

Pee Dee Region

Pee Dee Coalition

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Survivor Assistance

Locations: Florence, Darlington, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Williamsburg

Contact: Ellen Hamilton, (843) 669-4964 or echamilton@peedeecoalition.org

Area of Law: Family Court—orders of protection, separation, divorce, civil litigation for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

Upstate

Meg's House

Domestic Violence Survivor Assistance

Locations: Greenwood, McCormick, Edgefield

Contact: Alice Hodges, 864-227-1421 or ahodges@megshouse.org

Areas of Law: Family Court—orders of protection, separation and divorce

Beyond Abuse

Sexual Abuse Survivor Assistance

Location: Greenwood

Contact: Cathy Miller, (864) 227-1623 or cmiller@beyondabuse.info

Areas of Law: Family Court—protective orders, restraining orders, custody, civil litigation

Safe Homes/Rape Crisis Coalition

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Survivor Assistance

Contact: Lynn Hawkins, (864) 583-9803 or lynnshrcc@aol.com

Locations: Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union

Areas of Law: Family Court—separation and divorce

Safe Harbor

Domestic Violence Survivor Assistance

Contact: Becky Callahan, (864) 467-1177 or becky.callahan@safeharbor.org

Locations: Greenville, Pickens, Anderson, Oconee

Areas of Law: Family court—separation and divorce

Safe Passage, Inc.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse

Contact: Jada Charley, jbcharley@safepassagesc.org

Locations: York, Chester, Lancaster, Union

Areas of Law: Family court

REPORTING & RECOGNITION

Lawyers may report their pro bono hours by logging into the SC Bar website and reporting their hours under the pro bono section.

RESOURCES FOR ATTORNEYS: Get Help with your Pro Bono Case!

Pro Bono Digital Resource Center

Pro bono volunteers may access information to assist them with their pro bono case. To view the Pro Bono Digital Resource Center, simply visit: www.scbar.org/probono and login to the Bar's website to view all of the private resources.

Links to Case Materials and Training

Currently, there are links to information on consumer issues, landlord tenant, foreclosure, family law and bankruptcy. There is also a sample engagement letter to use with a pro bono client, a sample notice of limited appearance and the Ask-A-Lawyer handbook, which covers various common pro bono topics, questions and Resources. This year, the SC Bar Pro Bono Program will be working on developing pro bono training opportunities to assist attorneys in taking cases.

Pro Bono Malpractice Insurance and Expense Reimbursement

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 pro bono cases assisting eligible individuals. Clients are not considered eligible unless they meet the income guidelines for policy coverage (at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) for the Pro Bono Program or court appointment. You must notify the SC Bar about the case to receive coverage. This coverage is effective only when the Pro Bono Program receives notice of the pro bono representation.

Carolina Clerks—USC School of Law

Law students are available to perform all reasonable law clerking duties such as research and drafting for qualifying case that fall within the parameters of Rule 6.1 or Rule 608. Foreign language assistance may also be available. Simply contact the USC School of Law Pro Bono Program by phone (803) 777-3405, fax (803) 777-6944 or email robinspd@law.sc.edu.

Charleston School of Law—Law Clerks

The Charleston School of Law's Pro Bono Program is always seeking new pro bono opportunities for its students. If you have questions about the program or would like help from Charleston School of Law students with work that meets the program requirements, contact Michelle Condon, Director of Public Service and Pro Bono, at mcondon@charlestonlaw.edu or (843) 377-2457.

WELCOME TO PRO BONO!

One of the hallmarks of the legal profession is its demonstrated commitment to service to those who are unable to afford representation. If you are new to the world of pro bono, welcome! And, if you are renewing your pro bono efforts, welcome back!

Members of the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program work hard to close the legal assistance gap between low income South Carolinians and available legal services. Pro Bono volunteers already give back so much to their communities. And, as the demand for legal assistance grows, the need for additional volunteers also grows. Below are some programs offered by the South Carolina Bar and partner organizations that need legal volunteers. Take a moment to see which opportunity works for you!

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

SC Bar Direct Delivery Program

Low income South Carolinians who need legal assistance can call Legal Aid Telephone Intake Service (L.A.T.I.S.) to be screened. If the cases are deemed eligible, the SC Bar Pro Bono Program will refer cases to volunteer attorneys to assist these citizens. Most cases are family law issues, bankruptcy (Ch.7), simple wills, power of attorney, etc. For more information on case referral, please contact Rose Dean at (877) 797-2227, ext. 164 or rose.dean@scbar.org.

Lawyers may also take a pro bono case on their own. If a client does not come through the program but seeks the assistance of the attorney and qualifies financially, this process is known as "direct intake." A direct intake form, available on the Bar's website (www.scbar.org), should be completed and sent to the Program when the attorney decides to take the case in order to receive the Program benefits such as malpractice insurance coverage, litigation expense reimbursement and other resources as described below.

SC Bar Young Lawyers Division Wills Clinics

The Young Lawyers Division periodically provides free wills and estate planning documents for first response personnel and Habitat for Humanity homeowners. During the clinics, young lawyers will conduct an interview and consultation and draft wills and advance directives. First responders and homeowners will leave with fully-executed documents. Volunteers need no prior estate planning experience to take part. Guidelines, forms and training sessions are provided prior to clinics. Contact Trista A. Shigley (tshigley@bbandt.com) or Evan Guthrie (evan@ekglaw.com).

SC Bar Ask-A-Lawyer

Ask-A-Lawyer is a Public Services project conducted

periodically through television phone banks and web chats. Those volunteering for the TV-phone banks will go to the television station to participate. Web chat volunteers can log onto the Bar's website at the designated time from any location with an internet connection. 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. For more information on Ask-A-Lawyer, please contact Debbie Morris at (877) 797-2227, ext. 158 or debbie.morris@scbar.org.

SC Bar Free Legal Clinics

The SC Bar Public Services Program sponsors free legal clinics in libraries, churches, senior centers and other locations. A clinic usually consists of a 30-45 minute lecture, followed by an open question and answer session. Spring clinics run February-May and fall clinics/seminars September-November. Speakers/attorneys are needed for various topics in all 46 counties. Participation is one evening for approximately one and one-half hours. For more information on Legal Clinics, contact Debbie Morris at (877) 797-2227, ext. 158 or debbie.morris@scbar.org.

SC Bar Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP)

This program provides 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. Free legal services are available to E-3 or below. 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. LAMP recruits 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, contact Cindy Coker at (803) 576-3797, ext. 142 or ccoker@scbar.org.

SC Free Legal Answers

Free Legal Answers is a website that allows eligible individuals to post questions and have them answered by a volunteer attorney. The attorney will have access to the name of the individual asking the question in order to check for conflicts, but the attorney identity remains anonymous. The site is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This allows both the attorney and the client to access the site at their convenience. Attorneys choose only the questions they wish to answer. Questions are sorted by topic, such as benefits, consumer, health care, family, work and others. For more information about this site or to volunteer, contact Cindy Coker at (803) 576-3797 or ccoker@scbar.org.

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

SC Appleseed runs two pro bono projects,

1) Lawyers4Vets (L4V) and 2) the Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) program.

Lawyers4Vets (L4V) is a monthly pro bono legal clinic that takes place at the DORN VA Medical Center in Columbia and helps lower income veterans with wills/HPOA, expungements and pardons, and child support modifications. Training materials and support are available to L4V volunteers.

The Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) program assists children fleeing violence from South America without a parent. These minors need representation in both family and immigration court. SC Appleseed is looking for volunteer attorneys to assist in the family courts of South Carolina in coordination with immigration lawyers who are based in North Carolina. Volunteers will receive training and mentoring assistance as needed, along with pleadings and other materials for the representation. Contact Sue Berkowitz at (803) 779- 1113, ext. 101 or sberk@scjustice.org.

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. (P&A)

P&A is a statewide nonprofit and represents persons who have been abused, neglected, discriminated against because of their disability, need special education and related services, or live in institutions. Opportunities for pro bono work include representation in applications for disability benefits; suspensions and expulsions from school; evictions; Americans with Disabilities Act; juvenile justice; and corrections. P&A attorneys are available to train and consult. Most P&A clients meet federal poverty guidelines. Information about P&A is available at www.pandasc.org.

Contact Nancy McCormick at (803) 217-6703 or mccormick@pandasc.org for more information.

SC Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (SCVLA)

The purpose is to provide pro bono legal assistance to the arts community in SC. SC Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts matches artists and arts organizations in need of legal assistance with arts related issues with qualified attorneys in a timely manner. We anticipate that many of the arts related issues will be brief, advice and counsel requests. Law student volunteers with the Pro Bono Program at the USC School of Law will provide intake for the incoming requests, screen them for appropriateness, direct them to the correct service provider and be available to all pro bono attorneys for follow up research and clerking services. More information about the program can be found at www.scvolunteerlawyersforthearts.org.

SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)

These agencies are state and/or federally funded domestic and/or sexual violence organizations providing comprehensive services to victims and survivors and their children. These services include: emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, peer group support, emergency hotline, legal advocacy, medical advocacy and children's services. These agencies need attorneys to help in various locations and areas of law, which are provided below under the regional section. More information about the program can be found at www.sccadvasa.org.

South Carolina Legal Services (SCLS)—Private Attorney Involvement Program

SCLS PAI program is a way for the private bar to assist an overlooked population that is often denied access to court. SCLS is always looking for attorneys to assist in its PAI program, especially in the more rural counties and in the substantive areas of consumer, employment and housing law. Private attorneys agree to accept referrals of civil cases in designated areas and agree to accept \$65 per hour with a maximum fee for each case. Contact Andrea Loney at (803) 744-4179 or adrealoney@sclegal.org.

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

SCCF is the hub for a network of six fatherhood program centers in South Carolina with a mission to provide the means for fathers to become great dads. These centers help fathers obtain jobs, strengthen their parenting skills, build better relationships with their children's mothers, and navigate the maze of child support. Volunteer attorneys are needed throughout the state to answer one-on-one legal questions during local fatherhood group sessions or to provide assistance for family law, employment, expungement and pardon issues. Please visit the website at scfathersandfamilies.com or contact the Center at (803) 227-8800 for a volunteer opportunity near you.

Legal Assistance for Survivors of Trafficking (LAST)

This program seeks to prepare attorneys to assist victims of human trafficking with the plethora of legal issues they may face after they gain their freedom from trafficking, including restitution, civil litigation, expungement, and immigration. To learn more about the program, please contact last.southcarolina@gmail.com.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Lowcountry

One80 Place

The Homeless Justice Project (HJP) has been a program of One80 Place, the homeless shelter in Charleston, since 2007. The HJP is designed to help persons who are homeless by removing obstacles, both legal and social, which prevent them from becoming self-sufficient. This goal is accomplished through holistic advocacy, which provides direct civil legal services and representation to individuals and families, connects clients with needed social services, and advocates for positive community changes that address the needs of the homeless population. Pro bono attorneys can provide assistance at the weekly legal clinics. Attorneys are also needed to provide assistance in areas such as criminal law, family law, wills and powers of attorney, foreclosures and bankruptcies. Contact Jeff Yungman at (843) 723-9477 or jyungman@one80place.org.

The Center for Heirs Property

The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation protects heirs' property and promotes the sustainable use of land to provide increased economic benefit to historically undeserved landowners in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Georgetown counties. The Center achieves this through legal and forest management education and services. Lawyers are needed to participate in wills clinics, to serve as guardian ad litem in quiet title actions, and to handle appointments for conservators and/or guardians for mentally incapacitated adults. The forestry program needs attorneys to draft LLCs, deeds, real estate trusts, and contracts, and to provide associated areas of tax law advice. For more on the Center, call (843) 745-7055 or visit www.heirsproperty.org.

Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services (CPBLS)

CPBLS provides free civil legal services to low-income children, families and individuals through advice and counsel, brief preparation services, private bar involvement and referrals to other service organizations. Every day CPBLS receives requests for assistance in an array of legal subjects, including family, landlord/tenant, estate planning, employment, bankruptcy and much more. Apply online at CharlestonProBono.org. Contact Alissa C. Lietzow at alietzow@charleston-probono.org or (843) 853-6456.

My Sister's House

Domestic Violence Shelter Survivor Assistance
Contact: Tosha R. Connors, tosha@mysistershouse.com
Locations: Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester Areas of Law:
Family court—orders of protection, separation and divorce

Lowcountry Legal Volunteers

Lowcountry Legal Volunteers provides free critical legal services and education through volunteer lawyers to low income families. Thanks to the hard work of LLV retired and volunteer attorneys, LLV has helped more than 3,000 families solve their legal issues. Those interested in volunteering should email info@lclv.org or call (843) 815-1570. Locations in Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties.

Hopeful Horizons (formerly CODA)

In 2016, Hope Haven and CODA merged to form Hopeful Horizons, a Children's Advocacy, Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center. Hopeful Horizon's legal program is in need of attorneys to provide pro bono in family court, civil court and criminal court matters. To learn more, call (843) 524-2256. Locations: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

Midlands

SC VALOR Program

SC Veterans and Armed Forces Legal Outreach (VALOR) Program coordinates existing legal resources for the military and veterans. We find, support and fill-in where gaps exist, as well as minimize duplicate efforts. The program consists of free legal clinics and a referral line to connect veterans and members of the military with lawyers who will provide free or heavily-discounted legal help for problems too complex to be handled at the clinics. This program is a collaboration between the Attorney General's Office, the South Carolina Bar and the SC Military Department. For more information about the VALOR program, contact Tim Frisb at (803) 734-VETS or tfrisby@scag.gov.

Project HELP

Project HELP provides free legal advice to homeless individuals in Columbia. Volunteer attorneys speak with individuals about a variety of legal issues, including problems regarding criminal record expungement, benefits, child custody/support, divorce and employment. Attorneys who volunteer meet with those who need legal assistance every other Thursday at Transitions Shelter. For more information contact Melinda Taylor at melindataylor@sclegal.org or Chadwick Devlin at chadwick.devlin@nelsonmullins.com. Project HELP is organized by the RCBA Public Service Committee in partnership with the SC Bar Pro Bono Program.