

**COLORADO
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
PRO BONO PROGRAM**



**VOLUNTEER GUIDE
2023**



U.S. Department of Justice
Office for Access to Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

March 1, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Colorado Federal Government *Pro Bono* Program! Thank you for your interest in *pro bono* work and in using your legal skills to better your community. We hope this program will help you to find an opportunity to get involved.

This *Pro Bono* Volunteer Guide will provide easy access to information about the rules governing federal employees' engagement in *pro bono* activity as well as descriptions of the organizations and *pro bono* opportunities in Colorado. These organizations and opportunities have been determined to be appropriate for federal government attorneys and legal staff because they are generally free of conflicts of interest and offer substantial resources that will help you to succeed. Because each federal agency has its own regulations and procedures, it is important that you discuss any *pro bono* project with your agency's *pro bono* coordinator and ethics office before starting to volunteer. Many agencies have a specific *Pro Bono* Policy that can guide you through these rules and any approval procedures that may be required.

Throughout the year, our program will offer opportunities to assist you in your *pro bono* endeavors. We hope to organize training to prepare you to volunteer, group *pro bono* opportunities where federal attorneys can volunteer together, and information sessions on various topics relevant to *pro bono* practice. If you would like to get involved in the development of these ideas or have questions about participating in *pro bono* activities generally, please contact Kyle Brenton, U.S. Department of Justice, Kyle.Brenton@usdoj.gov, or Terry Miller, Securities and Exchange Commission, MillerTe@sec.gov, Co-Chairs of the Colorado Federal Government *Pro Bono* Program, who can connect you with your agency representative.

Thank you again for your interest in using your legal skills to help those who cannot afford an attorney. We look forward to working with you to help those in need.

Sincerely,

Laura F. Klein
Pro Bono Program Manager
U.S. Department of Justice

Chair
Federal Government *Pro Bono* Program

COLORADO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT *PRO BONO* PROGRAM VOLUNTEER GUIDE

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PART I

Most Commonly Asked Questions About Federal Government Attorneys Doing Pro Bono Work

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS DOING PRO BONO WORK

I. Definitions and Limitations

What types of services may I provide?

Pro bono legal work and volunteer services may be broadly defined to include many different types of activities performed without compensation. Examples include, but are not limited to, services to persons of limited means or other disadvantaged persons, assistance to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, health, and educational organizations, services to individuals or groups seeking to protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, and activities seeking to improve the law or legal system.

What types of pro bono and volunteer services are prohibited?

Any service that would conflict with your official duties is prohibited. 5 C.F.R. § 2635.802. For example, federal employees, in most cases, are prohibited from representing parties before the federal government. 18 U.S.C. § 205. (See questions below on conflicts of interest.) In addition, each federal agency has its own regulatory standards of conduct which its employees must follow. For example, Department of Justice attorneys may not provide services that involve criminal or habeas corpus matters, whether federal, state, or local. 5 C.F.R. § 3801.106.

May I provide services to political organizations?

Yes, however, you must comply with the restrictions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. § 7234) and the your agency's policy concerning political activities by high-level and political appointees. It should be noted that the Office of Personnel Management has stated that it would be inappropriate to grant administrative leave to employees to engage in partisan political activities. Also, because partisan political activity is subject to more restrictive rules than other non-official activity, no partisan political activity may take place on government time or by using government property. See 5 C.F.R. Part 734.

May I represent someone in an action against the United States?

No. 18 U.S.C. § 205 prohibits you from representing another person before any court or agency of the United States, in a matter in which the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest. There are limited exceptions for representing your immediate family (spouse, child, and parents), fellow employees in personnel administration proceedings, and certain employee organizations in limited circumstances.

May I assist persons seeking government benefits?

Yes, in limited ways. You may provide non-representational assistance, such as filling out forms for a person seeking government benefits. However, you should be mindful that you may not contact a federal agency, with the intent to influence, on behalf of

another person except those persons permitted by 18 U.S.C. § 205(e). You may not represent a third party before any government agency.

May I prepare income tax returns?

Yes, however, you are prohibited from representing another person before the IRS in connection with a tax return.

May I assist family and friends?

Yes, provided the services you are providing fall within the definition of pro bono and/or volunteer services and you are not receiving compensation.

NOTE: There are some limited exceptions to this rule which may permit employees to represent family and friends in non-pro bono matters as long as the United States is not a party and the matter is not criminal in nature. You should contact your Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official (DDAEO) if you would like to represent a family member or friend and the representation does not fall within the definition of pro bono or volunteer services.

II. Use of Position and Agency Resources

May I use my official position in connection with my pro bono and/or volunteer services?

No. You may not indicate or represent in any way that you are acting on behalf of the your agency, or in your official capacity, when providing pro bono or volunteer services.

May I use office letterhead or my business cards?

No. You may not use office letterhead, business cards, fax cover sheets, etc., or otherwise identify yourself as a federal government employee in any communication, correspondence, or pleading.

May I use agency resources such as phone, email, internet, or other government property in connection with my pro bono services?

Each agency has its own policy on the use of its resources and property. Some agencies will allow for the personal use of government equipment and facilities provided there is only a negligible cost to the government (such as electricity, ink, small amounts of paper, and ordinary wear and tear). You should contact your supervisor or ethics officer to find out about your agency's policy.

May I ask my secretary to assist me?

No. Pro bono and volunteer services are not official duties and may not be assigned to or required of support staff.

May I use Westlaw and other electronic computer databases?

Each agency has its own policy on this issue. Contact your agency pro bono representative to find out about your agency's policy.

May I participate in pro bono and/or volunteer services on government time?

You are encouraged to seek pro bono and volunteer opportunities that can be accomplished outside of your scheduled working hours. However, activities may sometimes occur during the work day. You may be granted annual leave, leave without pay, or may be permitted to make up any time you are away from the office. Contact your supervisor or agency ethics officer to find out about your agency's policy.

May I be given administrative leave?

Generally, it is inappropriate to pay an employee for time engaged in pro bono or volunteer services. However, in limited circumstances, it may be appropriate to excuse an employee from duty for brief periods of time without loss of pay or charge of leave. Excused absence should be limited to those situations in which the employee's services meet one or more of the following criteria: is directly related to the agency's mission; is officially sponsored or sanctioned by the agency; or will enhance the professional development or skills of the employee in his or her current position. See OPM Guidance at www.opm.gov/oca/compmemo/2002/volunteerweek.htm.

Some agencies have issued policies specifically permitting the use of administrative leave for pro bono activities, such as the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Labor Relations Board, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and others. Check with your agency pro bono representative or ethics officer to find out if your agency has such a policy.

III. Conflicts of Interest

Who should I talk to about any possible conflicts of interest?

Your Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official (DDAEO).

What constitutes a conflict of interest?

Any activity that would:

1. Violate any federal statute, rule, or regulation, including for example, 18 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. and the Standards of Conduct at 5 C.F.R. § 2635;
2. Interfere with the proper and effective performance of your official duties, including time availability;
3. Cause a reasonable person to question the integrity of your agency's programs or operations;
4. Require your recusal from significant aspects of your official duties;

5. Create an appearance that your official duties are being performed in a biased or less than impartial manner; or
6. Create an appearance of official sanction or endorsement.

Must I get approval to provide pro bono services?

Each agency has its own policy regarding its employees' outside activities. An employee seeking to engage in any pro bono legal work or volunteer services must follow his or her agency's procedures for outside activities. You should consult with your ethics officer regarding approval requirements.

IV. Miscellaneous

What about malpractice coverage?

The federal government does not provide malpractice coverage. Generally, volunteer programs organized by the local bar or more established referral programs provide malpractice coverage. For example, all organizations included in this Guide provide malpractice coverage for their volunteers. You should ask the organization through which you will be providing pro bono services whether it will provide malpractice coverage for you.

May I participate if I am not a member of the state bar where I am located?

You must be licensed in the jurisdiction where you seek to do pro bono work unless there is an exception provided in the local Bar rules. Seven jurisdictions currently have such an exception: the District of Columbia, Illinois, Colorado, Maryland, Texas, New Jersey, and Arizona. Colorado's relevant rule is here:

Colorado Court Rules Governing Admission to the Bar Rule 204.6.

<https://casetext.com/rule/colorado-court-rules/colorado-rules-of-civil-procedure/chapter-18-rules-governing-admission-to-the-bar/rule-2046-pro-bono-counsel-certification>.

Can I receive CLE credit for pro bono activities?

Yes! Under Colorado Rule of Civil Procedure 250.9, Colorado attorneys providing pro bono services may be awarded one hour of CLE credit for every five hours of time spent on the matter, up to a maximum of 9 hours during each three-year compliance period. If you are interested in claiming CLE credit, speak with your service provider about the appropriate forms.

Are there activities I can do that do not involve client representation?

Absolutely! Government attorneys regularly staff clinics sponsored by the organizations included in this Guide. At these clinics, attorneys provide brief advice and referral for clients on a walk-in basis and do not take on the cases.

What if I have never done any pro bono work before?

It is never too late to start doing pro bono work. There are lots of resources and support to help you. First, you can start by going to a training. Many organizations host trainings throughout the year on substantive areas of law that are designed for attorneys who are new to the subject area. Second, your local bar association and local legal services organizations assign mentors to government attorneys to help you with your work. Third, probono.net and local legal service providers have terrific manuals, sample forms, and a pleadings bank that you can use. Many attorneys start by co-counseling their first pro bono case. And you don't have to start by taking a case – you can attend the Advice and Referral Clinic, volunteer at an intake site or do a range of other activities.

Is there a committee which helps government agencies to develop pro bono policies and programs?

Yes. The Interagency Pro Bono Working Group has been established to assist federal agencies in developing pro bono policies and programs. The Working Group also organizes events to encourage more government attorneys to participate in pro bono work. The Working Group is chaired by the Department of Justice Pro Bono Program Manager and includes representatives from both large agencies, such as the Department of Transportation, and smaller agencies, such as the Office of Government Ethics.

How can I get my agency involved?

Contact the DOJ Pro Bono Program Manager, Laura Klein, at laura.f.klein@usdoj.gov or the Pro Bono Program Counsel, Lara Eilhardt, at Lara.Eilhardt@usdoj.gov.

PART II

Colorado Legal Services Provider Partners and Pro Bono Opportunities

Colorado Bar Association

1290 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver, CO 80203

(303) 860-1115, Ext. 1

<https://www.cobar.org/probono>

The Colorado Bar Association encourages members to engage in volunteer opportunities that positively affect communities and the Association itself. The following programs are designed to provide legal services to the public, public legal education, and professional development and networking opportunities to its members.

Opportunities Offered:

Legal Fee Arbitration Program – Volunteer attorneys serve as arbitrators and committee members that review these cases to resolve fee disputes among lawyers practicing in Colorado and their clients, at no cost to the participants. The committee determines disputes involving attorney's fees, expert fees advanced by an attorney, and costs, pursuant to applicable arbitration law. Services of the Committee shall be available to all persons, firms and corporations who are or have been represented by an attorney practicing in Colorado. All cases are handled virtually. If interested, contact Bradley Koenig at bkoenig@cobar.org.

Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic – Volunteer attorneys assist Veterans with various legal issues during this monthly walk-in clinic. Attorneys provide legal advice and information on topics including veteran's housing, criminal, and family law. The clinics are held once a month in Denver and Colorado Springs. The Colorado Springs Clinic is held from 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom VA Outpatient Clinic, 3141 Centennial Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907. The Denver Clinic is held from 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the VA Community Resource and Referral Center, 3836 York Street, Denver, CO, 80205. If interested, contact Bradley Koenig at bkoenig@cobar.org. NOTE: Federal government attorneys should not provide legal assistance on matters concerning veterans' benefits or status issues. These issues pose conflicts of interest.

Appellate Pro Bono Program – Volunteer attorneys provide full representation to pro bono clients with civil appeals, including domestic and family law matters, before the Colorado Court of Appeals or Colorado Supreme Court. The program does not assist with criminal, post-conviction, prisoner discipline, habeas corpus, ballot title, or elections appeals. Pro bono clients must apply to participate in this program and must meet the financial eligibility requirements. If interested, contact Katrina Silbaq at ksilbaq@cobar.org.

Civil Appeals Clinic – Volunteer attorneys provide limited scope representation to clients at a monthly clinic. The clinic is held every Third Thursday of the month in person at the Alfred J. Araj Courthouse in Denver, as well as virtually. Volunteer attorneys are paired with a client during the clinic to assist with a civil appeal. The program does not assist with criminal, post-conviction, prisoner discipline, habeas corpus, ballot title, or elections appeals. There is no financial eligibility requirement for clients to attend the clinic. If interested, contact Katrina Silbaq at ksilbaq@cobar.org.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? Yes.

Training and Mentoring: The CBA can pair government attorneys with experienced attorneys in the subject-matter area to provide mentoring. It also provides, through the CBA-CLE program, a wide range of continuing legal education courses relevant to its pro bono programs.

Other Resources: CBA offices will allow attorneys to reserve rooms to meet with clients.

Colorado Legal Services

1905 Sherman Street, Suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

<http://www.coloradolegalservices.org>

Contact: Gail Lorenz at (303) 866-9320

Colorado Legal Services is a non-profit corporation that has assisted persons with low income and seniors in the State of Colorado for almost 100 years. The mission of Colorado Legal Services is to provide meaningful access to high quality civil legal services, in the pursuit of justice for as many low-income persons and members of vulnerable populations throughout Colorado as possible.

Opportunities Offered:

Direct Representation: Colorado Legal Services offers opportunities for representation in Consumer, Family, Housing Rights and Homeless, and Health and Elderly law. Colorado Legal Services assigns the cases based on the *pro bono* attorney's interest and the client's need. Colorado Legal Services provides training when appropriate, depending upon the needs of the client and the skills of the volunteer legal professional. In addition, experienced practitioners in each of the referral areas serve as mentors to all *pro bono* attorneys.

Denver Eviction Defense Program: Colorado Legal Services and the Colorado Poverty Law Clinic collaborate to provide eviction defense services for qualified families to help those facing eviction stay housed or reduce the barriers for evicted tenants to find future housing.

Virtual Volunteer Opportunities: See CLS's website for a wide array of new projects and volunteer opportunities for attorneys and paralegals: <https://www.coloradolegalservices.org/node/6/support-colorado-attorneys-working-pro-bono-cases>

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? Yes.

Training: Colorado Legal Services provides CLE trainings and training manuals to *pro bono* attorneys for all opportunities. New *pro bono* attorneys may shadow experienced *pro bono* attorneys before working on their own. The supervising attorney on staff also does one-on-one training with *pro bono* attorneys, and is on-site during clinics to assist.

Denver University Pro Bono Wills Program

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

1155 E. Evans Ave., Denver, CO 80208

Contact: Professor Lucy Marsh, lmash@law.du.edu

(303) 871-6790 (general Wills Lab line)

(303) 871-6285 (Professor Marsh's direct line; unavailable during school vacation times)

The Denver Pro Bono Wills Program provides federal attorneys the opportunity to represent low-income clients in the Denver area with the preparation and execution of wills and medical powers of attorney on a pro bono basis. While their estates are not large, clients may have non-traditional or estranged family structures that do not match the laws of intestacy, so wills and other documents are needed to help ensure that clients' wishes are carried out. The University of Denver ("DU") Wills Lab offers a clinic for DU law students to assist low-income residents with wills and other end-of-life documents. When the Wills Lab has more clients than student volunteers, or when DU is not in session, federal attorneys can step in to assist clients with wills and medical powers of attorney.

Opportunities Offered:

Referred by the DU College of Law Wills Lab—

Direct representation: Direct solo representation of clients from all over the Denver metropolitan area referred by the DU Wills Lab, for preparation of wills and powers of attorney. Most engagements are for less than 10 hours and can be completed in a few days.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? Malpractice insurance is provided through DU.

Training: CLE trainings conducted by Prof. Lucy Marsh, Director of the DU Wills Lab, are held at DU law school to train federal attorneys on the requirements of Colorado estate law.

Other Resources: Federal attorneys receive templates and form documents and Prof. Marsh is available to assist with questions, offer guidance, and help with scheduling notaries.

Attorneys who are interested in being part of this program should contact Professor Lucy Marsh at lmash@law.du.edu

Disability Law Colorado

455 Sherman St. #130, Denver, CO 80203

(303) 722-0300

Contact: dlcmail@disabilitylawco.org

Disability Law Colorado (previously the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People) is a non-profit organization that provides legal representation, advocacy, information and referrals, as well as education and training events related to disability rights, for individuals with disabilities and their family members. The organization's priorities for services include investigation/resolution of abuse and neglect issues in facility settings, investigation of allegations of seclusion/restraint in schools, housing discrimination, employment discrimination, and ensuring that individuals with disabilities are integrated into the communities in which they live to the largest extent possible, consistent with their wishes. The organization's primary mission is to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Opportunities Offered: The organization provides direct representation opportunities in the following areas of law: special education, housing, employment, public accommodations, elder care, and mental health.

Does the organization provide malpractice insurance? Yes.

Training: This organization provides training and technical assistance in all areas of disability law for anyone interested in learning more about disability law, rights, and policy development.

Other Resources: Use of the organization's space is limited, but permitted.

Federal Limited Appearance Program (“FLAP”)

Colorado Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division
1290 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver, CO
Jess Ham: 303-860-1115

The Federal Limited Appearance Program (“FLAP”) is a volunteer driven program developed by the United States District Court for the District of Colorado and the Colorado Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“CBA YLD”), in coordination with the existing Federal Pro Bono Panel and the Faculty of Federal Advocates. It is designed to bridge the gap between the limited scope, out-of-court services provided by the Federal Pro Se Clinic and the full-scope pro bono representation facilitated by the Civil Pro Bono Panel. Specifically, FLAP aims to address the difficulty *pro se* parties in civil litigation oftentimes face in dealing with procedural and other non-dispositive issues in “real time” during a court appearance by providing those litigants with limited representation by a volunteer attorney before, during, and/or immediately after scheduled appearances in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

Opportunities Offered - Limited Appearances in Federal Court, such as:

- Scheduling Conferences;
- Status Conferences;
- Discovery Conferences and other Non-Dispositive Hearings; and
- Final Pretrial Conferences
- Settlement Conferences

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? Yes, malpractice insurance is provided by the Faculty of Federal Advocates.

Training: Orientation Webinar offered by CBA YLD. Forms and additional resources can be found on the CBA YLD Website.

CLE Credit: 2 CLE Credits for Orientation in addition to the CLE credit available (1 CLE hour per 5 hours of pro bono, including prep; 9 credits maximum per compliance period)

The Federal Pro Se Clinic

Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse

901 19th Street, Denver, CO

Toni-Anne Nunez, tnunez@cobar.org, 303-380-8786

<http://www.cobar.org/fpsc>

(Bankruptcy matters only) Matthew Skeen, 720-633-8866,

<http://www.cobar.org/bankruptcy>

The Federal Pro Se Clinic provides limited scope civil matter legal assistance to non-prisoner pro se parties in U.S. District Court. This program is a partnership between Colorado Bar Association and the U.S. District Court as part of the U.S. District Court's Limited Scope Representation initiative. The clinic is available to pro se participants from 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday, at the clinic located next to the Clerk's office on main floor of the courthouse.

Opportunities Offered:

Limited Scope Legal Assistance: Limited scope assistance includes advice about court procedure and rules, drafting pleadings, discovery, and motions. Volunteer attorneys do not represent pro se litigants in court, mediation, or status conferences; or draft/ghostwrite pleadings or briefs. Litigants enter into a written agreement with the Clinic consenting to the limited scope of the Clinic's representation. Shifts are one or two hours long (litigant appointments are 45 minutes). The majority of appointments are held via telephone. A zoom option is also available. The clinic conducted in-person shifts prior to COVID-19 between 10am and 3pm; however, this option is not offered at this time.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? The Colorado Bar Association provides malpractice insurance coverage.

Training: Prep materials are provided in advance (parties, docket sheet, background information), and a Project Attorney is on-site for any questions.

Metro Volunteer Lawyers

1905 Sherman Street, Suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

(303) 830-8210

<https://www.denbar.org/mvl>

Contact: mvl@denbar.org

Metro Volunteer Lawyers (“MVL”) is the pro bono program of the Denver Bar Association, in collaboration with the Adams/Broomfield, Arapahoe, Douglas/Elbert, and 1st Judicial District Bar Associations. MVL recruits and coordinates volunteer lawyers to perform free legal services for those in need who live at or below 200% of the federal poverty line on a variety of civil legal issues, including family law, elder law, probate, consumer and financial, bankruptcy, public benefits, and housing. MVL works closely with Colorado Legal Services, which provides MVL’s intake service. Virtual and in-person opportunities are available.

Opportunities Offered:

Family Law Court Program (“FLCP”) (for attorneys and paralegals): Assist clients with uncomplicated, uncontested family law matters. FLCP clients represent themselves (pro se) but are guided through the process by MVL. Volunteers assist clients on an unbundled basis, from client meetings (assist with completing paperwork to file a dissolution of marriage or allocation of parental responsibilities case) to permanent orders hearings (volunteer attorneys help prepare the final paperwork required and represent clients at the court hearing). Volunteer sessions are 2-4 hours, and the volunteers’ representation ends at the conclusion of the clinic. No experience is necessary.

Family Law Advice & Guidance (experienced family law attorneys): Volunteer for 1-3 hours by providing unbundled consultations to pro se parties with pre- or post-decree divorce or parental responsibilities cases by focusing on early resolution and problem-solving.

Legal Clinic at the Denver Indian Center (attorneys and paralegals): Walk-in clinic on the first Wednesday of each month from 6-8 pm aimed at helping Native Americans in need of legal services. Volunteers help with resource referral, understanding the legal process, and how to proceed as a pro se party.

Power of Attorney Workshop (attorneys and paralegals): Volunteer attorneys work with low-income senior centers to assist applicants in completing various advance planning documents, including medical power of attorney, financial/general durable power of attorney, advance health care directive, and/or a declaration of disposition of last remains. No experience is necessary.

Mediation Program (mediators): Volunteer mediators provide pro-bono mediation to applicants in one of MVL’s other programs. Volunteers must have completed a 40-hour mediation course, have conducted three mediations, and agree to comply with the Colorado Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators.

Direct representation (attorneys): Direct representation of clients from the Denver metropolitan area in various areas of civil law.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? Yes.

Training: Periodic training sessions providing an overview of relevant law are available, and MVL provides mentoring and supervision.

Other Resources: MVL offers office space for client meetings.

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

1325 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 701, Denver, CO 80222

(303) 692-1165

<http://www.childlawcenter.org>

Contact: info@childlawcenter.org

The mission of the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center (RMCLC) is to advocate for children and youth, drive systemic reform, and boldly challenge the status quo so that every young person who has experienced trauma or instability has the opportunity to thrive. RMCLC serves children and youth at various points of their development – from birth to their transition to adulthood – through two key strategies: direct legal advocacy and systemic advocacy. Direct legal advocacy includes: advocacy for caregivers, advocacy for students, advocacy to protect children in domestic violence situations, and advocacy for young adults. Systemic advocacy includes: our project Foster Power initiative (current and former foster youth working to improve the child welfare system through youth-led organizing and advocacy), Catalyze for Kids (a coalition of private and public agencies and youth focused on ending homelessness for former foster youth in Denver County), and Safe Babies Court Teams (an evidence-informed initiative improving outcomes for infants, toddlers, and their families involved in dependency and neglect cases – currently in Pueblo and Arapahoe Counties), as well as policy and training efforts.

Opportunities Offered:

Domestic Violence Prevention Program: After completing training, pro bono attorneys agree to be appointed as guardians ad litem (“GAL”) for children in civil protection order cases in Denver County. Volunteer attorneys represent the best interests of the children in these cases. Pro bono attorneys conduct independent investigations, develop parenting time recommendations in the child's best interests, and advocate for court orders that ultimately promote the child's safety and stability and encourage healthy family relationships.

Caregiver Advocacy Program: This program helps relative and non-relative caregivers obtain the legal orders they need to care for children whose parents are otherwise unable to do so. Oftentimes, caregivers lack the legal authority to sign permission slips at school, make educational decisions, or consent to medical care without parental cooperation or court approval. Many caregivers report feeling confused about their legal options, including when and how to act, and are unsure of what to expect through the process. This program advises these caregivers to empower them in meeting the needs of the children in their home. Through training, volunteer attorneys will learn about the following legal areas relevant to this population: power of attorney, guardianship, allocation of parental responsibilities, and adoption. Pro bono attorneys can volunteer through legal clinics whereby caregivers receive “on the spot” legal support and/or provide ongoing direct representation by taking a case.

Legal Advocacy for Young Adults: This program provides free civil legal services to remove barriers for young adults as they transition out of foster care or homelessness and move into adulthood. This might include tackling a landlord-tenant issue so that a young person can maintain their apartment, expunging a juvenile record so that the mistakes of their youth don't stand in the

way of their education, or helping overcome obstacles in obtaining an ID so that they can find stable employment. Pro bono attorneys can volunteer through legal clinics where young people receive “on the spot” legal support around a specific issue and/or provide ongoing direct representation by taking a case.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? Yes.

Training: Appropriate training is provided for each project and conducted by the director of each program. CLE credit is available for training.

Supervision/Mentoring: *Pro bono* attorneys are supervised and mentored by RMCLC staff attorneys.

U.S. District Court Civil Pro Bono Panel

Clerk's Office, Alfred A. Arraj United States Courthouse, Room A105, 901 19th Street, Denver,
CO 80294-3589
(303) 355-2466

<http://www.cod.uscourts.gov/AttorneyInformation/CivilProBonoPanel-Details,AndAvailableCases.aspx>

Contact: COD_AttorneyServices@cod.uscourts.gov

The U.S. District Court's Local Attorney Rule 15 - Civil Pro Bono Representation implements the court's Civil Pro Bono Panel plan, a program consisting of volunteer attorneys serving on a panel who are willing to represent individuals of limited financial means (not strictly limited to the "indigent") in civil matters whenever requested by the Court. To date, **150** individual lawyers and **30** law firms have joined the Panel, and almost **350** cases (for both plaintiff and defendant pro se parties) have had counsel appointed and litigated to a conclusion, including 25 trials or evidentiary hearings.

Opportunities Offered:

Direct representation: Direct representation of clients following assignment by court, acceptance by volunteer attorney, and appointment by court on types of cases/causes of action specified by volunteer attorney. Cases available include civil rights, employment discrimination, diversity civil cases, and more. *Limited representation* for discrete tasks, such as amending complaints and conducting settlement conferences, is also available.

Does the organization offer malpractice insurance? The Faculty of Federal Advocates provides malpractice insurance coverage.

Training: Seminars and training programs, including a biennial in-service training session for pro bono counsel, is conducted. Advice and guidance are available from experienced counsel.

Other Resources: Forms, sample documents, training guides, and other materials are available to attorneys. The Faculty of Federal Advocates offers reimbursement funding for costs incurred by counsel (not fees). PACER document viewing and printing fees are waived.