

# Spreading Holiday Cheer with the Gift of Pro Bono Service



By Ndidi N. Moses

Ndidi N. Moses is the Vice President of the CBA and chair of the Pro Bono Committee.

Ndidi N. Moses

'Tis the season when the days are shorter, the nights are longer, the air is crisper, and the need for pro bono service is greater. This time of year is known as the season for harvesting, gratitude, happiness, and celebration. What's a better way to give gratitude, celebrate your bountiful harvest, and bring in the new year, than to bring happiness to those who are in need by doing pro bono service? Somewhere in Connecticut, someone is in need of pro bono services, and if you want to find out where, we can help you find them.

## Helping Families

If you are interested in ensuring that families are able to spend the holidays in their homes with their loved ones at their side, you can contact:

- Connecticut Fair Housing Center ([ctfairhousing.org](http://ctfairhousing.org))
- Connecticut Legal Services ([ctlegal.org](http://ctlegal.org))
- Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut ([slsct.org](http://slsct.org))
- Lawyers for Children America ([lawyersforchildrenamerica.org](http://lawyersforchildrenamerica.org))
- CT LawHelp Pro Bono Portal ([probono.ctlawhelp.org](http://probono.ctlawhelp.org))

The first three organizations listed above utilize pro bono legal assistance to help service and empower low income families who are in desperate need of legal assistance. The Connecticut Fair Housing Center seeks pro bono assistance to help families with housing and lending issues, related to housing discrimination and foreclosures. Connecticut Legal Services and Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut help low income families with a range of issues, including: eviction, divorce, custody, school expulsion, employment discrimination, wills, healthcare directives, and Social Security, to name a few. Additionally, both Lawyers for Children America and CT LawHelp Pro Bono Portal provide an array of pro bono opportunities tailored to helping families and children in need, including opportunities in the area of juvenile detention and immigration.

## Helping the Elderly

If you are interested in providing pro bono legal services to empower the elderly—the people who worked, fought, raised families, paid taxes, contributed to their community, and paved the way for many of the civil rights we have today—try contacting:

- Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. ([connlegalservices.org](http://connlegalservices.org))

You can ask about their Consumer Law Project for Elders ([ctelderlaw.org](http://ctelderlaw.org)).

## Helping Veterans

If you are looking to do pro bono work to thank veterans for their service, you can contact:

- Connecticut Veterans Legal Center ([ctveteranslegal.org](http://ctveteranslegal.org))
- Homeless Experience Legal Project (H.E.L.P.) ([homelesslegalprotection.com](http://homelesslegalprotection.com))

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center works to “help veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income.” The Homeless Experience Legal Project (H.E.L.P.) is another organization that works to help Connecticut's homeless population and is sponsored by the Connecticut Appleseed Foundation ([ctappleseed.org/projects](http://ctappleseed.org/projects)).

## Helping Indigent Individuals

If you want to ensure that indigent individuals who are charged with a crime are provided with competent representation, at trial and on appeal, you can reach out to:

- Connecticut Legal Services ([ctlegal.org](http://ctlegal.org))
- Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut ([slsct.org](http://slsct.org))
- Lawyers for Children America ([lawyersforchildrenamerica.org](http://lawyersforchildrenamerica.org))

For cases in federal court, you can apply to the Criminal Justice Act Panel (CJA Panel) by submitting an application to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut ([ctd.uscourts.gov/becoming-member-cja-panel](http://ctd.uscourts.gov/becoming-member-cja-panel)).

## Helping with Civil Cases

If you are interested in handling civil cases in state or federal court, you are in luck because the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut's new Local Rule 83.10 created a new volunteer panel of attorneys, and they are seeking members. Go to, [ctd.uscourts.gov/pro-bono-information-0](http://ctd.uscourts.gov/pro-bono-information-0) for more information, or e-mail [ProBono@ctd.uscourts.gov](mailto:ProBono@ctd.uscourts.gov).

Also, the Connecticut Judicial Branch has a Volunteer Attorney Program, in the areas of foreclosure, small claims, contract collections, and family law. Visit [jud.ct.gov/volunteer\\_atty\\_prgm.htm](http://jud.ct.gov/volunteer_atty_prgm.htm).

*(Continued on page 40)*

## Pro Bono (Continued from page 33)

### Helping Disadvantaged Communities

If you are looking to find out which non-profit organization serving disadvantaged communities is in need of assistance to help further its mission, you can start by contacting the Pro Bono Partnership at [probonopartnership.org](http://probonopartnership.org), which was founded by corporate counsel, and provides a host of diverse business and transactional pro bono opportunities.

### Helping with Limited Time

If you are not sure how much time you have to commit to pro bono, but you want to utilize your legal skills to give back to the community, try volunteering for Connecticut Free Legal Answers ([ct.freelegalanswers.org](http://ct.freelegalanswers.org)), a virtual legal advice clinic.

This is not an exhaustive list of pro bono opportunities. Be sure to ask your friends and colleagues for ideas, and search online for pro bono opportunities. But as you can tell, the opportunities to give back are infinite.

With the changing of the leaves, and the falling of snow flakes, there is something

very magical in the air. It seems like the whole atmosphere is bursting with endless opportunities, and an energy inspiring us all to commit random acts of kindness toward strangers who are in need. We encourage you to take advantage of the many pro bono opportunities available, and write to the Connecticut Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee at 30 Bank St, New Britain, CT 06051, to let us know about your "Holiday Gift of Pro Bono." We would love to hear from you, and publish your story in a future issue of the *Connecticut Lawyer*, to encourage others to volunteer for pro bono opportunities. ■

### Statement of Ownership

United States Postal Service  
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation  
PS Form 3526  
(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. **Publication Title:** *Connecticut Lawyer*
2. **Publication Number:** 1057-2384
3. **Filing Date:** 10-1-18
4. **Issue Frequency:** Bimonthly
5. **Number of Issues Published Annually:** 6
6. **Annual Subscription Price:** N/A
7. **Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:**  
30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT 06051  
**Contact Person:** Alysha Adamo; **Telephone:** 860-612-2008
8. **Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:**  
30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT 06051
9. **Full Names and Complete Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:**  
**Publisher**—Suzanne Hard, Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT 06051  
**Editor**—Alysha Adamo, Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT 06051  
**Managing Editor**—N/A
10. **Owner:** Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT 06051
11. **Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities:** None
12. **Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates):** The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Has Not Changed During the Preceding Twelve Months
13. **Publication Title:** *Connecticut Lawyer*
14. **Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:** November/December 2018 Issue
15. **Extent and Nature of Circulation:** (In the two sets of numbers under each category, the first indicates the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months; the second indicates the number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date.)
  - a. **Total number of Copies (Net Press Run):** 9,285/9,666
  - b. **Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)**
    - (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 3,865/4,070
    - (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 5,061/5,283
    - (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 0/0
    - (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS: 0/0
  - c. **Total Paid Distribution (Sum 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4)):** 8,926/9,353
  - d. **Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)**
    - (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0/0
    - (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0/0
    - (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS: 40/40
    - (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail: 25/25
  - e. **Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4)):** 65/65
  - f. **Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e):** 8,991/9,418
  - g. **Copies Not Distributed:** 294/248
  - h. **Total (Sum of 15f and g):** 9,285/9,666
  - i. **Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100):** 99%/99%
16. **Electronic Copy Circulation** (In the two sets of numbers under each category, the first indicates the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months; the second indicates the number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date.)
  - a. **Paid Electronic Copies:** 8,985/8,997
  - b. **Total Paid Print Copies (Line 16c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a):** 17,911/18,350
  - c. **Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a):** 17,976/18,415
  - d. **Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100):** 99%/99%

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price: yes

#### 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

Publication of this statement is required and will be printed in the Nov/Dec 2018 issue of this publication.

#### 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Alysha Adamo, 10-1-18

I certify that all information furnished in this form is true and complete.