

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj).

## How Close Are You to Reaching Your 20 Pro Bono Hours in 2022?

Fall is nearly upon us, which means Louisiana attorneys have just a few months left to reach this year's goal of 20 pro bono hours in 2022. Still coming up short on your hours? See below for pro bono opportunities across the state, many of which can be done from the comfort of your office or home (or home office!). For a full list of available projects and free substantive law training materials, visit [www.probono.net/la/](http://www.probono.net/la/), Louisiana's online hub for pro bono.

### Ask-a-Lawyer Clinic, Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project provides walk-in legal clinics two to three times a month at several locations throughout the greater Baton Rouge area. Volunteers provide civil legal advice on a first-come, first-served basis. Subject areas can include bankruptcy, administrative law, consumer law, disability, elder law (senior citizens), employment, family law, health law, housing, Social Security/SSI, taxes,

unemployment compensation, veterans/military, welfare/TANF, wills and estates. To volunteer, email Lynn Haynes, [lynn@brba.org](mailto:lynn@brba.org).

### Ask-a-Lawyer Clinic, Shreveport Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project

The Shreveport Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project provides a walk-in Ask-a-Lawyer Clinic every third Monday of each month. Attorney volunteers provide civil and criminal legal advice. Subject areas include criminal, family law, unemployment, Social

Reach your 20 pro bono hours with  
**LSBA's LAWYERS in LIBRARIES!**

Sign up online to offer  
brief Ask-a-Lawyer consultations at  
your library or over the phone:

[lil.ivolunteer.com/2022](http://lil.ivolunteer.com/2022)

**20<sup>HOURS</sup>  
IN  
2022**

Several parishes still need volunteers for Ask-A-Lawyer sessions, including Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Catahoula, DeSoto, Franklin, Iberville, Madison, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, St. Helena, St. James, St. Landry, Vernon, Washington, Webster and Winn.



**LAWYERS  
IN LIBRARIES**  
**OCTOBER 24-29, 2022**

Security/SSI, wills and estates, tenant/landlord, employment, expungement, harassment, disability, consumer law, legal rights and name change. To volunteer, email Lucy Espree, [lespree@shreveportbar.com](mailto:lespree@shreveportbar.com).

### **Divorce Workshops, The Pro Bono Project (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Plaquemines, Washington)**

Meet with clients at your own office or at The Pro Bono Project to review and sign divorce pleadings and answer client questions about the divorce process. These cases are uncontested and do not involve community property. To volunteer, contact Kathryn Lafrentz, email [klafrentz@probono-no.org](mailto:klafrentz@probono-no.org), (504)581-4043.

### **Help Develop Bench Reference Cards for Judges, Louisiana Applesseed (statewide)**

Louisiana Applesseed is seeking volunteers to help consolidate bodies of law into quick bench reference guides. Applesseed works with members of the judiciary for oversight, final approval and distribution. Areas include drivers' license suspensions, property partitions, and cases involving domestic violence. To volunteer, email Adrienne Wheeler, [awheeler@louisianaapplesseed.org](mailto:awheeler@louisianaapplesseed.org).

### **Help Update Foreclosure Chapter of the Pro Bono Desk Manual, Acadiana Legal Service Corp. (statewide)**

Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center seek an attorney to help update the Foreclosure Defense and Property Tax chapter of the Louisiana Legal Services and Pro Bono Desk Manual, last updated in 2013. This manual is an invaluable resource used by Louisiana lawyers representing low-income clients in a variety of substantive areas. Deadlines are flexible, and a stipend is available for work on the chapter. The current version of the material on foreclosure is available at: <https://law.loyno.edu/sites/default/files/foreclosure.pdf>. To volunteer, contact Patrick D. Murphree, email [pdmurphree@gmail.com](mailto:pdmurphree@gmail.com), (504)648-9279.

### **In Forma Pauperis Notarization Clinics, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (New Orleans and Baton Rouge)**

Meet with clients to notarize their In Forma Pauperis (IFP) forms and help them move forward with uncontested divorces. Volunteers can expect to serve four to six clients per volunteer session. Sessions in

New Orleans are on Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m., and, if needed, on Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. In Baton Rouge, the clinic runs Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Note: IFP is an option for low-income individuals to delay having to pay court fines. Instead of paying upfront, typically either the petitioner or defendant (or both) will pay at the end of the proceedings. Judges reserve the right to deny anyone's request for an IFP. To volunteer, contact Elena Perez, email [eperez@slls.org](mailto:eperez@slls.org), (504)529-1000 x 231. Also note whether you are looking to volunteer in New Orleans or Baton Rouge.

### **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (statewide)**

Volunteers work closely with SLLS attorneys to help low-income families with federal tax controversies. Training and mentoring are available. To volunteer, contact Elena Perez, email [eperez@slls.org](mailto:eperez@slls.org), (504)529-1000 x 231.

### **Security Deposit Clinic, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (Greater New Orleans)**

For low-income families, security deposits pose an often ignored but significant barrier to safe, decent, affordable housing. SLLS has transactional and litigation opportunities for lawyers to help clients to recover security deposits and fight charges unfairly assessed against them when they move. Volunteers have the opportunity to draft demand letters, negotiate settlements, and go to trial in certain cases. Mentoring and co-counseling are offered to all volunteers. To volunteer, contact Elena Perez, email [eperez@slls.org](mailto:eperez@slls.org), (504)529-1000 x 231.

### **Lawyers in Libraries, Louisiana State Bar Association (statewide)**

The LSBA's annual Lawyers in Libraries program brings together attorneys and libraries across Louisiana to provide free, limited services to the public during National Celebrate Pro Bono Week, Oct. 24-29, 2022. This year, attorneys have the option of volunteering for "Ask-a-Lawyer" consultation sessions at the library or over the phone. Volunteers provide basic civil legal advice and resources and can expect to meet with four to eight people during the two-hour volunteer session. The Guide for Attorney Volunteers, including a resources and referrals list for patrons, is available at: [www.lsba.org/documents/ATJ/LiL2022GuideforAttorneys.pdf](http://www.lsba.org/documents/ATJ/LiL2022GuideforAttorneys.pdf). To volunteer, email Jordan Maier at [jordan.maier@lsba.org](mailto:jordan.maier@lsba.org), or sign up online at: [lil.ivolunteer.com/2022](http://lil.ivolunteer.com/2022).

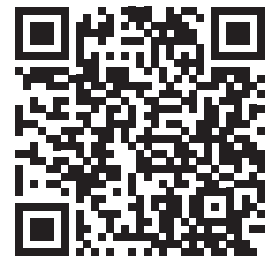
[maier@lsba.org](mailto:maier@lsba.org), or sign up online at: [lil.ivolunteer.com/2022](http://lil.ivolunteer.com/2022).

### **Answer Civil Legal Questions Online, LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org (statewide)**

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org is a pro bono website where low-income Louisianans can submit civil law questions and have them answered for free by attorney volunteers. Attorney responses are anonymous and volunteers can choose which questions they wish to answer. This opportunity is great for attorneys on the go, as you can participate anywhere, anytime. To volunteer, sign up at <https://la.freelegalanswers.org/>.

This is just a brief list of the many pro bono opportunities available in Louisiana. Pro bono service is vital to the wellbeing of the state's communities; a vast two-thirds of Louisianans are of limited or modest means (defined as earning less than 400% of the poverty rate). This means that hiring an attorney to address any of life's major issues — a divorce, a death in the family, an eviction, domestic violence — is at least a stretch and possibly entirely out of reach for many residents. Unfortunately, Louisiana's legal aid providers can only help a portion of that number. At current funding levels, legal aid providers are able to staff just one attorney for every 11,000 Louisianans.

This is where you, the volunteer, come in. With just a few hours of your time, your legal knowledge can unlock solutions for people and turn around the most pressing problems in their lives. We encourage you to strive to give 20 hours of pro bono service this year and find out for yourself just how much good you can do. 📖



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