

## MILWAUKEE PRO BONO CIVIL LEGAL AID

Wisconsin attorneys have an aspirational goal of 50 hours of pro bono legal services per year as set by the Wisconsin Supreme Court through [SCR 20:6.1](#). Following the standard set by the American Bar Association, this benchmark is a way of acknowledging that the legal profession has an important role to play in helping to close the justice gap in Wisconsin. The following projects are located in Milwaukee and detail the variety of options available to licensed attorneys interested in performing pro bono work.

	<b>Milwaukee Justice Center Family Forms Clinic</b>	<b>Milwaukee Justice Center Parenting Conferences</b>	<b>Marquette Estate Planning Clinic</b>	<b>M-LINC Nonprofit Clinic</b>	<b>Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics, and Mobile Legal Clinic</b>	<b>Eviction Defense Project</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse Injunction Project</b>	<b>Legal Action of Wisconsin Volunteer Lawyers Project</b>
<b>Description</b>	Free legal clinic that provides assistance with family law forms and provides procedural information about family law cases.	Free dispute resolution program, in partnership with Child Support Services, which assists parents to discuss child support, custody, and placement and complete the necessary forms if an agreement is reached.	Free estate planning service that utilizes a document preparation software to create basic will, powers of attorney, and living will documents for clients.	Free brief legal advice for Wisconsin nonprofits and organizations seeking tax exempt or nonprofit status.	Free brief legal advice and referral clinic that assists clients in navigating most civil legal issues.	Free brief service clinic located in the Milwaukee Co. Courthouse. Provides free limited scope representation for tenants facing eviction.	Free limited scope representation in Domestic Abuse Injunction hearings.	Full representation on varied case types throughout the 37 counties served by Legal Action of Wisconsin. Case types: Guardianship, Probate, Real Estate/Deeds, Bankruptcy, Estate Planning, Consumer, Unemployment Insurance.
<b>Community Impact</b>	3 hours = 3-4 clients receive all necessary documents to file their petition for divorce or motion/stipulation to modify child support, placement, or custody, and information on how to file their documents.	3 hours = helping two sets of parents to discuss their family issues, often resulting in agreements that improve the situation for the whole family.	2 hours = 2 full estate plans which helps stabilize low income communities and ensures families can retain often their largest asset, the home, for future generations.	2 hours = 2 nonprofit organizations receive answers to their questions about entity formation and/or business operations.	2 hours = 3-4 clients' civil legal aid questions answered, such as assistance with small claims, family law, landlord-tenant, probate, consumer, and more.	3.5 hours = keeping 2 families from being displaced from their homes and minimizing the long-term consequences tied to eviction.	3.5 hours for court appearance, client interview, and preparation = survivors obtaining 4 or ten years of protection from abuser.	Varies, depending on the case type. For example: 5 hours = obtaining a bankruptcy so someone can get their driver's license back; 15 hours = monetary damages for an improperly repossessed car; 8 hours = the return of an improperly withheld security deposit.

<b>Time Commitment</b>	2 hours weekly or bi-weekly within the clinic hours below.  Monday-Friday, 8:30-12PM and 1-4PM	2, 3 hour shifts every six months.  Thursdays: \9-12PM	2 hours approx. once a month.  Mondays: 4-6PM Tuesdays: 4-6PM Wednesday: 5-7PM	2 hours approx. once a month.  Wednesdays: 2-4PM	2 hours approx. once a month  Mondays: 4-6PM Tuesdays: 4-6PM Wednesday: 5-7PM Thursdays: 2-4PM Fridays: 9-11AM  Additional times for family law attorneys: Mondays: 1:30-3:30PM Tuesdays: 1:30-3:30PM Wednesdays: 1:30-3:30PM  Various weekdays and Saturdays on the Mobile Legal Clinic.	2 volunteering opportunities:  1) Brief Legal Service. Volunteers meet with walk-in clients to provide advice and/or in-court representation. 12:30-4PM on Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.  2) Lawyer for a Day. Brief service cases that are scheduled for trial or a hearing are sent to these volunteers. Commitment depends on case complexity, but representation is limited to a single afternoon.	3 hours on Thursday afternoons, plus any preparation time prior to the hearing; number of clients depends on how many cases are referred for that afternoon.  Attorneys can also accept injunction cases on days other than Thursdays by signing up for our volunteer panel.	These cases would be full scope, traditional representation, so the time commitment would be spread out over time, depending on commitment required for resolution; attorney provides representation according to their schedule.
<b>Expertise Required</b>	None.	Mediation training strongly preferred. No family law experience necessary.	None.	None. Corporate or transactional experience useful.	None.	None. Experience with landlord/tenant law is helpful, but EDP has trainings and onsite experts to prepare and assist volunteers.	None.	Attorneys can self-identify their preferred areas of expertise, or an area with which they would like to become more familiar.
<b>Training</b>	1-hour training online; option to shadow existing volunteers.	3-hour session provided by the Milwaukee Justice Center and Child Support Services Staff (when needed).	1-hour training in person or online; option to shadow existing volunteers.	1-hour training in person or online; option to shadow existing volunteers.	1-hour training in person or online; option to shadow existing volunteers.	Annual, in-depth, training (3-5 hours); 1-hour lunch trainings on specific topics; option to shadow existing volunteers	Shadowing with attorneys experienced with injunctions is provided, and trainings are offered annually.	VLP offers annual CLE training on topics relevant to the case types referred as traditional, full scope representation, and staff attorney experts are available for consultation.
<b>Contact Info.</b>	<a href="mailto:Kyla.motz@wicourts.gov">Kyla.motz@wicourts.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:Mary.ferwerda@wicourts.gov">Mary.ferwerda@wicourts.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:Marisa.Zane@marquette.edu">Marisa.Zane@marquette.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.Mertz@marquette.edu">Kathryn.Mertz@marquette.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:MVLC.law@marquette.edu">MVLC.law@marquette.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:rfr@legalaction.org">rfr@legalaction.org</a>	<a href="mailto:jmd@legalaction.org">jmd@legalaction.org</a>	<a href="mailto:mnb@legalaction.org">mnb@legalaction.org</a>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Malpractice Insurance

Each project provides malpractice coverage for the practice of law done within the scope of the project. *Note: the Milwaukee Justice Center Family Forms Clinic does not provide malpractice coverage as volunteers are not practicing law within the scope of the project.*

### Incentives

#### Pro Bono Honor Society

- Attorneys who complete fifty or more hours of pro bono a year are recognized as a member of the [Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society](#).

#### CLE Credit for Pro Bono Work

- 6 credits for 30 pro bono hours: Wisconsin lawyers can claim one hour of CLE credit for every five hours of pro bono work in qualified pro bono programs, up to a maximum of six credits per reporting period. All projects detailed here are qualified pro bono programs.

#### Free CLEs for Volunteers

- Volunteers with any of the projects detailed here are invited to attend the following free CLE sessions:
  - Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics (MVLC)
    - 16 credits for attending the 8-session [Brown Bag CLE series](#) offered each year, which is twice per CLE reporting period (available for online or in-person viewing).
    - 1 Ethics credit for attend the [MVLC Volunteer Attorney Training](#) once per reporting period (sessions offered multiple times throughout the year for online or in-person viewing).
  - Eviction Defense Project (EDP)
    - EDP hosts multiple CLE programs throughout the year that are available to volunteers.
  - Legal Action of Wisconsin Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)
    - These [half and full day trainings](#) are on topics frequently seen in the clinics and are available for CLE credit (possible 27 total credits).