

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer over a white shirt, looking thoughtfully at a row of books on a library shelf. The books have red and gold spines.

# PRO BONO & PUBLIC SERVICE

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Updated: April 21, 2025

## Pro Bono Publico Toolkit

"Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to assist in the provision of legal services to those unable to pay. ...A lawyer should aspire to render at least thirty (30) hours of pro bono publico service per year." [RPC 6.1](#)  
([http://www.courts.wa.gov/court\\_rules/?fa=court\\_rules.display&group=ga&set=rpc&ruleid=garpc6.1](http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_rules/?fa=court_rules.display&group=ga&set=rpc&ruleid=garpc6.1))

Pro bono publico includes:

- Taking a pro bono case

- Delivering legal services at a substantially reduced rate to people of limited means
- Volunteering with a [pro bono organization \(https://www.probonowa.org/guide/\)](https://www.probonowa.org/guide/) or [Qualified Legal Services Provider \(/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/volunteer-with-a-qlsp\)](/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/volunteer-with-a-qlsp).
- Sitting on a [WSBA Board or Committee \(/connect-serve/volunteer-with-wsba\)](/connect-serve/volunteer-with-wsba)
- Teaching a CLE program
- Using legal skills to advise a nonprofit organization
- Participating in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession

## Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities

[Volunteer with WSBA \(/connect-serve/volunteer-with-wsba\)](/connect-serve/volunteer-with-wsba)

[Find a pro bono program or organization \(/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/psp\)](/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/psp)

[Serve veterans \(/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/serve-veterans\)](/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/serve-veterans)

## Reporting Your Pro Bono Publico Hours

WSBA members can voluntarily report their total pro bono service hours via [MyWSBA.org \(http://MyWSBA.org\)](http://MyWSBA.org) during re-licensing season. WSBA members may also claim CLE credit for approved pro bono activities at [mcle.WSBA.org \(http://mcle.WSBA.org\)](http://mcle.WSBA.org).

**Report Your Total Pro Bono Service Hours:** [\\_/for-legal-professionals/license-renewal/license-renewal-faqs](/for-legal-professionals/license-renewal/license-renewal-faqs) | [License Renewal FAQ Page \(https://www.wsba.org/for-legal-professionals/license-renewal/license-renewal-faqs#probono\)](https://www.wsba.org/for-legal-professionals/license-renewal/license-renewal-faqs#probono) | [MyWSBA.org \(http://mywsba.org\)](http://mywsba.org)

**Claim MCLE Credit for Pro Bono Service:** [MCLE for Mentorship & Pro Bono \(/for-legal-professionals/mcle/mcle-credit-for-mentorship\)](/for-legal-professionals/mcle/mcle-credit-for-mentorship) | [MCLE Pro Bono Credit Reporting \(/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/mcle\\_self-reporting\\_pro-bono\\_credit\\_1810\\_v2.pdf?sfvrsn=44ff3cfl\\_8\)](/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/mcle_self-reporting_pro-bono_credit_1810_v2.pdf?sfvrsn=44ff3cfl_8)

## Pro Bono Publico Honor Roll

WSBA members who non-anonymously report 50 hours or more of pro bono publico service are added to the Pro Bono Publico Honor Roll. Honor roll members are recognized in October of the following calendar year in WSBA's *Bar News magazine (https://wabarnews.org/)* and by the Washington Supreme Court, as well as through annual WSBA pro bono commendation initiatives.

**View the 2024 Honor Roll:** [Washington State Supreme Court \(https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate\\_trial\\_courts/SupremeCourt/?fa=supremecourt.WSBAHonorRoll\)](https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/SupremeCourt/?fa=supremecourt.WSBAHonorRoll) | October 2024 *Bar News* Issue

## Pro Bono License Status

The Pro Bono License status allows you to keep practicing by volunteering with a Qualified Legal Services Provider (<http://www.wsba.org/providers>) (QLSP) only. License fees are the same as inactive status (\$200) and there is no MCLE requirement. Pro Bono Status members that volunteer 30 or more hours with a QLSP can have their annual license fee waived.

**Pro Bono Status Information:** Pro Bono Status License Page (</for-legal-professionals/license-renewal/status-changes/emeritus-pro-bono-membership-and-return-to-active-membership>) | Pro Bono Status FAQ ([/docs/default-source/licensing/status-changes/emeritus-faq.pdf?sfvrsn=1ba13af1\\_16](/docs/default-source/licensing/status-changes/emeritus-faq.pdf?sfvrsn=1ba13af1_16)).

**Find a Qualified Legal Services Provider:** QLSP Directory (</connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/qlsp-directory>) | QLSP Volunteer Information (</connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/volunteer-with-a-qlsp>).

## Model Pro Bono Policies

Approved by the WSBA Board of Governors in July 2019 and developed by the WSBA Pro Bono and Public Service Committee, the WSBA offers three model pro bono policy templates that can be accessed, customized, and adopted by your organization. Please reach out to the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee (</connect-serve/committees-boards-other-groups/pro-bono-and-public-service-committee>) for assistance with finalizing and adopting a policy, or identifying opportunities for pro bono work for the organization's attorneys.

**Model Policies (in Word format):** Law Firm (any size) ([/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/2019-wsba-model-pro-bono-policy-template---law-firm-any-size.docx?sfvrsn=27750df1\\_2](/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/2019-wsba-model-pro-bono-policy-template---law-firm-any-size.docx?sfvrsn=27750df1_2)) | Corporate/In-House Legal Departments ([/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/2019-wsba-model-pro-bono-policy-template---corporate-in-house.docx?sfvrsn=35750df1\\_2](/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/2019-wsba-model-pro-bono-policy-template---corporate-in-house.docx?sfvrsn=35750df1_2)) | Government Entities ([/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/2019-wsba-model-pro-bono-policy-template---government-agency.docx?sfvrsn=43750df1\\_2](/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/2019-wsba-model-pro-bono-policy-template---government-agency.docx?sfvrsn=43750df1_2)).

## Pro Bono Trainings and Events

REJI Washington Pro Bono Equity Training Guide (<http://justleadwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pro-Bono-Equity-Training-Guide-Final-August-2019.pdf>): Published by the Race Equity and Justice Initiative, this guide is for volunteer lawyers and organizations seeking to build equity and anti-bias skills in delivering pro bono services.

Pro Bono Washington Calendar (<https://www.probonowa.org/calendar/>): ProBonoWA.org (<http://ProBonoWA.org>) is a clearinghouse for pro bono organizations and opportunities in Washington. Visit the calendar (</news-events/events-calendar---full-width>) to view upcoming trainings hosted by pro bono organizations related to pro bono service.

## Supreme Court Honor Roll

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RPC 6.1 states that each lawyer should aspire to providing at least 30 hours of pro bono publico hours each year. Any lawyer who reports performing at least 50 hours of pro bono publico in a calendar year is placed on the [WSBA Supreme Court Honor Roll](#).

([https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate\\_trial\\_courts/SupremeCourt/?fa=supremecourt.WSBASupremeCourtHonorRoll](https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/SupremeCourt/?fa=supremecourt.WSBASupremeCourtHonorRoll))

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## Free WSBA Public Service Education CLEs

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Volunteers with [Qualified Legal Service Providers \(/connect-serve/pro-bono-public-service/qlsp-directory\)](#) (QLSPs) can access select on-demand WSBA CLE programs for free. To view the menu of free CLEs, visit the [WSBA CLE Store \(https://www.mywsba.org/personifyebusiness/CLEStore/On-demandSeminars.aspx\)](#), and select the Public Service Education portfolio on the left-hand side.

To be authenticated for free access, email [PublicService@wsba.org \(mailto:publicservice@wsba.org\)](mailto:PublicService@wsba.org) with your name, Bar number, and the name of the program or QLSP you volunteer for.

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## Washington State Bar Foundation

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The [Washington State Bar Foundation \(/about-wsba/washington-state-bar-foundation\)](#) supports WSBA programs that help instill a culture of public service and inclusion in the legal community. These include the Powerful Communities Project, the Moderate Means Program, and Diversity & Inclusion.

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Webmaster: [noelb@wsba.org](mailto:noelb@wsba.org)  
([MAILTO:NOELB@WSBA.ORG](mailto:NOELB@WSBA.ORG))



Washington State Bar Association  
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539



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