

Members Answer Call to Provide More Pro Bono Services

By DANIEL J. HORGAN

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

—Sir Winston Churchill

Summer is in full swing and the recent bar year ended on a high note as our commitment to increasing pro bono activities and opportunities for our members is at an all-time high. Led by Jenn Shukla, our

industrious director of access to justice initiatives, our pro bono programs counseled hundreds of Connecticut residents who were facing serious legal problems for FREE! The CBA is proving with action that we are ready to take on

our access to justice crises facing our state. Below are some highlights of our successful year.

For the first time ever, the CBA held four virtual Free Legal Advice Clinics in one bar year, from October through June. Each clinic spanned two days with over 40 attorneys and 30 paralegals and law students assisting approximately 160 clients. Plans are underway to continue providing four separate sessions throughout the upcoming year.

The Lawyers in Libraries program grew from two participating libraries when our program began in the fall of 2020 to ten libraries! Once a month for two hours, our members travel to those libraries and meet with clients. The librarians who are instrumental in organizing these programs can't thank us enough for helping to fill a great and growing need for legal advice for their patrons. I have personally worked Norwich, New London, and Middletown libraries, and the feeling of helping a fellow citizen with a stressful legal problem is worth my time and effort.

Our CT Free Legal Answers program went on the road to UConn Law School where several students worked with CBA members to help research and answer questions from pro bono clients. In case you are unaware, all UConn, Quinnipiac, Yale, and WNEU faculty and students are now CBA members. We intend to continue our pro bono efforts with the law students next year adding to the robust and innovating programs already established.

Lawyers in Libraries Program

Let's continue to fill up the map with more participating libraries—email probonoclinics@ctbar.org to volunteer.

We must continue our collective efforts to provide free legal services. Whether you are a new or a seasoned lawyer, managing partner in a large law firm, or a small/solo firm, we are counting on you to help spread the word and carry the momentum into next year. We do not require mandatory pro bono hours as many other states require; however, we should all be reminded of our ethical responsibility pursuant to Rule 6.1 of the Professional Rules of Conduct, "A lawyer should render public interest legal service." Enjoy these warm summer days. ■



Daniel J. Horgan is the CBA president and chair of its Pro Bono Committee. He is an experienced litigator with Horgan Law Office in New London.

"Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person."



**CBA Free Legal Advice Clinic:
Volunteers Needed**

Tuesday, July 26, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Serving the Needs of the Connecticut Legal Community



Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers – Connecticut, Inc. ("LCL-CT") is a Connecticut non-profit corporation created to provide assistance to Connecticut lawyers, judges and law students who experience substance use disorders, mental health issues, stress, age-related problems or other distress that impacts the individual's ability to function personally and professionally.

LCL services are available at no cost to all attorneys, judges and law students in the State of Connecticut.

All LCL services are strictly confidential and protected under C.G.S. §51-81d(a), as amended.

**Visit our website: www.lclct.org
Contact LCL today for FREE, CONFIDENTIAL support
HOTLINE: 1-800-497-1422**

Thank You to Our CBA Pro Bono Volunteers

The CBA is grateful to the following attorneys who provided representation to clients in need through the CBA's pro bono programs during the 2021-2022 bar year.

CBA PRO BONO CONNECT

Volunteers in the Pro Bono Connect Program pledge to take on at least one direct representation case each year for a client with low or no income. Volunteers receive complimentary on-demand training and are connected with a legal aid organization to be matched with a pro bono case based on the volunteer's geographic area and expressed interests.

Charles R. Andres
Carlton S. Chen
Barbara J. Collins
Cassandra L. Dulepski
Christopher R. Henderson
Sylvia M. Ho
Alexa T. Millinger
Vivian M. Moreno-Zelinka
Julie A. Moscato
Robert G. Pethick
Melvin A. Simon

BANKRUPTCY PRO BONO PROGRAM

Attorneys with experience handling bankruptcy matters can volunteer

to represent qualifying individuals in Chapter 7 Bankruptcy cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Volunteers can choose to help with petition filing only or with adversary proceedings and contested matters.

Janine M. Becker
David F. Falvey
Earle Giovanniello
Bonnie C. Mangan
Paige M. Vaillancourt

FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINICS

Held quarterly, volunteer attorneys provide legal advice virtually for 30 minutes to Connecticut residents who cannot afford an attorney. Prior to the client meeting, volunteers receive information about the client's situation and a summary of an intake interview to help the attorney prepare.

Justin M. Ahern
John Aldrich
Jennifer Antognini-O'Neill
Patricia A. Ayars
Nicole C. Bikakis
Tamar R. Birckhead

Ronald J. Brien
Dana R. Bucin
Kenneth E. Caisse
Gregory P. Carnese
Patrick D. Coughlin
Craig N. Coulombe
Robert L. Day III
Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt
Theresa Rose Nickols DeGray
Salihah R. Denman
Joshua J. Devine
Wendy D. DiChristina
Cassandra L. Dulepski
Garlinck Dumont
Thomas G. Egan
Marc T. Finer
Matthew J. Forrest
Paul A. Garlinghouse
Joel M. Grafstein
Angela M. Haen
Theodore W. Heiser
Abram J. Heisler
Eric P. Hoffman
Isis M. Irizarry
Ronald D. Japha
Adam A. Laben
John M. Letizia
Maurice D. Maitland

Ellen M. Messali
Hilary B. Miller
David M. Moore
Julie A. Moscato
Emily J. Moskowitz
Basam E. Nabulsi
Deborah A. Noonan
Erin I. O'Neil-Baker
Donald D. Philips
Sarah Poriss
Sikandar I. Rana
Sylvia D. Reid
Charlotte S. Ricketts
Melvin A. Simon
Joseph D. Szerejko
Paige M. Vaillancourt
Jayna Velez-Molina
Honorable M. Nawaz Wahla (ret.)
Russell D. Zimmerlin

CT FREE LEGAL ANSWERS

Administered by the CBA in Connecticut, Free Legal Answers is an ABA-supported website where eligible Connecticut residents can post their legal questions. Volunteer attorneys provide confidential written responses to the clients on the website.

James G. Clark
Joanne S. Faulkner
Brian J. Glenn

Elizabeth J. Hartery
Christopher R. Henderson
Daniel J. Horgan
Ronald D. Japha
Kyle J. LaBuff (Initiated program)
Stephanie C. Laska
Linda C. Lehmann-Taylor
Megan Maynard
David M. Moore
Vivian M. Moreno-Zelinka
Daryll E. Odierna
William C. Sherman

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES

Volunteer attorneys provide legal advice to members of the public at local libraries during a two-hour block each month. Clients register in advance for a 20-minute appointment. Areas of law covered include landlord/tenant, immigration, family, employment, consumer rights, and personal injury.

Michael L. Anderson
Nathaniel E. Baber
Janine M. Becker
Richard D. Carella
Steven T. Cooper
Leopold P. DeFusco
Candace V. Fay
Daniel J. Horgan
Samem Jabarkhail

Ronald D. Japha
Haseeb Khan
Daniel L. King
Kyle J. LaBuff (Initiated program)
Megan Maynard
John N. Montalbano
Samuel M. Nassetta
Jose A. Pol
Sikandar I. Rana
Roger T. Scully
Albert L. J. Speziali
Jonathan E. Spodnick
M. Joseph Strafaci
Alison J. Toumekian
Thomas H. Wilkeson
Kyle J. Zrenda

CBA DISASTER RELIEF LEGAL ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

To assist victims of the remnants of Hurricane Ida in Connecticut, the CBA established a legal assistance hotline in which attorneys provided legal advice and guidance to hotline callers.

Maria I. Garriga
Eric P. Hoffman
Micoya G. Hutchins
Erin I. O'Neil-Baker

VOLUNTEER TODAY AT [CTBAR.ORG/PROBONO](https://ctbar.org/probono).