

SAMPLING OF “BITE SIZED”/LIMITED SCOPE PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

MARYLAND FREE LEGAL ANSWERS WEBSITE:

Volunteer lawyers respond to legal questions they select that are posted by low-income clients anywhere in the state on their own time through a website platform. Email communication is as extensive as lawyer desires. ABA maintains the site; administered locally by Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc. through Maryland.freelegalanswers.org.

CLINICS (Courthouse and Community-Based):

Lawyer in the Library

Anne Arundel County Circuit Court - Operates like a general, brief advice civil legal clinic (non-family) at the law library. Enoch Pratt free libraries in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Montgomery County - Offers free civil legal advice, legal information and criminal record expungements. Kent County - Public library legal advice clinic; Queen Anne's County - Chesapeake College library legal advice clinic.

Courthouse Family Legal Clinics (through multiple courthouses throughout state)

Free brief legal consultation and advice on family law issues in a walk-in clinic setting at the courthouse during the daytime in multiple jurisdictions, including Prince George's County, Charles County, and Carroll County.

Community-based Clinics

Offers free legal consults on broad range of legal issues in various parts of the county during day or evening hours. Some target particular populations such as seniors or those at risk of losing their homes to tax sales. A variety of county-based clinics on an ongoing basis, especially in Prince George's County and Montgomery County.

Consumer Protection Project

Free legal advice offered by volunteers to district court defendants in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Help consumer debtors file Notices of Intent to Defend and possibly represent defendants in negotiating payment plans or dismissals with plaintiff's counsel or representing defendants for affidavit judgment day only.

Debtors Assistance Project (DAP)

Half-hour consultations with volunteer bankruptcy lawyers at US Bankruptcy Court in Greenbelt and Baltimore as well as sites in Chestertown, Easton, and Salisbury for individuals contemplating bankruptcy. Clients seeking advice schedule ahead of time.

Jewish Legal Services Clinic

Evening legal advice for walk-ins with any type of legal issue in Baltimore City on a monthly basis. Volunteers screen clients for legal problem and assign counsel for brief consultation that evening. All clients are welcome.

HOTLINES:

Family Law Hotline

Experienced family law practitioners answer calls during shifts for those with legal questions related to family law.

Women's Law Center Employment Law Hotline

Experienced employment law practitioners answer calls during shift hours for those with legal questions related to employment law.

PRO BONO DAYS:

Local Pro Bono Committees and Legal Services Providers

Maryland Legal Aid and a number of county committees and pro bono providers operate weekend legal consults called "Pro Bono Days" which allow individuals to meet one-on-one with volunteer lawyers for brief legal advice.

SHELTER OUTREACH:

Homeless Persons Representation Project

Provides legal advice and outreach for homeless individuals and families, in a variety of civil matters, in shelters and soup kitchens in the Baltimore area.

TAX SALE AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION CLINICS:

PBRC and Partner Agencies

Community-based legal clinics/workshops around the state where volunteers meet individually with at-risk homeowners to review paperwork and identify legal solutions to prevent or reduce impact of losing their homes.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Other short-term pro bono opportunities include:

- Conducting Pro Se Classes (e.g. bankruptcy)
- Teaching public education seminars
- Research and writing opportunities (e.g., review, edit or draft articles for The Maryland People's Law Library)

For further information on any of the above referenced opportunities or to volunteer, contact the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland at: pbrc@probonomd.org, or visit: www.probonomd.org.

