

NORTH CAROLINA ATTORNEYS' PRO BONO RESOURCE KIT



CONTENTS

| [Welcome](#)

| [What is
pro bono?](#)

| [Why do
pro bono?](#)

| [How do I
get started?](#)



“Our state constitution says that justice is to be administered without favor, denial, or delay. Members of North Carolina’s legal profession are uniquely positioned to make this promise a reality by providing pro bono services to those in need.”

— CHIEF JUSTICE PAUL NEWBY
SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA
PRO BONO
RESOURCE CENTER

Welcome



SYLVIA NOVINSKY
DIRECTOR, NORTH CAROLINA
PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTER

Dear North Carolina Bar Member,

As Director of the North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, I'd like to welcome you to the North Carolina State Bar. You are joining a North Carolina profession full of rewards, both personal and professional. Among those rewards is the opportunity to improve the lives of others in ways that only lawyers can.

North Carolina Rule 6.1

Through service to those who lack the ability to pay, we as lawyers live up to our professional responsibility under North Carolina Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1, which includes an aspirational goal of 50 pro bono service hours a year.

Pro Bono Go

The [North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center](#), in partnership with [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#), [Legal Aid of North Carolina](#), and [Pisgah Legal Services](#), recently launched [Pro Bono Go](#), a new online clearinghouse of pro bono opportunities. At [ProBonoGo.org](#), you can find a wide range of projects through which you can gain experience along with the satisfaction of knowing you are helping someone who otherwise would not be able to obtain legal help.

Pro Bono Reporting

The Pro Bono Resource Center manages annual voluntary pro bono reporting on behalf of the Supreme Court of North Carolina at [ncprobono.org/report](#). We encourage you to report your pro bono hours so that you can help shine a light on the volunteerism of North Carolina attorneys. Each attorney licensed in North Carolina who reports providing 50 hours of pro bono legal services in a year will be inducted into the North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society and receive a certificate from the Supreme Court of North Carolina honoring their achievement.

We are always happy to help attorneys looking to engage in pro bono service, so please visit [our website](#) and reach out with any questions about how to volunteer. Congratulations on your admission to the North Carolina Bar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Novinsky".

Sylvia Novinsky
Director, North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center

What is pro bono?

North Carolina Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 states that “every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay.”

Pro bono legal services are provided without fee or expectation of fee to:

- ♦ persons of limited means;
- ♦ charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; or
- ♦ individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization’s economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate.



“Pro bono work will not only enrich your professional career, but it has the potential to change someone’s life.”

— **MANISHA PATEL**
LAW OFFICE OF MANISHA PATEL

Celebrating your pro bono service:

Learn more about Rule 6.1 activities and report your pro bono information annually at ncprobono.org/report.

“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 public legal services per year.”

— **NORTH CAROLINA RULE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT 6.1**

Why do pro bono?

2 MILLION+
North Carolinians
are eligible to be served
by civil legal aid
providers

There is only
**1 LEGAL AID
ATTORNEY**
for every 8,900 of
those eligible to
be served in NC

1 in 3 Legal Aid of
NC clients report an
annual income of
**\$10,000
OR LESS**

74%
of low-income
households experienced
1+ civil legal problems
in the past year

92%
of those civil legal
needs will go unmet



“Pro bono work helps improve access
to justice for vulnerable populations.”

— **TIFFANY BURBA**
PARKER POE

How do I get started?

1

Find opportunities on Pro Bono Go.

Pro Bono Go is an online platform that makes it easy for North Carolina lawyers to search and share pro bono opportunities. You can find opportunities that are litigation-based or transactional, provide training, and fit your schedule



[VIEW OPPORTUNITIES](#)

2

Report your pro bono hours.

From January through March, attorneys can report their pro bono hours for the previous year. Reporting your time helps showcase attorney volunteerism in North Carolina, inspires your peers to get involved, enables the identification of areas to grow pro bono efforts, and it's an opportunity for recognition.

[REPORT YOUR HOURS](#)

3

Get recognized!

Attorneys licensed in North Carolina who report at least 50 hours of pro bono legal service in a year will be inducted into the North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society and receive a certificate from the Supreme Court of North Carolina recognizing their valuable contributions to the people of North Carolina.

[HONOR SOCIETY](#)

PARTNERS

NORTH CAROLINA
PRO BONO
RESOURCE CENTER

The **North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center** harnesses the power of volunteer legal professionals to target unmet legal needs by promoting, supporting, and developing pro bono opportunities. Learn more at ncprobono.org.



charlotte center
for legal advocacy

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy provides those in need with information, advice and advocacy in consumer protection, home preservation, health care access and public benefits, immigration, tax assistance and more. Our mission is to pursue justice for those in need. Our vision is to build a just community, where all people are treated fairly and have access to legal representation to meet their basic human needs of safety, economic security, and stability. Learn more at charlottelegaladvocacy.org.



Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity. We provide life-changing legal help to residents of all 100 North Carolina counties. Learn more at legalaidnc.org.



Pisgah Legal Services is a nonprofit that provides free civil legal aid, health insurance navigation and tax preparation assistance to the most vulnerable people in Western North Carolina: disadvantaged children, seniors, at risk families & domestic violence victims. Our legal aid programs address housing, consumer protection, domestic violence, public benefits, tax, immigration, community economic development, and other matters. Learn more at pisgahlegal.org.