



“25 in 2025” A Call to Serve

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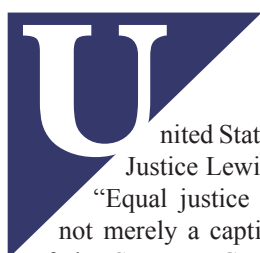
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United States Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, Jr. said, “Equal justice under the law is not merely a caption on the façade of the Supreme Court building. It is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society . . . it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.”

Three years ago, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Committee’s Pro Bono Subcommittee launched the “20 in 2022” campaign, encouraging every attorney to dedicate 20 hours of pro bono work that year. In 2025, the subcommittee is revitalizing and expanding that campaign with “25 in 2025,” asking attorneys to provide 25 hours of pro bono legal services in the year 2025.

Some may ask, “Why does the LSBA continue to champion campaigns like this?” The answer is simple — pro bono is not just a professional responsibility; it’s a lifeline. The services attorneys provide have the potential to transform lives, offering relief, protection and dignity to those who cannot afford legal representation. Pro bono is more than an obligation — it’s a moral imperative and a practical solution to some of the most pressing issues facing Louisiana today.

The Urgent Need for Pro Bono in Louisiana

Louisiana is home to some of the highest poverty rates in the nation. In 2024, the poverty rate was 18.65%.¹ For these families, paying for legal representation is not an option, even when their fundamental rights and livelihoods are at risk.

Nationally, 74% of low-income households experience at least one civil legal issue each year, yet an overwhelming 92% of those families receive little to no help in addressing their legal problems.² These issues range from housing instability to healthcare access, family law matters, and employment disputes.

This justice gap not only harms individuals and families but it undermines the very foundation of the legal system — equal justice for all. In 2025, the need for pro bono legal representation is more significant than ever. Attorneys contributing their skills and time can be part of the solution, ensuring that more Louisianans can access justice and relief through the courts.

Why Pro Bono?

The Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 6.1, suggests that every attorney should aspire to render at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services per

TOP 5 REASONS TO DO PRO BONO THROUGH A PRO BONO PROGRAM

1 | CLE Credit for
pro bono hours.

Guidance from
experienced
mentors
to support you.

2

3 | Malpractice
insurance
provided by pro
bono programs.

CLE training on
critical issues
like family law,
consumer rights
and successions.

4

5 | Networking
opportunities
with colleagues
and potential
employers.

year.³ Every Louisiana attorney is encouraged to meet that goal. However, balancing work, life and pro bono commitments can be challenging. This is why the “25 in 2025” campaign sets an attainable goal of 25 hours — a small but impactful step toward fulfilling the professional and moral obligations.

The Legal, Moral and Practical Importance

Pro bono work benefits not only the clients, but also the legal profession and society at large. On a legal level, it reinforces the principle that justice is not reserved for those who can afford it but is a right for all. Morally, attorneys have a duty to use their skills to support vulnerable communities — providing legal help where it is most needed. Practically, pro bono provides opportunities for attorneys to grow professionally while giving back to the community.

This work does not diminish the dignity of the people served. On the contrary, offering legal assistance affirms their humanity and their right to be heard and protected under the law. Those living in poverty are often met with systemic barriers that prevent them from accessing the justice system on their own. By providing pro bono services, attorneys empower them to navigate these obstacles, ensuring their voices are heard and their legal issues are addressed.

The Benefits for You

Pro bono work is not just good for the public — it’s good for you. Pro bono programs throughout Louisiana offer malpractice insurance, free CLE training and mentorship opportunities to help you succeed. Additionally, you can earn CLE credit for every 5 hours of pro bono work (up to 3 CLE credits per year).

Whether you are a new attorney looking for courtroom experience or a seasoned professional wanting to give back, pro bono work offers meaningful opportunities to engage with colleagues, expand your skills, and make a real difference.

How to Get Started

You don’t have to take on this work alone. Louisiana’s pro bono programs are here to support you, offering screened clients, resources and mentorship. They provide opportunities to assist with cases ranging from domestic violence and consumer protection to wills and estates. There are both in-person and remote volunteer options available, making it easier than ever to find time in your schedule.

Join the Campaign

Join the “25 in 2025” campaign and commit to 25 hours of pro bono service this year. Not only will you be helping individuals and families who need your experience, but you will also be upholding the fundamental values of the legal profession and ensuring that justice remains accessible to all, regardless of income.

For more information on how to get involved, visit www.probono.net/la and start making your pro bono hours count today.

FOOTNOTES

1. <https://bestdiplomats.org/poorest-states-in-america/>.

2. <https://justicegap.lsc.gov/resource/executive-summary/>.

3. See Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, www.ladb.org/Material/Publication/ROPC/ROPC.pdf.

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