.mertz@Marquette.edu">Katie.mertz@Marquette.edu</a> <a href="mailto:Angela.schultz@marquette.edu">Angela.schultz@marquette.edu</a></p>	<p><b>On Zoom:</b> Thursdays 11:30-1:30</p> <p><b>In Person:</b> Tuesdays 1-3 at House of Peace, 1702 W. Walnut St. Wednesdays 5-7 at United Community Center, 730 W. Washington St. Thursdays 9-11 at Milwaukee Justice Center, 901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Rm G9</p>	<p>One monthly 2-hour shift (or more if you wish)</p>

# Milwaukee Justice Center

Project Name & Description	Primary Contact Person	Time and Place of Work	Commitment Required
<p><b>Estate Planning Clinic</b></p> <p>Use existing template documents to draft basic wills and advance directives for clients with scheduled appointments, work with law students who assist you with document drafting and notetaking during meetings with clients.</p> <p>Video training provided. On site attorney supervision and consultation always available.</p>	<p>Katie Mertz</p> <p><a href="mailto:Katie.mertz@marquette.edu">Katie.mertz@marquette.edu</a></p>	<p>Tuesdays 9-Noon at House of Peace, 1702 W. Walnut St.</p> <p>Wednesdays 9-Noon at Veterans Service Office, 6401 N. Greenfield Ave.</p>	<p>One monthly 3-hour shift (or more if you wish)</p>
<p><b>Pardon Application Clinic</b></p> <p>Volunteer attorneys work alongside law students to help eligible people apply for a Wisconsin pardon. One volunteer group works with one pardon client for the full shift time. The bulk of the work is simply helping the person tell their redemption story and writing it into the application form. Time with each client should conclude with providing instructions about how to submit the application. All materials are already developed for volunteer use, including training videos and instructions.</p> <p>Video training provided. On site attorney supervision and consultation always available.</p>	<p>Natalie Lewandowski</p> <p><a href="mailto:natalie.lewandowski@wicourts.gov">natalie.lewandowski@wicourts.gov</a></p>	<p>Mondays 1:15-3:15</p> <p>Saturdays 10am-12pm</p> <p>Clinics take place on Zoom</p>	<p>One 2-hour shift per month, more hours welcomed</p>

# Legal Action of Wisconsin

Project Name & Description	Primary Contact Person & Contact Information	Time and Place of Work	Commitment Required
<p><b>Eviction Defense Project</b></p> <p>You choose Non-Litigation or Litigation Volunteer Opportunities each day at the clinic. Experienced volunteers usually assist 2-3 clients/shift in resolving their eviction matter and often sealing the client’s name from the public record to increase housing stability.</p> <p><b>Brief Legal Service (Non-litigation).</b> Volunteer lawyers interview new clients, review pleadings, identify defenses, provide advice and/or representation in-court in front of the commissioner.</p> <p><b>Lawyer For a Day (LFAD/Litigation).</b> Volunteer lawyers appear on a limited basis at a specific contested, evidentiary, or motion hearing in front of the judge.</p>	Abrielle Newman <a href="mailto:arn@legalaction.org">arn@legalaction.org</a>	Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm (or when court is done) at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Rm. 406 (all shifts have shadowing opportunities!)	At least 1 shift per quarter, more hours are welcomed
<p><b>Consumer Debt Defense Project</b></p> <p>There are Non-Litigation and Litigation Volunteer opportunities. Experienced volunteers usually assist 2-3 clients/shift in evaluating third party debt collection cases. Choose your role:</p> <p><b>Brief Legal Advice (Non-litigation).</b> Volunteer at the Wednesday morning CDD clinic in the courthouse. Volunteer lawyers interview new clients, review pleadings, identify defenses, and prepare form pleadings.</p> <p><b>Lawyer For a Day (LFAD/Litigation).</b> Volunteer lawyers appear on a limited basis at a specific contested, evidentiary, or motion hearing in front of the commissioners and judge. These are referred to attorneys on an individual basis.</p>	Elizabeth Eddy “Lisa” <a href="mailto:eeddy@legalaction.org">eeddy@legalaction.org</a>	Wednesdays, 8:30 am – 11:00 am (or when court is done) at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Rm. 406 (all shifts have shadowing opportunities!)	At least 1 shift per quarter, more hours are welcomed

<i>Project Name &amp; Description</i>	<i>Primary Contact Person &amp; Contact Information</i>	<i>Time and Place of Work</i>	<i>Commitment Required</i>
<b>Student Legal Aid Clinic</b> This is a non-litigation opportunity. This project offers monthly clinics that focus on 3 main areas that cause barriers to employment. Volunteers evaluate relevant records and case documents and initiate paperwork that will help remove the barriers. Volunteers regularly meet with 3-5 clients per shift. Volunteers register for the clinic that focuses on <b>one</b> (not all three!) of the following priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Criminal Background Check</b> – Volunteers identify arrest cycle removal, expungement/pardon eligibility, and other criminal record errors that can be addressed.</li> <li><b>Driver’s License Recovery</b> – Volunteers advise clients on lifting suspensions and reinstating revoked driver’s licenses.</li> <li><b>Name &amp; Gender Marker Change</b> - Volunteers advise and prepare documents for Name and Gender Marker Change petitions.</li> </ol>	Megan Sprecher <a href="mailto:mls@legalaction.org">mls@legalaction.org</a>	Regularly occurring virtual and in-person clinics, scheduled quarterly	At least 1 shift per quarter, more hours are welcomed
<b>Bankruptcy Advice Clinic</b>  Virtual Clinic. Volunteers evaluate debt history and advise clients on bankruptcy options. This clinic is supported by law students who attend client meetings and assist with follow up work to help debt harassment.	JJ Moore <a href="mailto:jjm@legalaction.org">jjm@legalaction.org</a>	Attend remotely. Friday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	2 hours monthly, more hours welcome
<b>Traditional Pro Bono Referrals for Representation</b>  Accept referrals for representation in high demand areas of law as you are available. Some examples include: <b>Simple Estate Planning</b> – Draft wills, POAs, and other basic estate documents for low-income clients; <b>Domestic Abuse Injunctions</b> – represent clients at hearings before the family court commissioners; <b>Low Income Taxpayer Clinic</b> – assist clients with tax controversies with the IRS commonly involving Offers In Compromise, Innocent Spouse, and filing/amending past year returns.	JJ Moore <a href="mailto:jjm@legalaction.org">jjm@legalaction.org</a>	Your call!	You decide! Take one referral at a time, or more.