

# Six Ways to Provide Pro Bono Service

**R**ight now, thousands of Connecticut families cannot afford an attorney and risk losing their home, access to their children, or other important rights without legal assistance. At any given time in Connecticut:

- ◆ 77 percent of litigants in custody cases are self-represented; many cannot afford an attorney and may risk losing regular access to their child
- ◆ Approximately 21,000 litigants in property foreclosure proceedings are self-represented each year
- ◆ There is only about one civil legal aid attorney per 5,000 residents living in poverty

The CBA offers the following six programs to help narrow the access to justice gap:

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## CT FREE LEGAL ANSWERS

*Administered by the CBA in Connecticut, CT 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.*

**When:** Anytime; answering a question typically takes only 15 to 20 minutes

**Where:** Volunteers post answers online

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## FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINICS

*For 30 minutes, volunteer attorneys provide legal advice virtually 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.*

**When:** Quarterly in January, April, July, and October

**Where:** Virtual

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## 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.*

**When:** Two-hour event held once per month

**Where:** Libraries in Bridgeport, Danbury, Middletown, New Britain, New London, Norwich, Simsbury, and Stamford

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## CBA PRO BONO CONNECT

*Volunteers in the CBA Pro Bono Connect Program pledge to take 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.*

**When:** Ongoing, typical commitment of five to 30 hours per year

**Where:** Cases are assigned to volunteers based on their locality

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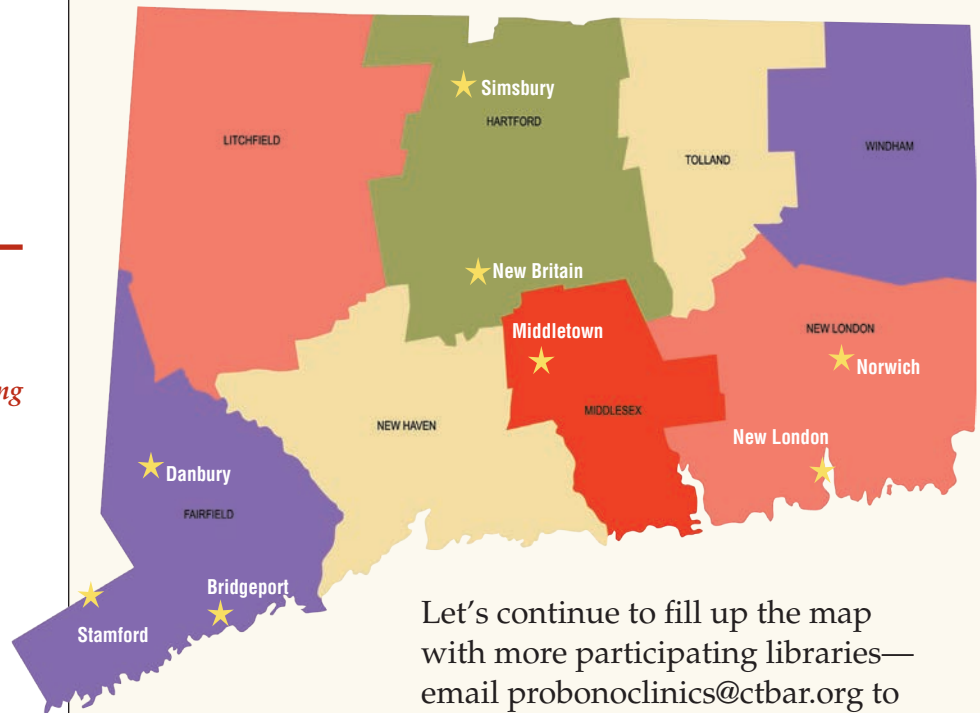
## BANKRUPTCY PRO BONO PROGRAM

*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.*

**When:** Ongoing

**Where:** Petition volunteers may work remotely; hearing volunteers may be required to appear in court

## Lawyers in Libraries Program



Let's continue to fill up the map with more participating libraries—email [probonoclinics@ctbar.org](mailto:probonoclinics@ctbar.org) to volunteer.

### EMERITUS PRO BONO ATTORNEY PROGRAM

*A CBA representative consults with retired, semi-retired, or non-practicing attorneys to find a pro bono opportunities that fit their interests, experience, and availability.*

**When:** Ongoing

**Where:** In-person and online opportunities

To learn more or sign up for any of these pro bono opportunities, visit [ctbar.org/volunteer](http://ctbar.org/volunteer). ■



### CBA Free Legal Advice Clinic: Volunteers Needed

Tuesday, October 25, 2022  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26, 2022  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



If you have 30 minutes free, you can volunteer. Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions in their area of practice during a 30-minute remote session with a client.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Fraudulent Business/Debt Collection
- Employee Rights/Unemployment
- Immigration Law
- Landlord/Tenant
- Family Law
- Tax Law
- Bankruptcy
- Pardons
- Wills and Estates
- Torts

Volunteer opportunities are available for paralegals and law students as well. Visit [ctbar.org/FreeLegalAdviceClinics](http://ctbar.org/FreeLegalAdviceClinics) to learn more and register.

