

RHODE ISLAND
POTENTIAL PRO BONO PARTNERS

Clinics and other bite-size opportunities are **highlighted in yellow**.

Organization	Description
Website	
Contact Information	
<p><u>Volunteer Lawyer Program</u> (VLP) a program of Rhode Island Bar Association and Rhode Island Legal Services</p> <p>Contact: John Ellis- VLP Coordinator Phone: (401) 421-7758 jellis@ribar.com</p> <p>Email: info@ribar.com</p> <p>Rhode Island Bar Association 115 Cedar Street Providence, RI 02903</p>	<p>Nature of opportunity: Ranges from giving advice and counsel to writing a letter on behalf of a client to actual representation in court.</p> <p>General Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rhode Island Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program/Pro Bono Project provides services to low-income clients on non-criminal civil cases. • The Volunteer Lawyer Program is funded by Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. and the RI Bar Foundation and is offered as a public service by the Rhode Island Bar Association. • As a participating attorney, you are asked to accept one or two cases per year on a pro bono basis. You may specify the areas of law in which you prefer to take cases. • You will be contacted by the VLP staff and given the background information on the client and case. You then decide whether or not to take the case. If you accept, you will meet the client directly and handle the matter to its conclusion. • Other adjacent programs under the same volunteer coordinator include the Pro Bono Program for the Elderly, assisting income-eligible elders above the age of 60; or the US Armed Forces Legal Services Project, connecting income-eligible veterans with volunteer attorneys. • Rhode Island Legal Services <u>encourages</u> RI attorneys to provide pro bono assistance through the Volunteer Lawyer Program in areas including: consumer, housing, benefits, collections, bankruptcy, guardianship, special education, employment, license registry, family law, tort defenses, wills. <p>Malpractice Insurance: Provided.</p> <p>Training and/or mentoring: The Rhode Island Bar Association offers a broad range of support including: free CLE training programs and materials, free malpractice insurance to cover most pro bono cases, reimbursement for litigation costs and other out-of-pocket expenses with prior approval, and access to mentor attorneys.</p> <p>Estimated time commitment: Volunteers expected to accept one to two cases per year</p> <p>Opportunities for staff: No.</p>
<p><u>Roger Williams University, Pro Bono Collaborative</u></p> <p>Volunteer Information: See a full list of projects and when they meet here.</p>	<p>Nature of opportunity: Advising law students on pro bono projects.</p> <p>General Information:</p>

<p>Contact: Eliza Vorenberg: Email: evorenberg@rwu.edu Phone: 401-254-4597.</p> <p>Location: 10 Metacom Avenue Bristol, RI 02809</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pro Bono Collaborative connects law firms, attorneys and law students to community organizations that need pro bono legal services for their organization and/or their clients. Each project involves RWU Law students working under the supervision of law firm attorneys. <p>Malpractice Insurance: Unclear.</p> <p>Training and/or mentoring: Provided for License Restoration and Expungement projects</p> <p>Estimated time commitment: Varies. 2-8 hours per License referral, 10-25 hours per Special Education case, minimal time commitment for Expungement</p> <p>Opportunities for staff: Yes, designed for law students.</p>
<p><u>United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island – Civil Pro Bono Program</u></p> <p>Volunteer:</p> <p>Contact: Barbara Hurst- Director of Pro Se Programs 401-752-7200 (afternoons) 401-225-1604 (cell)</p>	<p>Nature of opportunity: Longer term representation.</p> <p>General Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 1, 2014, the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island adopted a Plan for Pro Bono Representation in Civil Cases to provide representation to indigent defendants in a limited number of civil cases each year. Panel participation offers a unique opportunity to gain experience in civil litigation in federal court while providing a valuable community service. Attorneys seeking to join the Court's Civil Pro Bono Panel should review the following documents before submitting an application to join the panel: <p>Letter from Chief Judge Smith Seeking Applications for Civil Pro Bono Panel Plan for Pro Bono Representation in Civil Cases Civil Pro Bono Panel Application Guidelines for Civil Pro Bono Attorneys</p> <p>Malpractice Insurance: Unclear.</p> <p>Training and/or mentoring: Training provided.</p> <p>Estimated time commitment: Longer term representation, dependent on appointments.</p> <p>Opportunities for staff: No.</p>

*** The information contained within is for informational purposes only. The organizations listed have not been vetted or endorsed by Pro Bono Institute or its Corporate Pro Bono Project.*

Developed by Corporate Pro Bono
A project of [Pro Bono Institute](http://www.cpbo.org)
www.cpbo.org

Copyright 2026 Pro Bono Institute
CPBO® is a registered trademark of the Pro Bono Institute