



Members of the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program work hard to close the gap between the indigent citizens of South Carolina and available legal services. Pro Bono volunteers give back to their community in so many different ways. In order for these Pro Bono programs to continue benefiting those who are in desperate need of this assistance, more volunteers are always needed. Below are some of the programs/projects (and a brief description) offered by the South Carolina Bar and the Pro Bono Program. By becoming a Pro Bono volunteer, you too can give back to your community.

I'm In!

Case Referral

Indigent citizens of South Carolina, who need an attorney and cannot afford an attorney, can call Legal Aid Telephone Intake Service (L.A.T.I.S.) to be screened. If they are deemed eligible, they would be referred to either South Carolina Legal Services or the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program. If they are referred to the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program, volunteer attorneys would be needed to speak with them and possibly represent them. Most cases are family law issues, bankruptcy (Ch.7), simple wills, Power of Attorney, etc. (See sign up sheet for type of cases) For more information on case referral, please contact Rose Dean at 1-877-797-2227 ext. 164 or at rose.dean@sbar.org

Lawyers may also take a pro bono case as a "direct intake". This client does not come through the program but seeks the assistance of the attorney and qualifies financially. A direct intake form, available on the Bar's website, should be completed and sent to the program when the attorney decides to take the case.



Ask-A-Lawyer

Ask-A-Lawyer is a Pro Bono project that is available one evening per month (January-May and August-November). On these scheduled days, Ask-A-Lawyer volunteers will participate in a television phone bank and web chat. Those volunteering for the TV-phone banks will go, at a scheduled time (normally 5:00pm.-7:30pm.), to the television station to participate. Volunteers participating in the web chat will simply, from the comfort of their office or home, log onto the Bar's website at their designated time. To assist in answering the public's questions, all volunteers will receive the Ask-A-Lawyer reference book, which contains excerpts on different areas of the law, and telephone numbers to state and private agencies to which they may refer the public. Ask-A-Lawyer is a program that will allow you to help many, with minimum effort or time involved. (See the sign up sheet) For more information on Ask-A-Lawyer, please contact Debbie Morris at 1-877-797-2227 ext. 158 or at debbie.morris@sbar.org

Legal Lessons: A Series for the Public

Legal Lessons: A Series for the Public is a seven-week course, provided to the public, on various legal topics. The cost to the public is \$45.00, which includes a textbook and all materials needed. The classes are held at technical colleges across South Carolina. Volunteers/attorneys are needed as instructors/speakers for these classes. Participation would be for one night for approximately one and one-half hours. Volunteers/instructors are given a copy of the textbook to use as an outline for their lecture. (See the sign up sheet for topics) For more information on Legal Lessons: A Series for the Public please contact Debbie Morris at 1-877-797-2227 ext. 158 or at debbie.morris@sbar.org

Legal Clinics/Seminars

The South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program sponsors free legal clinics/seminars in libraries, churches, senior centers and other locations. A clinic/seminar usually consists of a 30-45 minute lecture, followed by an open question and answer session. Our spring clinics run February-May and our fall clinics/seminars from September thru November. Speakers/attorneys are needed for various topics in all 46 counties. Participation is one evening for approximately one and one-half hours. (See the signup sheet for topics) For more information on Legal Clinics/Seminars, please contact Debbie Morris at 1-877-797-2227 ext. 158 or at debbie.morris@sbar.org

Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP)

Military service often affects a service member's ability to obtain legal counsel or representation for many legal issues. One of the biggest hindrances for these service members is the expense of private legal representation. After September 11, 2001, the ABA urged state bar organizations to take steps to provide reduced fee or free legal services to military personnel who were facing deployment/activation. The South Carolina Bar responded by creating Legal Assistance for Military Personnel Program (LAMP) in 2001 as an effort to meet this need by pairing qualifying military personnel with volunteer lawyers. The need for legal services in the military community remains high. The South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program is now reviving the program and recruiting a fresh force of volunteer attorneys.

The South Carolina Bar's program seeks to provide free or reduced fee legal services to active military personnel who are stationed in South Carolina or whose case is related to South Carolina in some way. Military service frequently places service members in unique and difficult legal situations. While active duty military personnel can obtain certain legal services free from military lawyers, due to the limited resources of these departments many legal needs of service members are unmet. For example: a service member may need help getting out of a residential lease when he is called up for active duty; a service member may need to be present at a court hearing but is instead across the country or in another part of the world; a service member could need information about how a civil or criminal judgment against him could affect his military service, etc.

LAMP seeks to recruit volunteer attorneys who practice in several different areas of law including: Wills/Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Landlord/Tenant, Family, Employment, Probate, Guardianship/Adoption, Military, and Consumer.. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Cindy Coker at 1-877-797-2227 Ext. 142 or ccoker@sbar.org.



S.C. LawAnswers.org

The newest option available to Bar members and the public, SCLawAnswers.org is a website that allows individuals who meet the qualifications to post questions and have them answered by a volunteer attorney. The attorney will know the name of the individual asking the question in order to check for conflicts, but the 'client' will not know the identity of the attorney. The site is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This allows both the attorney and the client to use the site at their convenience. Attorneys can choose the questions they wish to answer. Questions are sorted based on the topics, such as benefits, consumer, health care, family, work, and others. The client is fully informed that the lawyer is only answering the questions posted to the site and does not represent the client in any action. The site is designed only for civil questions; clients who have criminal questions are referred to their local Public Defender. For more information about this site or to volunteer, contact Cindy Coker at 1-877-797-2227 Ext. 142 or ccoker@sbar.org.

Pro Bono Digital Resource Center

Another new feature on the S.C. Bar website is a members only section to assist pro bono volunteers. By logging in to the Bar website, a pro bono volunteer may access information to assist them with their pro bono case. Currently, there are links to information on consumer issues, landlord tenant, foreclosure and bankruptcy. There is also a sample engagement letter to use with a pro bono client, a sample notice of limited appearance, links to case law for family law cases and the Ask-A-Lawyer handbook. In addition, pro bono volunteers are able to get the assistance of law clerks from the USC School of Law through the Law School Pro Bono Program's Carolina Clerks.

The Pro Bono Program can provide some limited assistance with paying filing fees and service of process fees. The Program also provides malpractice coverage for attorneys who participate in activities sponsored by the Program or take cases of qualifying clients as a direct intake. To view the Pro Bono Digital Resource Center, simply visit www.sbar.org/MemberResources/ProBonoProgram.aspx and login into the Bar's site to view all of the private resources.

SOUTH CAROLINA BAR PRO BONO SIGN-UP FORM

Name: _____ Bar: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____ email: _____

CLIENT REPRESENTATION (CASE REFERRAL):

I would like to help in the following areas:

<u>Pro Bono</u>	<u>LAMP</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Family
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare/Medicaid	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> Consumer	<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration
<input type="checkbox"/> Probate	<input type="checkbox"/> SSI
<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporation
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Wills/POA
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Landlord-Tenant
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

ASK-A-LAWYER:

I would like to help in the following areas:

Location \ cities \ or counties

TV-Phone banks: _____

Web chat: _____

SPEAKING AT CLINICS OR LEGAL LESSONS:

A Series for the Public—I would like to help in the following areas:

Speaking at CLINICS

Family Law Issues
 Health Care POA, Living Wills
 Wills, Estates & Probate
 Bankruptcy Law
 Consumer Law
 Employment Law Issues
 Landlord \ Tenant Issues
 Real Estate Issues
 Magistrate Court
 Elder Law Issues
 Criminal Law
 Torts

Teaching \ Lecturing "Legal Lessons: A Series for the Public"

Overview Of State Courts
 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
 Juvenile Justice
 Overview of Child Protection Hearings
 Family Law Issues
 Wills, Estates & Probate
 Health Care & Elder Law
 Bankruptcy Law
 Consumer Law & Debt Collection
 Real Estate & Landlord \ Tenant Law
 Employment Law
 S. C. Workers' Compensation
 Criminal Law
 Torts

I would like to help with the following:

Mediation \ Arbitration (Board Certified) Mentoring Co-counseling

