

Legal Pro Bono Guidebook for Florida Attorneys and Law Students



**CREATED IN 2022 BY THE FLORIDA BAR
WM. REECE SMITH, JR.
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - CLASS IX
MAINTAINED BY THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**



Legal Pro Bono Guidebook

This Guidebook serves as a resource to Florida attorneys and law students. The opportunities enclosed are merely suggestions compiled by the fellows and not an exhaustive list for all circuits. Attorneys and students are encouraged to look for other opportunities to serve.



What's Included?

Pro Bono Opportunities for each Judicial Circuit

Testimonies of Exceptional Pro Bono Attorneys

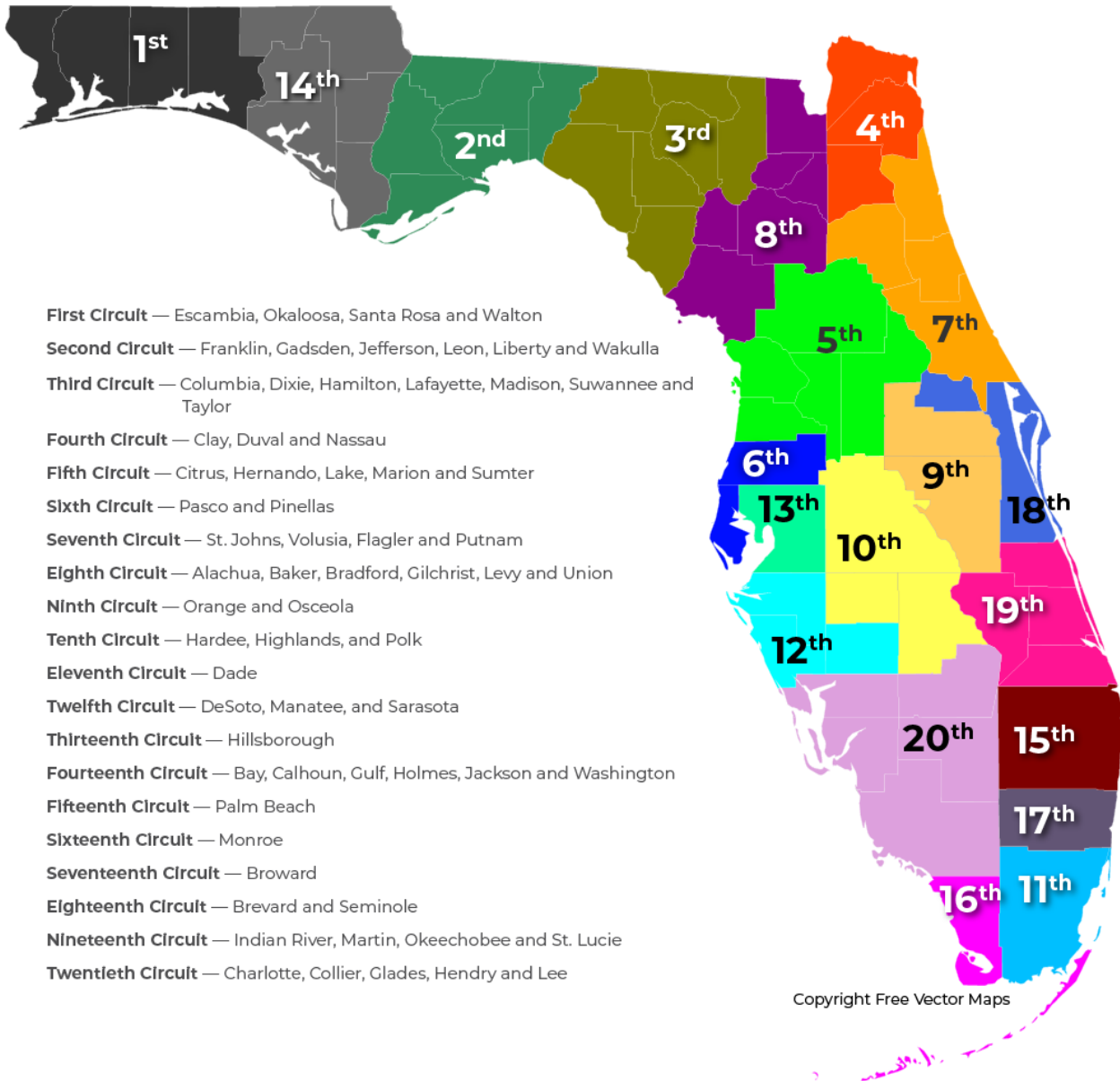
Tips on Managing Pro-Bono Work

Pro Bono Award Recipients

General Resources and Webinars

The Great State

Florida Judicial Circuits





Pro Bono

Pro bono literally means “for the public good.” The idea of pro bono services is to provide all people legal assistance, despite their financial situations. For attorneys, it provides a way for them to use their professional talents in a way that helps under-served populations in their community and narrows the access to justice gap.

Pro bono work can be incredibly rewarding, but it’s not typically financially profitable. Not every attorney can afford to donate the time and resources necessary to fulfill pro bono obligations. However, there is a way to take pro bono cases without losing money.

“Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.”

- Shirley Chisholm

2023 Recipient of the Tobias Smith Pro Bono Award



Timothy Allen Moran

Law School Attended: University of Florida

Years of Practice:16

Current Firm:Law Office of Timothy A. Moran

A volunteer with Community Legal Services for more than a decade. Since May 2009, Moran has dedicated more than 1,500 hours to more than 500 low-income cases.

Moran's extraordinary dedication and eagerness to give back has also earned him the 2022 Arthur von Briesen Award, the highest honor presented by the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association. That was preceded by The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Pro Bono Service Award, the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the 18th Circuit, and a recognition in 2017 by the Ninth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee for his pro bono contributions.

After Moran won every pro bono award Community Legal Services offers, including its Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, all that was left to do was create a new one – the Timothy A. Moran Champion of Justice Award. The award recognizes young attorneys who follow in Moran's example.

A 2004 University of Florida College of Law graduate, Moran is a member of the Elder Law, Real Property, Probate & Trust Law, and Solo & Small Firm Law sections.

Eager to leverage limited legal resources, Moran is currently working with the Community Legal Services team to develop and launch a first of its kind "Peer Academy" to provide training to lawyers in areas of emerging need. The program coordinates mentors, expert case support, sample pleadings and documents, subject matter-specific software and resources, CLE credit, and access to stakeholders and other professionals in the field.

Moran has personally mentored more than 50 law students and new attorneys and worked with Community Legal Services to establish a bankruptcy clinic at Florida A&M College of Law. There he learned first-hand the benefits of mentoring.

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Pro Bono Service Award



Tremaine L. Hemans

Law School Attended: Florida International University

Years of Practice: 2.5

Current Firm: The Hemans Law Group

When Tremaine L. Hemans walked into her first class at Florida International College of Law, she was one of only three Black students in her section of more than 70 students and initially “wrongly decided” she did not belong there.

Not wanting anyone else to ever feel like she did that day, the experience launched Hemans’ journey into pro bono work, mentorship, and immigration law.

Now just three years into her legal career, Hemans is the recipient of the 2022 Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Pro Bono Service Award.

Hemans, managing attorney and CEO of the Hemans Law Group, P.A., based in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, has provided pro bono work on Violence Against Women Act cases, helping victims of domestic violence obtain permanent residency without their abusive spouse or parent. Hemans is currently working on a pro bono political asylum case in immigration court.

Hemans said LegalTrem is the most important thing that she has done in her short legal career and hopes that it inspires others “to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given and to reach back to others and treat the mentorship of young lawyers and pro bono services as an act of service that we owe to the public and the field itself.”

Excerpt of article from Florida Bar News January 25, 2022 by Mark D. Killian Retrieved from <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-news/hemans-receives-the-florida-bar-young-lawyers-division-pro-bono-service-award/>

2023 President's Pro Bono Award Recipients

- **Jennifer Gutai Comella**- 1st Judicial Circuit (Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties)
- **Kevin A. Forsthoefel**- 2nd Judicial Circuit (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla counties)
- **Guy W. Norris**- 3rd Judicial Circuit (Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor counties)
- **Melina Buncome**- 4th Judicial Circuit (Clay, Duval and Nassau counties)
- **Melissa K. Hancock**- 5th Judicial Circuit (Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties)
- **Charis A. Campbell**- 6th Judicial Circuit (Pasco and Pinellas counties)
- **Paul A. Martin**- 7th Judicial Circuit (St. Johns, Volusia, Flagler and Putnam counties)
- **Jan Bendik** - 8th Judicial Circuit (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Union counties)
- **Paul T. Zeniewicz** - 9th Judicial Circuit (Orange and Osceola counties)
- **Kristie Hatcher-Bolin**- 10th Judicial Circuit (Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties)
- **Ronald L. Book**- 11th Judicial Circuit (Dade County)
- **Susan A. Byron**- 12th Judicial Circuit (DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties)
- **Harley Herman**- 13th Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County)
- **Clark T. Rodgers, Jr.** - 14th Judicial Circuit (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties)
- **Steven D. Rubin**- 15th Judicial Circuit (Palm Beach County)
- **David L. Manz**- 16th Judicial Circuit (Monroe County)
- **Douglas J. Glaid** - 17th Judicial Circuit (Broward County)
- **J. Randall Moore**- 18th Judicial Circuit (Brevard and Seminole counties)
- **Lisa M. Kahle**- 19th Judicial Circuit (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties)
- **Melissa Grege Schiffman** - 20th Judicial Circuit (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties)

2023 Florida Pro Bono Law School Challenge Winners

Since 2019, Florida's law schools have competed each spring semester to see which can take the most pro bono cases.

A core part of the Foundation's mission is to promote public service among lawyers by making it an integral part of the law school experience.

By connecting students with lawyers to partner on pro bono cases from legal aid organizations, the Foundation increases access to justice and promotes pro bono work.



MVP Pro Bono Champion Award:
University of Florida Levin College of Law

Alumni Engagement Award:
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law

Student Engagement Award:
St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law

Pro Bono Tips To Work Efficiently

- Pick a cause, organization or project that you feel passionate about. This can make pro bono work more enjoyable – and more rewarding.
- Use pro bono work as an opportunity to learn a new practice area. Find a field of law that is new and exciting so that you are learning new skills and challenging yourself in novel ways. There are plenty of resources and legal aid providers who can provide advice and support in this regard.
- Carefully evaluate the resources you can allocate to your pro bono case. Do not overwhelm yourself by taking on a client with a legal issue that takes more time and resources than you can give. This is especially true for smaller firms with fewer attorneys and limited budgets.
- Be clear about the expectations and scope of work. Make sure to outline your availability and scope of expertise with your client upfront. Have this conversation early so that everyone is on the same page as to where the client-attorney relationship lines are drawn.

Additional Resources

1

American Bar Association (ABA) **Model Rule 6.1** establishes the professional responsibility standards for attorneys with respect to pro bono service.

2

The ABA maintains a Pro Bono Resource Directory, which helps connect attorneys with pro bono organizations near them, and Probono.net is a resource that connects lawyers and clients together.

3

The Legal Services Corporation also provides financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans.

SOURCE:

LEXISNEXIS [HTTPS://WWW.LEXISNEXIS.COM/COMMUNITY/INSIGHTS/LEGAL/B/THOUGHT-LEADERSHIP/POSTS/HOW-TO-TAKE-PRO-BONO-CASES-WITHOUT-LOSING-MONEY](https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/insights/legal/b/thought-leadership/posts/how-to-take-pro-bono-cases-without-losing-money)

Pro Bono Tips for Young Lawyers

- Pick a cause, organization, or work that you feel passionately about or at least have some affinity towards. Everyone is busy, and it can be difficult to make time for pro bono work. Caring strongly about what you're doing will help on those days when you need to stay late to handle your billable and pro bono work competently.
- Don't be scared to try something different. It may be difficult to find pro bono work in your particular practice area; this shouldn't prevent you from taking on a pro bono matter. There are resources out there that can help. Non-profit legal aid services often put on clinics teaching how to handle common legal issues that lower income people face. Similarly, staff attorneys at legal aid providers can be extremely helpful. I have reached out on multiple occasions to such attorneys, and they have always been willing to lend me their ear and point me in the right direction.
- Make sure you have the appropriate time and resources available to you prior to taking on a pro bono matter. You owe the same ethical obligations to a pro bono client as you owe a large institutional client. In my experience, the best time to take on a pro bono matter is right after settling a big case when there is a lull in my hours.
- Set your client's expectations and scope of work clearly, early on, and in writing. I once made the mistake of taking a non-emergency, late phone call from a pro bono client. From that day on, the client continued to call me at all hours of the day (and night).
- Ask your colleagues for help. If you work at a firm like mine, your colleagues will have the same pro bono requirements. Pro bono work is a good opportunity to split work with colleagues so nobody is overwhelmed.

Source: Pro Bono Tips for Young Lawyers (americanbar.org)

<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/mass-torts/practice/2018/pro-bono-tips-for-young-lawyers/>

Florida Pro Bono Matters



In partnership with YOUR local civil legal aid providers, Florida Pro Bono Matters displays pro bono opportunities statewide on one easy-to-use website. Funded by The Florida Bar Foundation, Florida Pro Bono Matters allows lawyers to search and share available pro bono cases with just a few clicks. Click 'Interested' on any case to submit an interest form today. There has never been a better **#TimetoTakeaCase!**

Florida Pro Bono Matters | The Florida Bar Foundation

<https://thefloridabarfoundation.org/florida-pro-bono-matters/>

Pro Bono Opportunities

1st Judicial Circuits



Agency Organization: Legal Services of North Florida

Contact Person: Colleen Mullen

Contact Number: 850.385.9007

Website: www.lsnf.org

Pro Bono Needs: Service in the area of family law, housing, public benefits, consumer debt and contracts, employment, education, and health care issues.

Agency Organization: Emerald Coast Legal Aid (Northwest Florida Legal Aid)

Contact Person: intake@nwfls.org

Contact Number: 850.432.2336

Website: www.nwfls.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of family law, domestic violence, elder law, and foreclosure

Pro Bono Opportunities

2nd Judicial Circuits



Agency Organization: Legal Services of North Florida

Contact Person: Colleen Mullen

Contact Number: 850.385.9007

Website: www.lsnf.org

Pro Bono Needs: Service in the area of family law, housing, public benefits, consumer deb and contracts, employment, education, and health care issues.

Agency Organization: Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee

Contact Person: intake-referral@legalaidtallahassee.org

Contact Number: 850.222.3292

Website: www.legalaidtallahassee.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of bankruptcy, employment issues, will, property disputes, landlord/tenant issues, and family law issues

Pro Bono Opportunities

3rd and 4th Judicial Circuits



Agency Organization: Three Rivers Legal Services
Contact Person: Donna MacRae donna.macrae@trls.org
Contact Number: 866.256.8091
Website: <https://www.trls.org/>
Pro Bono Needs: Housing law clinics and community legal education

Agency Organization: Guardian ad Litem
Contact Person: Sara Goldfarb Sara.goldfarb@gal.fl.gov
Contact Number: 850.922.7213
Website: <https://guardianadlitem.org/>
Pro Bono Needs: Guardian ad Litem to serve children

Agency Organization: Jacksonville Legal Aide
Contact Person: Missy Davenport
Contact Number: 904.356.8371 ext 363 missydavenport@jaxlegalaid.org
Website: jaxlegalaid.org/pro-bono/
Pro Bono Needs: Assist clients with wide variety of areas including: bankruptcy, guardianship advocacy, eviction defense,

Pro Bono Opportunities

5th and 6th Judicial Circuits



Agency Organization:Community Law Program

Contact Person:Kimberly Rodgers, Esq.

Contact Number: 727.582.7480

Website: lawprogram.org/attorneys

Pro Bono Needs: Spend a couple hours per week providing legal advice remotely via phone or video conference. Help a senior with advance directives, pro se litigants with family law forms, non-profits in the area of civil law, and more.

Agency Organization:Gulf Coast Legal Services

Contact Person: Mishell Brown ~ mishelb@gulfcoastlegal.org

Contact Number: 727.821.0726 ext 232

Website: gulfcoastlegal.org/volunteer

Pro Bono Needs:Those that practice in the area of housing, immigration, family law, senior service, and human trafficking.

Pro Bono Opportunities

7th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: 7th Circuit Guardian Ad Litem

Contact Person: Shirley Holland

Contact Number: 386.453.1362

Website: www.gal7foundation.net

Pro Bono Needs: Those that practice Education, Family, and Juvenile Law

Agency Organization: Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

Contact Person: Claude Nelson

Contact Number: 386.326.8361 (Palatka) 386.255.6573 (Daytona Beach)

Website: www.clsmf.org/volunteering-opportunities

Pro Bono Needs: Those that practice Consumer, Family, Divorce, Domestic Violence, Education, and Estate Planning

Agency Organization: Volusia Teen Court

Contact Person: Liz Falero - lfalero@circuit7.org

Contact Number: 386.822.5703 ext 1

Website: circuit7.org/program%20and%20Services/teencourt.html

Pro Bono Needs: Those that practice Juvenile Law

Pro Bono Opportunities

8th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization:
Self Help Center, Alachua Family and
Civil Justice Center

Contact Person:
Bridget Baker BakerB@circuit8.org

Pro Bono Needs:
Assisting pro se litigants in setting
hearings, understanding procedures
and court requirements, and
ensuring the correct forms have been
filed with the court.

Agency Organization: Three Rivers Legal Services
Contact Person: Marcia Green ~ Marcia.green@trls.org
Contact Number: 352.415.2327
Website: www.trls.org

Pro Bono Needs: Domestic violence prevention - assist DV survivors through family law, protective order, and immigration assistance. Housing preservation - assist clients with evictions, foreclosures, and other landlord/tenant issues. Public benefits - assist clients with securing public benefits.

Agency Organization: Ask-A-Lawyer
Contact Person: Ray Brady ~ rbrady1959@gmail.com
Pro Bono Needs: The Ask-A-Lawyer program offers pro bono assistance on a variety of issues for those facing homelessness within the Circuit

Agency Organization: Southern Legal Counsel
Contact Person: Kimber Tough ~kimber.tough@southernlegal.org
Website: www.southernlegal.org
Contact Number: 352.271.8890

Pro Bono Needs: Assists individuals and groups with public interest issues who otherwise would not have access to the justice system and whose cases may bring about systemic reform.

Pro Bono Opportunities

9th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
Contact Person: Lena Smith ~ lenas@clsmf.org
Contact Number: 407.841.7777 Orlando or 407.847.4866 Kissimmee
Website: www.clsmf.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in area of consumer law, divorce, domestic violence, estate planning, and education

Agency Organization: Florida Legal Services
Contact Number: 407.801.4350
Website: www.floridalegal.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of domestic violence, immigration, housing, healthcare, discrimination, and employment

Agency Organization: Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association

Contact Person: Larri Thatcher ~ lthatcher@legalaidocba.org
Contact Number: 407.841.8310

Website: www.legalaidocba.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of consumer law, family law, housing, immigration, unemployment compensations, non-profit incorporation, health, and social security

Pro Bono Opportunities

10th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Florida Rural Legal Services

Contact Number: 888.582.3410

Website: www.frls.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in area of family law, housing law, public benefits, consumer law, elder law, and public benefits

Agency Organization: Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society

Contact Person: Joseph J. Brown ~ jbrown@hofla.org

Contact Number: 863.519.5663 (Polk and Hardee) 863.402.6983 (Highlands)

Website: www.hofla.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of family law, immigration, COVID-19 issues, housing, domestic violence, and consumer issues

Pro Bono Opportunities

11th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Legal Services of Greater Miami

Contact Person: Jayme Cassidy ~ jcassidy@legalservicesmiami.org

Contact Number: 305.576.0080

Website: www.legalservicesmiami.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of remote tenants' equity, transaction, and eviction defense

Agency Organization: Dade Legal Aid

Contact Person: Bruce Levine

Contact Number: 305.579.5733

Website: www.dadelegalaid.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of child advocacy, housing, probate, consumer finance, employment, COVID 19 issues

Agency Organization: Catholic Legal Services

Contact Person: Joseph Kano, Esq.

Contact Number: 305.373-1073

Website: www.cclsmiami.org

Pro Bono Needs: Service in the area of immigration - asylum application, removal defense, and DACA renewals

Pro Bono Opportunities

12th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Legal Aid of Manasota

Contact Person: Marilyn Goldfarb

Contact Number: 941.366.0038(Sarasota); 941.747.1628 (Bradenton); 941.492.4631 (Venice)

Website: www.legalaidofmanasota.org

Pro Bono Needs: Non-Profit free civil legal aid to residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. Consumer issues, divorce, domestic violence, family law, guardianship, housing, medical legal partnership, nonprofits assistance, wills and advance directives

Agency Organization: Gulf Coast Legal

Contact Person: Mishell Brown ~ mishellb@gulfcoastlegal.org

Contact Number: 727.821.0726 ext 232

Website:www.gulfcoastlegal.org

Pro Bono Needs: Civil legal aid to residents in financial stability, housing, family/domestic violence, and immigration advocacy. GLS places emphasis on helping vulnerable populations including seniors, family with school-age children, persons experiencing homelessness, ex-offenders re-entering society, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Agency Organization:Bay Area Legal Services

Contact Number: 816.226.8685

Website: www.bals.org

Pro Bono Needs: Housing, Family and Children, Abuse and Safety, Veterans, Debt and Taxes, and more

Pro Bono Opportunities

13th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Bay Area Legal Services
Contact Number: 800.625.2257
Florida Senior Hotline 60+: 888.895.7873
Website: www.bals.org
Pro Bono Needs: various

Agency Organization: St. Michael's Legal Center for Women and Children
Contact Person: smlcgroup@smlctampa.org
Contact Number: 813.289.5385
Website: www.stmichaelslegalcenter.com
Pro Bono Needs: Services in areas of mortgage foreclosure defense and bankruptcy

Pro Bono Opportunities

14th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Legal Services of North Florida

Contact Person: Colleen Mullen

Contact Number: 850.385.9007

Website: www.lsnf.org

Pro Bono Needs: Service in the area of family law, housing, public benefits, consumer debt and contracts, employment, education, and health care issues.

Agency Organization: Florida Children First

Contact Number: 954.796.0860

Website: www.floridachildrenfirst.org/volunteer

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of family law and advocates for children

Pro Bono Opportunities

15th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Legal Aid of Palm Beach County

Contact Person: Kimberly Rommel-Enright

Contact Number: 561.655.8944 ext 265

Website: www.legalaidpbc.org

Pro Bono Needs: Service to the community in the areas of elderly, health care law, and children's law and immigration

Agency Organization: Florida Rural Legal Services

Contact Number: 888.582.3410

Website: www.frls.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in area of family law, housing law, public benefits, consumer law, elder law, and public benefits

Agency Organization: Area Agency of Aging Palm Beach

Contact Number: 561.684.5885

Website: www.aaapbtc.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in area of elder law, healthcare law, and public benefits

Pro Bono Opportunities

16th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Legal Services of Greater Miami (Monroe)

Contact Number: 888.686.2760

Website: www.legalservicesmiami.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of divorce, private landlord tenant, small claims court, and probate cases.

Agency Organization: Legal Services of Greater Miami

Contact Person: Jayme Cassidy ~jcassidy@legalservicesmiami.org

Contact Number: 305.576.0080

Website: www.legalservicesmiami.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of remote tenants' equity, transaction, and eviction defense

Agency Organization: Cuban American Bar Association

Contact Person: probono@cabaprobono.com

Contact Number: 305.646.0046

Website: www.cabaprobono.com/pro-bono-volunteer/

Pro Bono Needs: Various

Pro Bono Opportunities

17th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Coast to Coast Legal Aid-South Florida

Contact Number: 954.736.2400

Website: www.coasttocoastlegalaid.org

Pro Bono Needs: various

Agency Organization: Legal Services of Greater Miami

Contact Person: Jayme Cassidy ~ jcassidy@legalservicesmiami.org

Contact Number: 305.576.0080

Website: www.legalservicesmiami.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of remote tenants' equity, transaction, and eviction defense

Agency Organization: Cuban American Bar Association

Contact Person: probono@cabaprobono.com

Contact Number: 305.646.0046

Website: www.cabaprobono.com/pro-bono-volunteer/

Pro Bono Needs: Various

Pro Bono Opportunities

18th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Brevard County Legal Aid

Contact Number: 321.631.2500

Website: www.brevardcountylegalaid.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of family law, domestic violence, guardianship, and bankruptcy

Agency Organization: IDignity

Contact Person: info@idignity.org

Contact Number: 407.792.1374

Website: www.idignity.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of immigration

Agency Organization: Community Legal Services of Mid Florida

Contact Person: probono@clsmf.org

Contact Number: 800.405.1417

Website: www.clsmf.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in the area of consumer, children and education, domestic violence, elder advocacy, family law, housing, and public benefits

Pro Bono Opportunities 19th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization: Florida Rural Legal Services

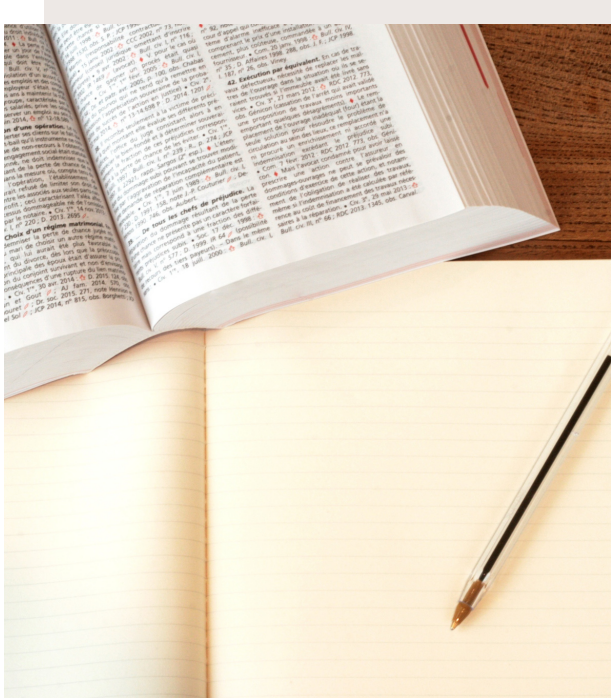
Contact Number: 888.582.3410

Website: www.frls.org

Pro Bono Needs: Services in area of family law, housing law, public benefits, consumer law, elder law, and public benefits

Pro Bono Opportunities

20th Judicial Circuit



Agency Organization:
Florida Rural Legal Services
Contact Number:
239.334.4554

Website:
www.frls.org

Pro Bono Needs:
Services in the areas of family law,
civil rights, employment, housing,
farm workers, public benefits, and
immigration

Agency Organization: Lee County Legal Aid Society
Contact Person: nanci@leecountylegalaid.org
Contact Number: 239.3346118
Website: www.leecountylegalaid.org
Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of consumer, family law, divorce,
housing, and guardian ad litem

Agency Organization: The Shelter for Abused Women
Contact Number: 239.775.1101
Website: www.naplesshelter.org
Pro Bono Needs: Services in the areas of domestic violence and family law

Acknowledgments

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A special thanks to...The Florida Bar staff

Training Today. Leading Tomorrow.

The Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy is a multi-session training program designed to help a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers become better leaders. Each year a select group of participants are selected from applications submitted to The Florida Bar to become Academy Fellows.

During their one-year term, Academy Fellows follow a curriculum tailored to enhance their professional development, knowledge base and experience, including attending The Florida Bar events and special educational programs. Academy Fellows are given the opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of the Bar and their role in the legal profession, while enhancing their personal leadership skills.



In Memoriam: Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Champion of Pro Bono Legal Service



Setting the gold standard for professionalism and a shining example of pro bono service, Wm. Reece Smith, Jr., died at his Tampa home on January 11, 2013, after a brief illness.

At 87 years old, Smith was the last surviving named shareholder at Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler, the Tampa firm he joined in 1953.

When family, friends, and colleagues gathered on January 17, 2013 at Hyde Park United Methodist Church to pay their respects, the program contained this description of Smith's philosophy of lawyering, based on three moral edicts:

- Every person deserves to have their basic rights protected, regardless of economic or social circumstances.
- Lawyers are privileged professionals and as such have a responsibility to use their skills and knowledge for the betterment of all members of society.
- In rendering legal services, lawyers must possess the virtues of good character, competence, and commitment to clients, the courts, and the public interest. Smith called them "The Three C's. For almost 60 years, he practiced what he preached — and that is Smith's legacy.

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updated by Young Lawyers Division in 2023
