

Make 1.0417 Days a Year Count

25 hours or 1.0417 days or 0.0029 of a year.

That is how much time the Law Society hopes every lawyer would pledge for pro bono work per year.

The following is an overview of the Law Society's pro bono volunteer opportunities including volunteer requirements, average pro bono time commitment and support that will be extended to volunteers. We hope that this guide will help all lawyers to renew and fulfill their yearly pro bono pledge regardless of specialisation or seniority.

Community Legal Clinics

Free legal clinics for needy Singaporeans and Permanent Residents dispensing basic legal advice on personal matters (ie business/commercial matters excluded).

Volunteer requirements: Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore.

Average pro bono time commitment: 2.5 to 15 hours per volunteer per annum.

Support for volunteer lawyers: Comprehensive legal clinic manual; advance notice of clinic cases for scheduled session by way of a detailed clinic case list/synopsis; pre-registration interview/clinic administration/clinic attendee follow-up handled by the Pro Bono Services Office including referrals to social service agencies for psycho/socio issues.

To volunteer, contact Shenton Tan of the Pro Bono Services Office at 6536 0650 / shenton@lawsoc.org.sg.

Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ('CLAS')

Free legal representation for non capital cases where accused claims trial.

Volunteer requirements: Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore with criminal practice experience.

Average pro bono time commitment: 25 to 100 hours per lawyer per annum.

Support for volunteer lawyers: Sourcing for assisting counsel/volunteer psychiatrists/volunteer interpreters; ad hoc legal research and paralegal support from volunteer law undergraduates; mentoring for junior lawyers by senior CLAS practitioners.

To register as a volunteer, contact Shanaaz Banu of the Pro Bono Services Office at 6536 0650 / shanaaz@lawsoc.org.sg.

Project Law Help

Free non-litigation commercial legal advice offered by volunteer law practices for charities, non-profit organisations and voluntary welfare organisations with limited or no financial resources to pay for legal advice.

Volunteer requirements: Local practice with corporate expertise.

Average pro bono time commitment: 50 hours per practice per annum.

Support for volunteer practices: Comprehensive letter of engagement incorporating relevant disclaimers.

If your law practice would like to volunteer, contact Wong Peck Lin of the Pro Bono Services Office at 6536 0650 / pecklin@lawsoc.org.sg.

Mentor/Specialist Resource

Mentoring of new volunteers and/or specialist resource for volunteers' queries on practice.

Volunteer requirements: Practice specialist.

Average pro bono time commitment: 10 to 25 hours per annum.

Support for volunteers: Administrative support.

To volunteer, contact Wong Peck Lin of the Pro Bono Services Office at 6536 0650 / pecklin@lawsoc.org.sg

Knowledge Database Contributor

Assist in editing, compiling and contributing to volunteer manuals, guides and other information resources for volunteers/pro bono initiatives.

Volunteer requirements: Law degree.

Average pro bono time commitment: 10 to 25 hours per annum.

Support for volunteers: Access to library resources, paralegal support.

To volunteer, contact Wong Peck Lin of the Pro Bono Services Office at 6536 0650 / pecklin@lawsoc.org.sg