

Pro Bono Opportunities for Federal Government Attorneys

Compiled by the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Note: This compilation offers a diverse group of pro bono opportunities. Some opportunities listed here may pose conflicts for some agency attorneys and legal staff. Be sure to consult your agency ethics officer before starting any pro bono activity. For more information about these opportunities or questions about performing pro bono work as a federal government employee, contact Carla Stern, Department of Justice, at 312-353-6685 or Carla.Stern@usdoj.gov.

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA)

740 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60642
Phone: 312-738-4252
Fax: 312-850-4783
Website: www.cgla.net

CGLA is a faith-inspired non-profit which has provided free legal services in family, housing, criminal defense, and criminal record matters to Chicago's low-income residents for over thirty-eight years.

General Time Commitment: Varies depending on opportunity.

Process for becoming a volunteer: All prospective volunteers must attend a volunteer orientation and training prior to providing services. Orientations are held at the organization's office for all volunteer opportunities including the client intake interviews, case representation, administrative assistance, and fundraising and development. New volunteers interested in the client intake interview process are also expected to observe three intake sessions before conducting intake interviews independently.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance coverage to volunteers: Yes

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: Yes

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: No

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: Yes. The volunteer coordinator and supervising attorneys provide support to volunteers.

Sample Opportunities:

CGLA Client Intake Program

Volunteer attorneys and law students interview potential clients at the CGLA offices and satellite offices on the south and west side of Chicago. CGLA interviews potential clients in the areas of housing and family law. The training provided to volunteers includes: the basic questions to be asked of potential clients in each of CGLA's practice areas; familiarization with CGLA intake procedures; and presenting the cases at the weekly staff meeting. Each volunteer will be trained, observe three intake sessions, and then interview clients on their own. Following intake interviews, volunteers prepare the intake forms and notes of the interview and then attend the weekly staff meeting at CGLA's office to present the potential client's information to staff, volunteers, and interns. At the intake meeting, all staff and volunteers vote on which cases to accept, refer to other sources, or provide advice.

Practice areas: Family Law, Housing

Opportunity type: Client Intake/Interviewing

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney, Law Student

Volunteer availability: Business hours, short time periods (4 hours or less)

Skills acquired: Client/Witness Interviewing

Skills required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: Orientations are held at CGLA's office for all volunteer opportunities. Volunteers attend two intake training orientations and observe three intake sessions before conducting intakes alone.

Time Commitment: After completing the training, intake volunteers must commit to completing a minimum of three intake interview sessions and the corresponding intake meeting, which can be scheduled at the volunteer's convenience.

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 312-738-2452

Representation in Legal Proceedings

Volunteer attorneys can assist with and handle cases in the areas of family law (i.e., contested and uncontested cases involving guardianship, custody, child support, divorce, paternity, visitation, abuse and neglect, orders of protection, and adoption) and housing law (i.e., eviction, back rent disputes). Volunteer attorneys who agree to handle a case are expected to follow through with the matter until the case is closed. Attorneys who assist with cases must be licensed in the state of Illinois and have experience with CGLA's intake process.

Practice areas: Family Law, Housing

Opportunity type: Litigation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer Availability: Business hours

Skills Acquired: Case Management, Client Counseling, Client/Witness Interviewing, Trial Skills

Skills Required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: Volunteers are asked to become involved with CGLA's intake process before assisting with cases. Trainings are held for new intake volunteers every two months.

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 312-738-2452

CARPLS (Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services)

17 N. State Street

Suite 1850

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-421-4011

Website: www.carpls.org

CARPLS is a legal aid hotline that provides advice, information and referral services over the telephone to low-income residents of Cook County. Staff and volunteer attorneys provide legal assistance on civil law matters such as consumer fraud, family law, landlord/tenant, and employment law to thousands of callers. Volunteer attorneys use a special database designed to guide the volunteer through the legal issues facing the caller and to develop the appropriate advice. Volunteers receive training in the substantive areas of law and in the use of the database.

General Time Commitment: Volunteers are asked to commit a total of 36 hours over a 12 month period. The total commitment includes 6 hours of training and 30 hours of client service. On average, volunteers should be prepared to staff at least one 2-hour volunteer shift each month.

Process for becoming a volunteer: Volunteers are trained in one or more areas of law which will not pose a conflict for them as federal attorneys. They then receive training on the database. Following these trainings, volunteers shadow an experienced volunteer or staff attorney as they take calls. Trainings are held five (5) times per year.

Does the organization provide malpractice insurance to volunteers? Yes.

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment, and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: N/A

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: Yes.

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: Yes.

Sample Opportunity:

Hotline

Volunteer attorneys staff the hotline and receive calls in particular areas of law for which they have been trained and which pose minimal conflicts of interest for them. If a federal attorney receives a call which he or she determines will pose a conflict, the call can be redirected to a CARPLS staff attorney. When handling a call, the volunteer attorney uses a specialized database to research a caller's question and provide targeted advice on the spot.

Practice areas: Family Law, Landlord-Tenant, Consumer, Employment

Opportunity type: Brief Advice

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer Availability: Evenings, Business hours, Short time periods (4 hours or less)

Skills Acquired: Client Interviewing

Skills Required: Basic Legal Knowledge

Training: All potential volunteers must attend the required training.

Contact: Leslie Wallin, Supervising Attorney for Volunteer Projects, 312-421-4427, lwallin@carpls.org

Center for Conflict Resolution

11 East Adams Street

Suite 500

Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: 312-922-6464

Fax: 312-922-6463

Website: www.ccrchicago.org

The Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) is a not-for-profit provider of pro bono mediation services and conflict management training. CCR's services are flexible and cost-effective, based on a track record of over 25,000 mediated cases and backed by the expertise of knowledgeable, dedicated volunteers and employees. Every year CCR provides free mediation services in over 2,000 cases, trains hundreds of new mediators, facilitates meetings and works with dozens of businesses, government agencies and organizations to create custom-designed dispute resolution systems and training programs. The Center for Conflict Resolution's mission is to work with individuals, communities, courts and other institutions to manage and resolve conflict. CCR offers pro bono mediation services through programs developed in the Circuit Court of Cook County including the Daley Center, Maywood, Markham, Bridgeview and Rolling Meadows courthouses, misdemeanor branch courts and Juvenile Court.

General Time Commitment: Volunteers must commit to mediating twice a month.

Process for becoming a volunteer: The Center seeks volunteers with the following qualities:

- the ability to suspend judgment
- unflappability
- flexibility

- empathy
- excellent communication skills
- adherence to CCR's process
- ability to handle parties with strong emotions

In order to be approved as a volunteer mediator, an individual must participate in the Mediation Mentorship Program (MMP). The MMP has three main components:

- 40 hour Skills Training
- Three-month Mentorship: Students meet with an experienced mediator over 10 sessions to develop their skills using exercises, role plays, media, etc.
- Certification Simulation: In order to become a certified mediator, students must participate in a skills evaluation, conducted through a simulated mediation

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance coverage to volunteers: Yes

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment, and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: Yes

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: No

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: No

Sample Opportunity:

Mediator

The Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) offers the unique opportunity to gain diverse experience in the mediation field, a field in which novice and professional mediators alike often have difficulty gaining experience. Because of volunteer mediators, CCR is able to offer free mediation services to people who would otherwise not be able to afford them. Once trained and approved as a volunteer, CCR mediators can mediate a wide array of matters, including: criminal misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency, landlord/tenant disputes, neighbor disputes, small claims, Chancery cases, sexual harassment claims, employment discrimination claims, and matrimonial-fee disputes.

Practice areas: Child Law, Discrimination, Employment, Family Law, Housing

Opportunity type: Mediation/Arbitration

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Government Attorney, Law Student, Non-Lawyer Volunteer, Paralegal, Retired Attorney

Volunteer Availability: Evenings, Business hours, Short time periods (4 hours or less)

Skills Acquired: Mediation/Arbitration

Skills Required: CCR Mediation Training

Training: All potential CCR Volunteer Mediators must participate in the Mediation Mentorship Program. More details can be found at www.ccrchicago.org. Click on "Volunteer Opportunities."

Contact: Mac Steele, 312-922-6464 ext. 21, msteele@ccrchicago.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation (CVLS)

100 North LaSalle Street

Suite 900

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-332-1624

Fax: 312-332-1460

Website: www.cvls.org

CVLS volunteers and staff attorneys represent low-income Chicagoans (the working poor) in a wide variety of civil matters. While much of their work involves litigation, they also handle administrative and non-litigation matters. They handle cases involving divorce, custody, adult and minor guardianships, adoption, mortgage foreclosure, defenses including cases involving fraud and predatory lending, tort defense, taxation, consumer contract issues, collection defense, bankruptcy, and landlord-tenant matters (including evictions, representing either landlords or tenants). They draft powers of attorney and living/testamentary wills. CVLS' caseload is heavily weighted to family law, real estate and consumer issues. Supporting volunteers is a priority for CVLS staff.

General Time Commitment: Volunteers may handle one case at a time. The length of a matter depends on the case type and complexity. Most cases would likely require a minimum of 10 hours.

Process for becoming a volunteer: Prospective volunteers can attend an orientation and informational program, held monthly during the lunch hour at CVLS' Administrative Office in the Loop. The schedule is posted on the agency's website.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance coverage to volunteers: Yes

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment, and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: Yes

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: Yes

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: Yes. CVLS has experienced staff attorneys available to provide support to volunteers. Volunteer support is CVLS' priority.

Sample Opportunities:

CVLS Neighborhood Legal Clinics

CVLS runs approximately 20 neighborhood legal clinic at various times and locations throughout Chicago. Intake interviews and advice and referrals are handled at these clinics. When appropriate, volunteers may also choose to represent a client who has visited the clinic in their legal matter. Individuals or groups of volunteer attorneys and paralegals are welcome to volunteer at a clinic. All CVLS clinics meet weekday evenings or Saturday or Sunday mornings. Paralegals are welcome to handle clinic intake and paperwork.

Practice areas: Consumer Law, Elder Law, Family Law, Guardianship & Estates, Housing, Immigration, Public Benefits, Torts & Insurance

Opportunity type: Legal Clinic, Client Intake/Interviewing/Advice

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Paralegal, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer Availability: Evenings, Weekends, Short-time periods (4 hours or less), In a Group

Skills Acquired: Client Intake/Interviewing/Advice, Client Counseling

Skills Required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: CVLS conducts monthly seminars on a variety of legal topics for its volunteers and has training manuals covering a wide range of substantive areas of practice. CVLS' staff attorneys are also available to provide guidance and support.

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 312-332-1649, volunteer@cvls.org

Representation in Chancery Court Access to Justice Program

Chancery Court judges appoint CVLS to represent low-income individuals with meritorious claims or defenses. Volunteers represent low-income individuals who find themselves on the verge of losing their homes in Cook County's Chancery courts. Pro Bono Attorneys also represent clients who are challenging subsidized housing evictions and other governmental administrative appeals.

Practice areas: Housing Law, Homeownership, Mortgage Foreclosure

Opportunity type: Litigation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer availability: Business hours

Skills acquired: Case Management, Client/ Witness Interviewing, Motion Practice, Trial Skills, Writing/Drafting

Skills required: Experience in Subject Matter and/or Litigation

Training: The agency provides a written training manual, sample pleadings and briefs, and support and guidance from a staff attorney.

Time Commitment: Varies depending on the matter, but 20–100 hours.

Contact: Patricia Nelson, 312-332-5539, pnelson@cvls.org

Guardian ad litem for Disabled Adults

The Probate Court appoints CVLS to serve as Guardians ad litem (GALs) for alleged disabled adults. A volunteer attorney acting as a GAL visits with the allegedly disabled adult at his or her residence, reviews medical and other records and writes a report for the court detailing the investigation. There is usually only one court appearance. In very limited cases, a GAL may represent the allegedly disabled adult at a trial.

Practice areas: Guardianship & Estates

Opportunity type: Litigation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorneys

Volunteer availability: Business hours

Skills acquired: Client/Witness Interviewing, Motion Practice, Trial Skills, Writing/Drafting

Skills required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: CVLS provides written training materials supplemented by one-to-one work with an experienced staff attorney.

Contact: Peter Ashmore, 312-332-1688, pashmore@cvls.org

Guardian ad litem for Minors

Volunteer attorneys participating in the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program are appointed by the Probate Court to represent children in contested or problematic minor guardianship cases. Volunteer GALs investigate the parties, prepare a written report for the court, and act as a child's attorney in court proceedings.

Practice areas: Guardianship & Estates

Opportunity type: Litigation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorneys

Volunteer Availability: Business hours

Skills Acquired: Case Management, Client/Witness Interviewing, Motion Practice, Trial Skills, Writing/Drafting

Skills Required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: CVLS provides a detailed, written training manual supplemented by one-to-one assistance from an experienced staff attorney.

Contact: Alecia Wartowski, 312-332-1916, awartowski@cvls.org

Representing Individuals in Various Legal Proceedings

Volunteer attorneys handle pro bono civil cases in many areas of law. A CVLS staff person will call an interested volunteer and describe a specific case. The volunteer can accept or decline it. CVLS staff makes every attempt to match a proposed pro bono case with the volunteer's interests, abilities and available time. CVLS provides extensive support throughout the case.

Practice areas: Consumer Law, Disability, Elder Law, Family Law, Guardianship & Estates, Housing, Immigration, Real Estate, Torts & Insurance

Opportunity type: Litigation, Transactional Matters

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorneys

Volunteer Availability: Business hours

Skills Acquired: Case Management, Client Counseling, Client/Witness Interviewing, Motion Practice, Trial Skills, Writing/Drafting

Skills Required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: CVLS conducts monthly seminars on a variety of legal topics for its volunteers and has training manuals covering a wide range of substantive areas of practice. CVLS' staff attorneys are also available to provide guidance and support.

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 312-332-6436, volunteer@cvls.org

Representation in Circuit Court of Cook County Foreclosure Mediation Project

CVLS provides pro bono representation to borrowers in foreclosure mediation sessions. Legal representation for the borrowers in mediation is critical as it involves complex financial and legal issues with lenders represented by counsel. Having representation in the mediation sessions levels the playing field for the borrowers, helps borrowers obtain and submit all documents and related evidence necessary to reach settlements, and helps ensure accountability for lenders in these proceedings.

Practice areas: Housing Law, Homeownership, Mortgage Foreclosure

Opportunity type: Representation at mediation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer availability: Business hours

Skills acquired: Negotiation, Case Management

Skills required: Negotiation and financial literacy helpful

Training: Mandatory 3-hour CLE approved training, offered monthly at CVLS. Close support and guidance from a staff attorney.

Time Commitment: Approximately 10 – 15 hours.

Contact: Dan Santrella, 312-332-7521, dsantrella@cvls.org

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

407 South Dearborn Street

Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60605

Phone: 312-663-9057

Fax: 312-663-4321

Website: www.crfc.org

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) helps schools foster critical thinking skills and responsible civic action in students. This nonprofit and nonpartisan organization has worked at the national level in the design and implementation of quality law-related education (LRE) programs for elementary and secondary school students and their teachers.

General Time Commitment: CRFC asks attorney volunteers to make three visits to the classroom over the course of a school year. Each visit takes 2–3 hours.

Process for becoming a volunteer: Attorneys interested in participating in the Lawyers in the Classroom program attend a 1-1/2 hour training that introduces teaching materials and strategies. CRFC then matches attorneys with Chicago-area elementary and middle school classrooms.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance coverage to volunteers: N/A

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: N/A

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: N/A

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: N/A

Sample Opportunity:

Lawyers in the Classroom

Chicago Lawyers in the Classroom program partners attorneys with elementary and middle school classes to help students understand the U.S. Constitution and our legal system. CRFC trains attorneys to lead interactive lessons, provides teaching materials, and matches them with schools. Teams of attorneys from the Chicago area are partnered with Chicago-area teachers and their students in 2nd–8th grade social studies classes. Currently, over 650 attorneys are working with 98 Chicago-area schools through this program. Attorney teams are asked to visit their partner school a minimum of three times throughout the school year.

Practice areas: N/A

Opportunity type: Educating the Public about the Law

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer availability: Business hours

Skills acquired: Public Speaking

Skills required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: Attorneys attend a 1-1/2 hour training where they receive materials and strategies for teaching in elementary classrooms.

Contact: Jessica Chethik, 312-663-9057 ext. 218, chethik@crfc.org

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH)

100 West Monroe Street

Suite 1800

Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: 312-347-7600

Fax: 312-347-7604

Website: www.lcbh.org

TTY: 312-347-7603

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH) seeks to increase the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for people of low and moderate income in Chicago through legal and public advocacy and tenant education. LCBH's Attorney of the Day pro bono program enables volunteer attorneys to represent low-income tenants facing wrongful evictions.

General Time Commitment: Volunteers are expected to make a minimum three-hour commitment one morning per month. Volunteers may also elect to take a case from start to finish, which generally requires about 15–20 hours per case. Non-litigation opportunities are also available with time commitments starting at about 3-5 hours.

Process for becoming a volunteer: Volunteer attorneys receive a three-hour training on landlord/tenant law and eviction court procedures. They also receive an extensive training manual that details tenant

defenses. Volunteers may schedule a day to shadow the daily eviction court attorney. Ultimately, volunteers may schedule a day to volunteer for the Attorney of the Day program or elect to take a case from start to finish.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance coverage to volunteers: Yes

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment, and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: If resources allow.

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: These services are available if resources allow.

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: Yes. The eviction court staff attorney and the Pro Bono Coordinator provide support to all volunteers.

Sample Opportunity:

Attorney of the Day Eviction Defense Project

There are approximately 40,000 eviction cases filed every year in Cook County and 95% of pro se defendants are evicted after only a three minute hearing. This program allows attorneys to volunteer one morning a month in eviction court covering a hearing date on an ongoing LCBH case. LCBH remains the attorney of record and prepares all of the pleadings while the volunteer attorney covers the court call. The program also allows attorneys to take on an entire eviction case, if they prefer. LCBH provides legal support both inside and outside of the courtroom.

Practice areas: Housing, Landlord/Tenant

Opportunity type: Litigation; Non-litigation also available

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Government Attorney, Retired Attorney

Volunteer availability: Business hours

Skills acquired: Trial Skills

Skills required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: LCBH provides a three-hour training on landlord/tenant law and eviction court procedures.

Contact: Keri Lindsay Dickinson, 312-784-3523, klindsay@lcbh.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF)

111 West Jackson Boulevard

Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-341-1070

Fax: 312-341-1041

Website: www.lafchicago.org

TTY: 312-431-1206

Toll Free: 800-824-4050

For over 30 years, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF) has represented hundreds of thousands of Chicago's poorest and most vulnerable men, women and children. LAF has a long history of working with the private bar to help meet the need for civil legal services to Chicago's poor. Attorneys who volunteer for LAF receive the training and support necessary to provide high quality representation and are covered by LAF's malpractice insurance. To meet the many diverse needs of our clients, and to take advantage of the experience and interest in the private bar, LAF currently supports a variety of pro bono projects.

General Time Commitment: LAF has a range of volunteer opportunities requiring as little as a few hours to complex litigation requiring substantial time commitments over a period of months. A host of opportunities requiring time commitments between these two extremes are available.

Process for becoming a volunteer: Prospective volunteers should contact Dick Hess, LAF's Volunteer Coordinator, at dhess@lafchicago.org or (312) 347-8342. All volunteers are provided training and support in the project they choose.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance coverage to volunteers: Yes

Are volunteers able to use offices, office equipment, and supplies when handling a pro bono case through this organization: Yes

Does the organization provide volunteers with research or clerking services: Yes

Does the organization provide a licensed attorney to support volunteers: Yes, all volunteers work with an experienced LAF attorney who is available to provide support throughout the case or project.

Sample Opportunities:

Evening Intake Assistance Project

Volunteers, with LAF attorneys providing backup and support, interview scheduled clients on selected evenings from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at LAF's Loop office. Volunteer attorneys need only commit to the two and a half hours of interviewing, giving advice and brief service to clients when appropriate. However, if they interview a client with a case that interests them, volunteers can choose to either take the case with LAF backup and support or co-counsel the case with an LAF attorney.

Practice areas: Bankruptcy, Civil Rights, Consumer Law, Disability, Employment Law, Family Law, Guardianship & Estates, Health Law, Housing Law, Public Utilities

Opportunity type: Client Interviewing/Intake/Advice, Litigation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Government Attorney, Retired Attorneys

Volunteer availability: Evenings, short time periods (4 hours or less), In a Group

Skills acquired: Client Interviewing

Skills required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: LAF provides a 1-2 hour training session and staff attorneys are present during the shift.

Time Commitment: 3-5 hours

Contact: Dick Hess, dhess@lafchicago.org, 312-347-8342

Foreclosure Defense Project

This project is designed to assist homeowners who face the possible loss of their home. Volunteer lawyers help clients explore options and obtain resources that can help them stay in their homes. The project also focuses on litigation on behalf of homeowners who have been victimized by predatory practices of home improvement contractors, mortgage brokers and lenders.

Practice areas: Housing

Opportunity type: Litigation

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer availability: Business Hours

Skills acquired: Client Counseling, Client/Witness Interviewing, Negotiation, Trial Skills

Skills required: Significant Experience in Subject Matter or Litigation

Time Commitment: Varies depending on the matter.

Contact: Dick Hess, dhess@lafchicago.org, 312-347-8342

Pro Se Divorce Clinic

LAF has designed a clinic to assist pro se litigants prepare for court in uncontested dissolution cases. The mission of the clinic is to prepare and organize pro se litigants for court, and to relieve court personnel of some of the burdens felt when working with pro se litigants. Separate clinics are conducted for Spanish speaking clients.

Practice areas: Family Law

Opportunity type: Client Advice

Volunteer types accepted: Attorney, Retired Attorney, Government Attorney

Volunteer availability: Evenings, short time periods (4 hours or less)

Skills acquired: Public Speaking

Skills required: Basic legal knowledge

Training: Taught in three sessions, the participants receive instruction in basic divorce terminology, assistance in the completion of court forms, and information about how to file for divorce. In the second and third sessions, the participants have the opportunity to meet with volunteer family law attorneys, to address individual concerns and to make sure paperwork is completed correctly.

Time Commitment: 3 Hours

Contact: Dick Hess, dhess@lafchicago.org, 312-347-8342