COLORADO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

2026

PRO BONO TOOLKIT

SEPTEMBER 2026



www.coloradoaccesstojustice.org

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WELCOME TO PRO BONO SERVICE

Dear Volunteer Attorney or Licensed Legal Paraprofessional,

Thank you for your commitment to pro bono service.

By volunteering your time and expertise, you are helping to ensure that access to justice is available to everyone, regardless of income, location, or circumstance. Across Colorado, thousands of individuals and families face legal challenges without the resources to hire an attorney. Volunteer attorneys and Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals
play a vital role in helping to close that gap by providing advice, representation, education, and support to those in need.

Whether you are new to pro bono work or a seasoned volunteer, this toolkit was created to help you move forward quickly and confidently. It serves as a practical resource that brings together commonly used forms, templates, training materials, court resources, websites, and other tools that can support your pro bono efforts.

Within this toolkit, you will find details and links for the following:

- Volunteer program information and key contacts
- Sample forms, templates, and engagement materials
- Court, legal aid, and self-help resources
- Practice guides, recorded trainings, and educational opportunities
- Information regarding malpractice coverage and professional responsibility
- Resources on trauma-informed advocacy and working with vulnerable populations
- Materials specific to attorneys, Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals (LLPs), and retired attorneys certified to offer pro bono service
- Technology, document automation, and document preparation resources
- Information regarding how to claim Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for qualifying pro bono service



WELCOME TO PRO BONO SERVICE

The goal of this toolkit is simple: to centralize a collection of resources that allows volunteers to spend less time searching for information and more time helping clients.

Pro bono service strengthens communities, supports our justice system, and changes lives. Every clinic staffed, question answered, and case accepted makes a meaningful difference for someone who might otherwise face the legal system alone.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and for being part of Colorado's ongoing effort to expand access to justice.

Sincerely,
Colorado's Access to Justice Community
Together, we expand access to justice across Colorado.



JUDICIAL CALL TO ACTION

As members of Colorado's legal community, we share a professional oath grounded in service, integrity, and an enduring commitment to justice for all. This Pro Bono Toolkit reflects these shared values.

The need for pro bono service is unmistakable. Across Colorado, individuals and families confront legal challenges that threaten their safety, stability, and well-being. Far too many confront these challenges alone with no access to legal help. The Justice Gap is real and remains wide, with its impact profound and felt most acutely by those least able to bear it. As legal professionals, we are uniquely positioned—and professionally obligated—to help close that gap.With that spirit, I invite you to take the next step in your own commitment to justice:

Volunteer your time and talent: Whether you choose to take on a full representation, participate in a clinic, review documents, answer questions through a brief-advice program, or contribute to policy work, every form of service matters. This toolkit outlines a spectrum of opportunities, many of which are supported by training, mentorship, malpractice coverage, trauma-informed resources, and remote-service options.

Share this toolkit widely: Your colleagues may not know how attainable and well-supported pro bono service has become. By sharing these resources, you can help expand the circle of legal professionals who are prepared to serve.

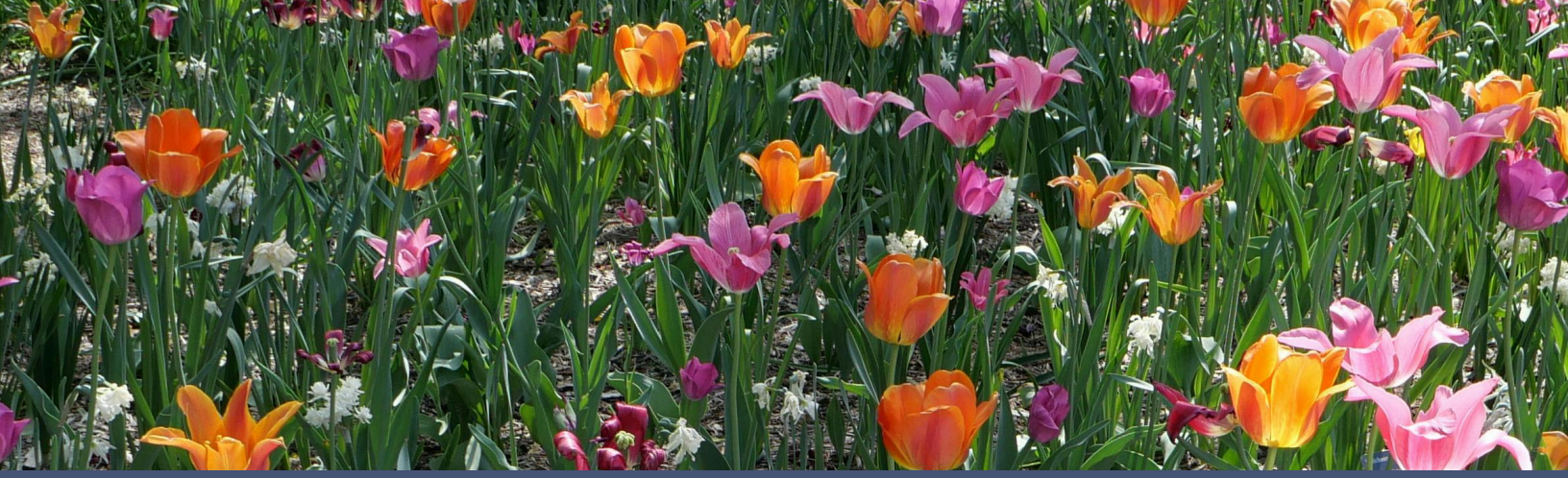
Commit to a meaningful pro bono goal, consistent with our oath as Colorado lawyers: Rule 6.1's aspirational standard is not merely a number. It reflects what it means to treat law as a profession grounded in public service rather than solely a business. Even one clinic, one case, or one conversation can profoundly change a person's experience of the legal system. And for many practitioners, pro bono work also renews purpose, strengthens confidence, expands networks, and deepens professional satisfaction.

Pro bono work deepens trust between the legal profession and the communities that we serve. It reaffirms that law is, at its core, a profession committed to people. And it is often transformative for the practitioner—renewing purpose, strengthening confidence, expanding professional skills, and restoring the sense of calling that brought so many of us to the law in the first place.

The promise we make as legal professionals is not fulfilled by words alone. It is realized through our willingness to serve—especially when it requires us to stretch a bit beyond what is comfortable. You will be making the profession stronger, our communities more secure, and justice more real for the people of Colorado.

Thank you for your dedication to this work, and for honoring the highest ideals of our profession.

Justice Susan Blanco
Colorado Supreme Court



Why Provide Pro Bono Service

The Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct encourage every attorney and LLP to perform at least 50 hours of pro bono service as part of their professional responsibility. While this is an aspirational goal rather than an obligation, giving back through pro bono service offers several important benefits.

The Justice Gap

The Justice Gap is the divide between people's everyday legal needs and the resources available for them to meet those needs. When left unaddressed, everyday legal issues directly threaten the most basic of human necessities by affecting housing, family needs, food security, job security, safety, healthcare, and immigration status. But most people cannot afford an attorney.

According to the Legal Services Corporation's Justice Gap report, low-income households said they did not receive any or enough legal help for 92% of their civil legal problems. This presents a major issue for the legal system, as ordinary people increasingly lose faith in the promise of "justice for all."

Pro bono service is part of the solution. By providing pro bono service, legal professionals emphasize that they are part of a profession committed to serving the public and the common good.

Building Skills and Connections

In addition to supporting indigent clients, pro bono service also helps the legal professional and the profession itself. Lawyers and LLPs gain extra experience without having to bill a client. Moreover, pro bono service teaches skills like client counseling, trial advocacy, trauma-informed care, and cultural competency in unique ways. These human- and service-centered skills elevate someone from being a good legal professional to a great one!

Pro bono opportunities also connect legal professionals to a wider network of individuals who are likewise providing pro bono services. This helps grow professional networks and develops connections based on a shared support of community.

Why Provide Pro Bono Service

CLE Credit
Pro bono service enables attorneys and LLPs to earn Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. Legal professionals can earn one credit for every five hours of donated work. This includes mentoring new professionals and supervising law students. Details about claiming this credit can be found in the CLE Credit section.

Recognition
Pro bono service can also earn legal professionals recognition from judges. The Colorado Supreme Court's Recognition for Pro Bono Services program (https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/recognition-pro-bono-services) is the biggest and most formal way to honor attorneys and LLPs who donate 50 hours of pro bono service per year. Several local bar associations also have programs recognizing the pro bono accomplishments of their legal communities.

Helping people makes you feel good!
Most importantly, legal professionals feel good providing pro bono service because they are helping someone else. The American Bar Association's survey, Supporting Justice V, highlights a variety of motivations for pro bono work. The following were the top reasons given for engaging in pro bono service:

- "I feel that doing pro bono work makes me a good role model."
- "I felt accomplished as a lawyer after my first pro bono case."
- "I feel like I made a difference doing pro bono work."
- "I feel more connected to my community after doing pro bono work."
- "I feel happy doing pro bono work."
- "My career is meaningful from doing pro bono work."



Types of Pro Bono Service

Representation on a Case
One of the most impactful ways to provide pro bono service is to take on a case for representation from a legal aid organization. While this is the most time-intensive way to volunteer, the work can literally change the client's life. By helping an individual in this way, a lawyer or LLP gains client-counseling experience, courtroom experience, and the ability to see a case progress until its resolution.

Legal Clinics and Limited Services
For lawyers and LLPs who lack the time to take on a case for representation, legal clinics present a wonderful opportunity to serve the public. Many nonprofit legal aid organizations host legal clinics throughout the year. Some clinics involve helping clients with forms, and other clinics supply legal advice and information. Clinics offer a valuable service in helping people understand their legal issues while gaining guidance and direction on what to do next. Per CRPC Rule 6.5, certain other rules of professional responsibility are relaxed to allow legal professionals to provide clinical pro bono service.

Policy Work
Another form of pro bono service involves working to support the reform of the legal system or working on behalf of nonprofit or charitable organizations in a policy role. This type of work can come directly from charitable organizations, or it can be organized through committees of the Colorado Supreme Court, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, or the Colorado Bar Association.





Overcoming Common Barriers to Pro Bono Service

Most practitioners who aren't providing pro bono services don't abstain due to indifference. They're holding back because practices are demanding, time is finite, and the idea of adding something unfamiliar to an already full schedule is enough to give anyone pause.

This section is designed to clear away some of the concerns that may be standing between you and pro bono service. The barriers addressed here, though legitimate concerns, are surmountable. Thousands of Colorado attorneys and LLPs have found workable paths through each. What follows is a walk-through of the most common concerns, paired with practical guidance for moving past them.

BARRIER #1: "I DON'T HAVE TIME."

Of all the reasons given for avoiding pro bono work, this one comes up most often. The assumption is understandable: Pro bono means taking on a case, and taking on a case means months of work, client calls, court appearances, and hours that go unbilled. If that's the mental model, of course it feels impossible. Fortunately, that model is incomplete.





Pro bono service exists on a spectrum. On one end, yes, there is full case representation. On the other end, there are opportunities that fit inside a single afternoon, a lunch hour, or even a thirty-minute block between client calls. Many pro bono providers offer structured formats specifically designed for attorneys and LLPs with limited availability:

- Legal clinics - One-time, advice-only events where practitioners answer questions and offer brief guidance, typically for one to two hours, with no ongoing obligation
- Document review - Reviewing a single document or form for a client who needs a trained eye, often completed remotely and asynchronously
- Brief advice and counsel - Responding to a legal question in writing or by phone, in a defined and contained format
- Ask-a-Lawyer programs - Structured Q&A opportunities in which practitioners field questions from members of the public, usually through an organized provider with support staff in place

Providing pro bono service doesn't have to mean taking on a case. It can mean a conversation, a document, or an hour of expertise offered to someone who has no other access to it.

Practical Tip

Before you assume there's no option that fits your schedule, search through the opportunities on www.probonoco.org. You may be surprised by what's available.



BARRIER #2: ”I DON’T HAVE THE RIGHT EXPERTISE.”

No practitioner wants to practice outside their competence, and Colorado’s Rules of Professional Conduct require that they not do so. But the concern that pro bono work requires specialized expertise often isn’t accurate.

Most pro bono providers offer training, mentorship, and supervision specifically designed for attorneys and LLPs who are new to a practice area. Before a volunteer is connected with a client, many organizations supply substantive legal training, access to experienced supervising attorneys, sample forms and templates, and ongoing support throughout the representation. Volunteers are not expected to step into a role already knowing everything.

Many pro bono matters involve areas of law well within the reach of any licensed practitioner: landlord–tenant disputes, family law basics, consumer debt issues, or simple estate planning questions. The subject matter may be unfamiliar, but the legal skills required are often ones you already have.

For practitioners who are curious about a different area of law, pro bono service offers something that is otherwise hard to find: a structured, supported environment for learning. It is one of the few contexts in which you can expand your practice knowledge with experienced guidance in place from the start.

Practical Tip

When you contact a pro bono provider, share your practice background. They can match you to matters that fit your existing skills or connect you with training before you begin.



BARRIER #3: "I'M WORRIED ABOUT MALPRACTICE COVERAGE."

Malpractice exposure is a real factor to consider for any attorney or LLP taking on new work, but it can be addressed in most pro bono contexts. Many providers extend malpractice coverage to volunteer attorneys and LLPs for work performed through their programs. The question usually isn't whether coverage exists; it's about confirming the details before you begin.

Colorado has specific protections in place for attorneys providing pro bono services. For an overview of malpractice coverage options available to Colorado pro bono volunteers, see the Malpractice Overview section of this toolkit.
Before starting any matter through a pro bono provider, ask the following questions regarding concerns:

- Does your organization offer malpractice coverage for volunteer practitioners?
- What is the scope of that coverage?
- Are there any matter types or service formats that fall outside of the coverage?

These are straightforward questions that any reputable provider should be prepared to answer. If an organization cannot clearly explain what coverage is in place, that itself is useful information.

Practical Tip

Don't let an unanswered question about malpractice stop you from reaching out. Ask before you commit, not instead of committing.



BARRIER #4: ”IT WON’T WORK LOGISTICALLY.”

For many practitioners, logistical concerns are the most practical barrier. The concerns tend to fall into two categories: location and scheduling. You may expect pro bono work to mean traveling to a legal aid office across town or showing up on a weekday morning when you have your own clients to serve. Neither concern reflects the current pro bono landscape.

Many pro bono providers have expanded into virtual and remote service delivery. Clinics, consultations, document review, and brief-advice programs are often accessible by phone or video, eliminating the need to travel. For practitioners in greater Colorado, this shift has made participation far more accessible.

Scheduling flexibility has expanded as well. Evening and weekend clinics exist specifically to accommodate practitioners who cannot step away during business hours. Many one-time clinic formats require no recurring commitment—you sign up for a single event, show up, participate, and you’re finished. Services with asynchronous formats, such as those involving document review or written advice, allow practitioners to contribute entirely on their own time.

In many cases, the logistical barriers that once made pro bono service difficult for busy practitioners have been addressed by the organizations.

Practical Tip

When searching for opportunities, look specifically for virtual options and flexible scheduling. Most organizations are eager to work around your availability.



BARRIER #5: ”I CAN’T ABSORB THE FINANCIAL COST.”

For many practitioners, time is money in the most literal sense. Unbillable hours directly impact revenue, and that is a valid consideration. While pro bono service should not come at the expense of a sustainable practice, under the Colorado Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1, every licensed attorney in Colorado is encouraged to deliver at least 50 hours of free legal representation per year. Pro bono service is part of the privilege and responsibility of holding a law license in this state.

Several factors can offset the financial burden of participation. Many of the limited scope formats described in Barrier #1—like clinics, document review, and brief advice—are contained by design. A two-hour clinic is a two-hour clinic. The time commitment is defined up front, which makes it easier to plan around and absorb.

Colorado attorneys who supply qualifying pro bono service may also be eligible to report that service for CLE credit. For practitioners who would otherwise need to pay for that credit, this is a direct financial offset. See the CLE Credit section of this toolkit for reporting requirements and qualifying criteria.

Bar recognition programs and pro bono awards exist at both the state and local levels. Professional recognition doesn’t include a direct financial return, but the increase in visibility and reputation that come with consistent pro bono participation offers tangible value, particularly for those whose practices are built on referrals and community engagement.

Pro bono service doesn’t have to compete with a sustainable practice. With the right format and realistic expectations, it can fit within one.

Practical Tip

Start with a single clinic event. Evaluate from there whether the time and format worked for your practice before making a broader commitment.



BARRIER #6: ”I’M WORRIED THE SCOPE WILL EXPAND BEYOND WHAT I AGREED TO.”

For practitioners who have watched a simple client matter grow into something far more complex, this concern is understandable. Most reputable providers have anticipated and addressed the risk of contained pro bono commitments quietly becoming unmanageable.

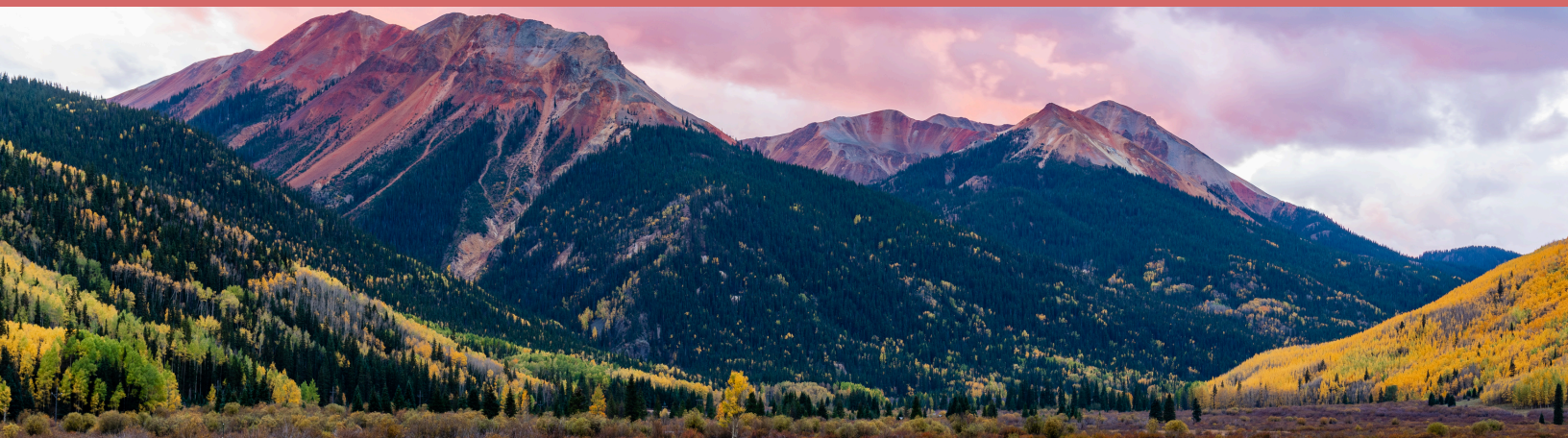
Before a pro bono matter begins, organizations define the scope of the engagement, identify what falls outside it, and explain the process for withdrawal or referral if circumstances change. You are not expected to absorb whatever a matter becomes. You are expected to fulfill a defined role, and support is available when something falls outside it.

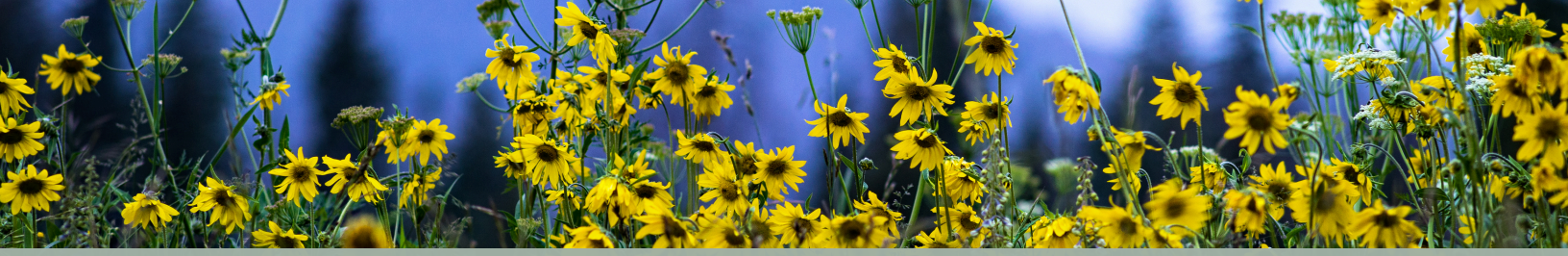
Limited scope representation is also ethically recognized and supported under Colorado’s Rules of Professional Conduct. Practitioners can offer assistance within a clearly defined boundary without taking on full representation. See the Pro Bono Rules of Professional Conduct section of this toolkit for more details.

The scope creep that practitioners fear is far less common in organized pro bono programs than it is in private client relationships, precisely because the organizational structure exists to manage it.

Practical Tip

Before you begin a pro bono matter, confirm the scope of your role and ask the provider what the process is if the matter exceeds it.





BARRIER #7: ”I’M NOT SURE I’M EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE EMOTIONAL WEIGHT.”

Attorneys and LLPs are trained to analyze, advise, and advocate. They are not always trained to sit across from someone who is in crisis, absorb the weight of that person’s circumstances, and still deliver clear, competent legal guidance.

Pro bono clients are frequently navigating some of the most difficult moments of their lives—like a pending eviction, a custody dispute, an abusive relationship, or an immigration threat. Showing up well for those clients requires more than legal knowledge. It also requires that the practitioner have an awareness of trauma, an understanding of how it presents, and some preparation for how it may affect them personally.

Many pro bono providers offer guidance on trauma-informed advocacy as part of their volunteer onboarding. Trauma-informed service doesn’t require a background in mental health. It means understanding how trauma affects behavior and communication, approaching clients with patience and without judgment, and recognizing the limits of your role. These are skills that make any practitioner more effective, in pro bono work and beyond.

This toolkit includes resources on trauma-informed care, compiled specifically for Colorado legal practitioners. Before beginning pro bono work—particularly in family law, housing, immigration, or domestic violence matters—those resources are worth reviewing.



Practical Tip

See the Trauma-Informed Training Resources linked in this toolkit. Reviewing those materials before you volunteer is one of the most practical ways to prepare.



The barriers addressed in this section are among the most persistent reasons Colorado attorneys and LLPs delay or avoid pro bono service, and most share a common feature: They no longer reflect what pro bono service requires. Formats are more flexible. Support is more substantial. The commitment can be as limited as you need it to be.

The need, however, is not limited. Across Colorado, thousands of individuals and families face legal challenges each year without the resources to hire an attorney. The gap between that need and the available supply of legal services is one that the profession is uniquely positioned and professionally obligated to help close.

If you've been meaning to begin offering pro bono service, think of this as your invitation to start. The next section of this toolkit will help you find the right opportunity to do exactly that.





Rules

Summary of the Pro Bono Rules of Professional Conduct
The following are summaries of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, 6.1–6.5:

Rule 6.1
Every lawyer and LLP has an aspirational goal to provide at least 50 hours of pro bono service each year. Most pro bono work should be focused on "(1) persons of limited means or (2) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means." Additional work can be provided for free or at a substantially reduced cost to people seeking to secure or protect civil rights, or to charitable organizations to further their charitable purpose; as low bono work for low-income people; and for work to improve the legal system.

Rule 6.2
A lawyer or LLP cannot avoid appointment by a court to a case except for good cause. Good cause means the representation would violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law; the representation would cause an unreasonable financial or other burden to the lawyer or LLP; or the client or the cause is "repugnant" to the lawyer or LLP, and this would impair their ability to represent the client.

Rule 6.3
Lawyers and LLPs can serve as directors, officers, and members of legal services organizations even if they represent clients who have adverse interests to the organization. A lawyer or LLP may not knowingly participate in a decision of the organization if it implicates Rule 1.7 (conflicts of interest) or if the decision would have "a material adverse effect" on the representation of a lawyer's or LLP's client.



Rules

Summary of the Pro Bono Rules of Professional Conduct (cont.)

Rule 6.4
Lawyers and LLPs can serve as directors, officers, and members of legal or legal practice reform organizations. If a proposed decision will benefit a lawyer's or LLP's client, the lawyer or LLP must disclose that they have a client who will benefit from the reform before participating in the organization's decision. The lawyer or LLP does not have to identify the client in their disclosure.

Rule 6.5
Lawyers and LLPs may participate in legal clinics sponsored by nonprofit organizations and courts. Conflicts of interest arise only when a lawyer or LLP knows of an actual conflict with an existing or former client or knows of a conflict with another legal professional in their law firm.

Link to Attorney Rules:
https://www.cobar.org/rulesofprofessionalconduct

Link to LLP Rules: https://www.cobar.org/For-Members/Opinions-Rules-Statutes/Legal-Paraprofessional-Rules-of-Professional-Conduct



Claiming CLE Credits for Pro Bono Service

Lawyers and LLPs are required to complete 30 CLE credits every three years to keep their licenses. One underutilized way to earn CLE credits is to take on a pro bono matter.

As a lawyer or LLP, you earn 1 CLE credit for every 5 hours of pro bono work you perform and can earn up to 7 CLE credits per a three-year reporting period. To qualify for this type of CLE, the pro bono matter (or clinic) must be assigned by a court, program, entity, or law school.

To calculate your credits:
Number of hours you provided pro bono / 5 = Number of CLE credits
(For example, if you worked 15 hours on a case, you would earn 3 CLE credits.)

To claim your credits:

1. Pull up Form 8 from the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel (OARC), available in this toolkit or at: https://www.coloradolegalregulation.com/current-lawyers/rules/.
2. Fill out Part I of the form.
3. Sign the bottom of Part I.
4. Provide the court or legal aid organization where you accepted the case with the form. They will need to fill out Part II.
5. Mail the completed form to:

Office of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education
1300 Broadway, Suite 510
Denver, CO 80203

Form8.pdf

STATE OF COLORADO SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF CONTINUING LEGAL AND JUDICIAL EDUCATION
1300 Broadway, Suite 510
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 928-7771

Office Use

Approved for: General Credits _____

Comments: _____

Instructions

1. The lawyer who mentored a law student on a pro bono case, or a lawyer or LLP who performed the pro bono representation must complete Part I of this form and then provide the original to the assigning court, program, entity, or law school including Part II of this form.
2. The assigning court, program, entity, or law school must complete Part II of this form, and then submit the original to the Office of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education, 1300 Broadway, Suite 510, Denver, CO 80203.

PART I:

Report by Lawyer or LLP Providing ProBono Representation or Mentoring Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 250.9

A. Type of Report [inaccordance with the provisions of C.R.C.P. 250.9(4)] ☐ Interim ☐ Final Application for credit

B. Case Information

Lawyer/LLP

Client

Name of Mentee Lawyer/Law Student (if applicable)

Assigning Court, Program, Entity, or Law School [C.R.C.P. 250.9(2)]

C. Type of Case (select majorcategory) Other (explain)

D. General CLE Units Requested (For pro bono representation, you may request one (1) general CLE credits for every five (5) billable-equivalent hours. For lawyers mentoring a law student in a pro bono legal matter, you may request three (3) credits for a completed matter. Lawyers may not apply for or receive more than nine (9) general credits in a three-year compliance period for any combination of pro bono representation or mentoring) and LLPs may not apply for or receive more than seven (7) general credits in a three-year compliance period for pro bono representation:

E. Total Billable-Equivalent Pro Bono Hours spent providing direct representation

F. Number of completed matters supervising :

G. Comments about any aspect of the matter, the referring entity's administration of it, etc.:

Applicant Signature Date

Print Last Name CO Registration Number

PART II:
Report by Court, Program, Entity, or Law School which Assigned the Pro Bono Matter to the Reporting Lawyer **or LLP** Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 250.9

A. Information Regarding Assigning Party:

Name of judge, court, program, entity, or law school:

Name and title of person completing this form:

B. Confirmation of Assignment: Did your court/program/entity/law school assign the above-reported matter to the reporting lawyer or LLP for pro bono representation or mentoring?

C. Determination of Financial Eligibility: Prior to assigning the matter to the reporting lawyer or LLP, did your organization determine that the client was eligible for pro bono representation in accordance with C.R.C.P. 250.9(2)?

D. Reporting Lawyer/Mentor Competence and Diligence: Is it your conclusion after review that the reporting lawyer/ mentor should receive an award of the full number of credit units to which they would ordinarily be entitled under C.R.C.P. 250.9?

If "No", explain why not:

E. Recommendation to the Committee of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education: We, the assigning court, program, entity, or law school hereby recommend that the reporting lawyer or LLP receive general CLE units for their provision of pro bono representation or lawyers mentoring in this matter in the amount of: (If the number or units you recommend is less than the number of units for which the reporting lawyer or LLP would ordinarily be eligible under C.R.C.P. 250.9, explain the basis for your recommendation in your response to Part II. D. , above.

By signing below, the requesting lawyer or LLP attests that they received no compensation in this matter.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Title



Pro Bono Counsel Overview

Pro bono counsel certification presents an opportunity for attorneys without an active Colorado license to provide pro bono service. An attorney who is licensed in another state or is on inactive status in Colorado may apply to practice in Colorado providing pro bono services only. This pro bono service must be conducted through an organization that offers pro bono representation to low-income clients.

To apply for pro bono counsel certification:

1. Fill out the application form.
2. Enclose the $50.00 filing fee, made payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. (This fee does NOT apply if your license is in Colorado.)
3. Mail the form and $50.00 fee to:

Colorado Supreme Court
Office of Attorney Registration
1300 Broadway, Suite 510
Denver, CO 80203

For more information, visit the OARC website.

Pro Bono Counsel Application - Online Checklist.pdf
Rule 204.6 Pro Bono Counsel Application.pdf

COLORADO SUPREME COURT
Office of Attorney Registration
1300 Broadway, Suite 510
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 928-7800

NAME: Please complete the information in item 1 as you wish it to appear within the official records of the Colorado Supreme Court.

Name:(Last, First, Middle) _____ Gender _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: You are required to designate and update a mailing address and a business telephone number that will appear within and be published from the official records of the Colorado Supreme Court Attorney Registration Office. You will receive all printed communications at the address you indicate as your official address. If the indicated address is not the physical location or street address of your principal place of employment, then a physical address must also be given.

Official Address:

Business/Firm Name _____

Street _____ Suite _____ P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Ext. _____ Fax Number _____ email _____

Physical Address (if different from above):

Street _____ Suite _____ P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

NATURE OF APPLICATION (check one):

☐ Initial Application ☐ Reapplication

If this is a reapplication, please state reason(s) therefore. (e.g. left jurisdiction, change of limited practice status) _____

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE LAW: Please list all jurisdictions in which you are licensed to practice law. Include your bar or attorney number, date of admission and/or other personal identifier, from that licensing entity. If you are admitted under a name that is different from the name indicated in item 1, please provide the name under which you are admitted. Use additional paper if necessary. Please use correct postal abbreviations to list jurisdictions.

Name:(Last, First, Middle) _____

Bar or Attorney Number _____ Jurisdiction _____ Date of Admission _____

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE LAW (continued):

Name:(Last, First, Middle)

Bar or Attorney Number | Jurisdiction | Date of Admission

Name:(Last, First, Middle)

Bar or Attorney Number | Jurisdiction | Date of Admission

DENIALS OF ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW: Have you ever been denied admission to practice before the bar of any jurisdiction based upon your character or fitness (check one)?

- ◉ Yes Please indicate jurisdiction(s):
- ○ No

NONPROFIT ENTITY: Please indicate the name, address, and telephone number of the Colorado nonprofit entity through which you will be providing pro bono representation.

Name of nonprofit entity

Address

Phone Number

I certify that I have applied to and have been accepted by the nonprofit entity listed

- ◉ I am currently the entity
- ○ I expect to begin with the entity on

CERTIFICATION:

State, Commonwealth, etc.

County, Borough, etc.

I, , the undersigned applicant for certification as Pro Bono Counsel within
(print name)

the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and C.R.C.P.204.6 and will abide by the provisions thereof.

I acknowledge that I am subject to the jurisdiction of the Colorado Supreme Court for disciplinary purposes, as set forth in C.R.C.P. 232, *et seq*., C.R.C.P. 241, *et seq*.

P 41, *et seq.*

I further certify that I am in good standing and not subject to a disciplinary proceeding or outstanding order of reprimand, censure, or disbarment, permanent or temporary, for professional misconduct by the bar or courts of any jurisdiction at the time of application.

I further authorize notification to or from the entity governing the practice of law within each jurisdiction in which I am licensed to practice law of any disciplinary action taken against me.

I have read the foregoing application, and further attest that the information submitted in it is complete and true to the best of my knowledge and belief

Signed By

Print Form



MALPRACTICE OVERVIEW

Exploring Malpractice Insurance Options for Nonprofit Legal Service Providers
While some organizations hosting volunteer opportunities carry malpractice insurance to cover pro bono volunteers, other organizations' small budgets prevent them from doing so. It is common, too, that a firm's malpractice insurance also covers pro bono or other volunteer legal activities. Different practices exist throughout Colorado. You should check with the organization and your own insurance company to ensure coverage.

Insurance Coverage Questions to Explore
Here are some sample questions to ask the legal aid organization where you plan to volunteer:

Attorney Coverage
- Are volunteer attorneys covered by your policy?
- Are retired attorneys covered?
- Are contract attorneys covered?

LLP Coverage
- Are Colorado Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals covered by your policy?
- Are volunteer LLPs covered?
- Are contract LLPs covered?

Volunteer Coverage
- Are volunteer paralegals covered by your policy?
- Are law students covered?
- Are interns covered?
- Does coverage extend to remote or virtual volunteer work?

Service Delivery Coverage
- Is limited scope representation covered by your policy?
- Are virtual legal clinics covered?
- Are advice clinics covered?
- Are court-based programs covered?
- Are mentoring or supervision activities covered?

Here are some potential questions to ask your insurer:
Service Delivery Coverage
- Is pro bono work covered by the policy?
- Is limited scope representation covered?
- Are virtual legal clinics covered?
- Are advice clinics covered?
- Are court-based programs covered?
- Are mentoring or supervision activities covered?



USING WEBEX AND OFFERING REMOTE SERVICES

Representing a pro bono client in another part of the state has never been easier! Colorado offers ample opportunities to supply pro bono services remotely. Technology has evolved to allow legal professionals to meet with clients, share documents, and even appear in court to represent a client located in a different part of the state. These technology tools help support people who live in rural legal deserts, areas where there are very few attorneys. Distance does not have to be a major barrier for clients in need of pro bono services!

Webex

Every state court in Colorado has the technology available to support participation in virtual court hearings using Webex. A full list of the virtual courtrooms in Colorado is available on the Colorado Judicial Branch website.

While most courts welcome pro bono volunteers to appear virtually, local practice varies. Some hearings are automatically virtual, while others may require a motion requesting to appear virtually. You should contact your local court clerk or your judge's judicial assistant to request to appear remotely. The organization you are volunteering with should be able to help you communicate with the court and determine how to appear remotely for your pro bono client.

Please remember, virtual hearings are still court hearings, and you should be prepared per your usual practice. Here are a few tips to ensure smooth virtual hearings:

- Download and practice using the Webex software before your hearing.
- Ensure that you are in a quiet and professional environment for your hearing. (Consider using noise-canceling headphones to avoid ambient noise.)
- Make sure your internet connection is stable.
- Discuss with your client how you will communicate during the hearing. (You may want to have a phone or texting app available during the hearing to preserve attorney–client confidentiality.)
- Ensure that you have e-filed all proposed exhibits and provided a copy to opposing counsel or the opposing party before the hearing.
- Communicate with the court clerk or judicial assistant in advance of your hearing!

Other Tools to Support Remote Services

Most of the work of modern pro bono lawyering can be done remotely, especially with the support of the local legal aid organization. You should communicate directly with the organization if you need a particular technology tool to work remotely with a client. Tools that may make remote service easier include the following:

- **Video conferencing** - Tools like Zoom or Microsoft Teams can be extremely useful for client meetings.
- **Scanning documents** - The local legal aid organization or other local partners can be helpful in scanning documents from the client and emailing them to you.
- **E-signature software** - Several options exist to support e-signatures. Docusign, Foxit, Adobe, and many other platforms allow you and your client to sign documents remotely.
- **Language lines** - Several different services exist to allow simultaneous interpretation with clients who have limited English proficiency. Ask your legal aid organization which service they use.
- **E-filing** - All Colorado attorneys have access to e-filing in the Colorado Courts system. (See the section on e-filing for more information.)





PRO BONO CO

Launched March 16, 2026, Pro Bono CO is an online clearinghouse of pro bono opportunities designed for legal professionals who are looking for a way to serve the community, amplify access to justice, and provide legal expertise for people in need. This free tool allows legal professionals to search for opportunities that fit their skillset and time constraints. Created by the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, Pro Bono CO works together with legal service providers to identify, categorize, and list pro bono opportunities that make a difference across the state.

Getting Started:
Visit the Pro Bono CO website at https://www.probonoco.org/.
To set up a profile, click on "Create a Profile." Click "Start" and fill out the fields on the next screen. Then click "Submit." You will receive an email approving your account. Click on the link in your email to enter the portal. The next time you enter the portal, click "Log In" on the upper right side of the page.

You can browse opportunities without creating a profile by clicking "Browse Opportunities."

Looking at Opportunities:
If you have created a profile, log in to enter the registered account portal. Click on "Opportunities" on the left side of the screen. Enter your search criteria at the top of the screen or use the available search tabs. You will see all the opportunities that match your search. Click on an opportunity to explore the details.

Signing Up for Opportunities:
When you find an opportunity you would like to volunteer for, click "Express Interest." Answer the prompt question in the next screen. Click "Save." You will hear directly from the legal aid organization to follow up on your interest in volunteering.

Notification Preferences:
Choosing your notification preferences will allow you to receive email alerts when opportunities that match your interests are posted!

To set up this option, click “Notification Preferences” on the left side of your profile screen. Then click “+ New Search.” Set the criteria for opportunities that meet your interests and availability, making sure you have selected to receive email notifications. Click “Save.” You will begin receiving emails with the opportunities that meet your criteria.



If you have specific questions or concerns about Pro Bono CO, please feel free to contact Brett E. Landis, Director of Pro Bono Resources at blandis@coloradoaccesstojustice.org.

COLORADO OFFICE OF ATTORNEY PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE (APEX)

APEX is committed to championing civility, competence, innovation, and well-being as cornerstones of Colorado's legal profession. APEX serves as a statewide hub for professional excellence in law.

1. CAMP Mentoring Programs

The Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP) is a free legal mentoring program of APEX that is dedicated to advancing lawyers, law students, and LLPs in all stages of practice across Colorado through professional mentoring and relationship development. It is easy to request a mentor by completing a mentee profile at https://coloradoattorneyexcellence.org/colorado-attorney-mentoring-program/join-camp/mentoring-options/apply-as-a-mentee/.

2. Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice

LEJ prepares talented and entrepreneurial lawyers and LLPs in Colorado to launch and manage innovative, socially conscious, and successful law practices. LEJ is the legal incubator of APEX. LEJ offers the training, mentoring, resources, and support for lawyers and LLPs to establish, maintain, and grow firms addressing the needs of low- and middle-income legal consumers. LEJ lawyers and LLPs are committed to offering predictable pricing and flexible representation options, and to leveraging technology and innovation to increase client engagement and supply services efficiently and effectively. Cohorts launch annually each January. Applications are accepted year-round. More details about LEJ and information session dates can be found at https://coloradoattorneyexcellence.org/legal-entrepreneurs-for-justice/.

3. Colorado Well-Being Recognition Program for Legal Employers

The Colorado Supreme Court's Well-Being Recognition Program for Legal Employers represents a step forward in shifting the culture of well-being in Colorado's legal profession. Through this first-of-its-kind program, the Colorado Supreme Court recognizes solo practitioners, legal employers, and individual legal professionals for implementing within their organizations strategies and recommendations encompassing six specific goal areas of legal well-being. The recognition program supplies participants with access to education, resources, support, and technical assistance to incorporate well-being strategies into their organizations. Additionally, the program includes a Colorado Legal Well-Being Leadership Cohort to encourage dialogue, innovation, and accountability in implementing well-being practices in legal workplaces. Attorneys and LLPs can take the pledge to legal well-being on behalf of themselves or their organizations at https://coloradoattorneyexcellence.org/colorado-legal-well-being/take-the-pledge/.



E-FILING INFORMATION FOR PRO BONO CASES

The **Colorado Courts e-filing system** allows attorneys and LLPs to file most documents into their cases remotely. The system also enables the review of case files and the receipt of documents and notices from the court.

If you already have an e-filing account:

You may already have an account that was created through your law firm or solo practice. You may use the same account for your pro bono cases, or you can create a secondary account using a different email address. (For example, you may have a law firm email account for your paid work and a volunteer email account with a legal aid organization for your pro bono work.)

If you do not have an e-filing account:

If you do not have an e-filing account, you can create one HERE. Please note that if you are filing pro hac vice, you will need to fill out an additional form.

If you are a retired attorney practicing with a pro bono counsel license:

You may still obtain an e-filing account in Colorado. Work with the legal aid organization you are volunteering for to gain access to the Colorado Courts e-filing system. If you have retired your Colorado bar number or have never had a Colorado bar number, you receive a pro bono bar number that begins with the year and “PB” (such as 26PBXXX). That number does not work for e-filing, so you will need to contact the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel (OARC), and they issue a different number to use for e-filing—usually an 8000- or 9000-series number.



TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS RESOURCES

The following training resources are available to help volunteers better understand the impact that trauma, stress, mental health challenges, and life crises may have on individuals seeking legal assistance.

Trauma-Informed Training
Mental Health Awareness

Topics discussed in the linked materials include the following:

- Applying trauma-informed care principles and practices
- Understanding the impact of trauma on communication, decision-making, and behavior
- Incorporating mental health awareness in legal services settings
- Regulating emotions and stress responses
- Communicating using effective client-centered strategies
- Building trust through safety, choice, collaboration, respect, and empowerment
- Recognizing when additional support or referrals may be appropriate
- Understanding secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and self-care for legal professionals and volunteers

These resources are intended to increase awareness, improve communication, and support positive interactions with clients who may be experiencing housing instability, financial hardship, family conflict, domestic violence, safety concerns, trauma, or other significant life stressors.

The materials are provided for educational and awareness purposes only and are not intended to train volunteers to diagnose or treat mental health conditions. Rather, they offer practical tools to help attorneys, LLPs, law students, paralegals, and volunteers communicate effectively, respond appropriately, and provide services in a trauma-informed and client-centered manner.

While not required, these training resources are strongly recommended for all individuals who work directly with clients through pro bono, legal aid, and access to justice programs.



Brett Landis, Director of Pro Bono Resources
Colorado Access to Justice Commission

Brett Landis (she/her) is the Director of Pro Bono Resources with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission. From 2016 to 2024, she was the Managing Attorney for Colorado Legal Services, Boulder Office. She also practiced at Warren, Carlson, & Moore in Niwot and she worked for Legal Aid Services of Oregon for six years, serving rural survivors of domestic violence. Brett completed a fellowship with the Survivors Justice Center after graduating from the University of Oregon School of Law. She served on the Boulder County Bar Association board (President, 2021–2022) and the CBA Leadership Selection Committee. Brett enjoys community theater with her husband and caring for their dogs.



Lauren Lester, Attorney
Lester Law

Lauren Lester is a solo attorney and entrepreneur, who considers herself a lifelong student and teacher of building a law practice you love. She's the founder of two businesses: Lester Law, a client-centered estate planning and prenup firm helping Colorado families protect what matters most, and A Different Practice, where she teaches attorneys how to build profitable, sustainable practices so they can earn more and work less.

Lauren opened her practice straight out of law school in 2015. She holds a J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law and a B.A. from the University of Florida (Go Gators!). She's the author of Value Over Time, a guide to value-based pricing for legal practitioners, and has been an advocate for flat-fee, human-centered legal work for over ten years. She was awarded the ABA's Brown Select Award for Legal Access in 2023.

When she's not lawyering or teaching, you'll find her with her partner and daughters, reading in a cozy nook, outside in the Colorado sunshine, and tending to her backyard beehive.



Gail Rodosevich, LLP
Director of Pro Bono Services
Colorado Legal Services

Gail Rodosevich(she/her) has led pro bono initiatives at Colorado Legal Services (CLS) for 18 years, including the pro bono Family Law Court Program, Eviction Diversion Program, Kinship Adoption Program, and Record-Sealing Program. She currently serves as Chair of the 10th Judicial District Access to Justice Subcommittee and was among Colorado's first Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals. In 2024, she became CLS's Statewide Director of Pro Bono Services. Gail has received multiple awards recognizing her work to expand access to justice. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.