

Clinics and Other Discrete and Less-Time-Intensive Opportunities That Have a Big Impact

The following is a list of opportunities at Public Counsel that are a good fit for volunteers who are seeking a less time-intensive experience. All of the matters on the list are available to attorneys. Some are also available to law students and non-attorney professionals. If you are interested in a particular matter, and meet the qualifications, please feel free to reach out directly to the identified contact person.

Click to read more:

[Federal Pro Se Clinic](#)
[Bankruptcy Self-Help Desk and Clinic](#)
[Bankruptcy Reaffirmation Hearings](#)
[Homeless Court](#)
[Community Development Project Educational Seminars](#)
[Early Care & Education Project Educational Seminars](#)
[Public Counsel CARES Project](#)
[Homelessness Prevention Clinic at People Assisting the Homeless](#)
[Guardianship Clinic](#)

Federal Pro Se Clinic

For attorneys who want to provide assistance to pro se litigants for several hours on one day in a courthouse clinic setting. You will work under the supervision of an experienced staff attorney. This is a great opportunity to learn or hone your understanding of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and to further acquaint yourself with the forms used in Federal Court.

Location: Downtown Federal Court building.

Time Commitment: Clinic takes place Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, mornings, or afternoons. Interested persons could volunteer on a limited basis or commit to an ongoing schedule.

Qualifications: Attorneys with any level and type of experience [note: no prior litigation experience required -- transactional and advisory specialists are quite welcome too].

Contact Person: Janet Lewis, at jlewis@publiccounsel.org;

Bankruptcy Self-Help Desk and Clinic

For attorneys who wish to help individuals through the bankruptcy process, either by counseling individuals one-on-one at the self-help desk or presenting to a group in a workshop-style clinic. You will gain valuable client counseling skills and increase the breadth of your bankruptcy knowledge due to the plethora of bankruptcy and bankruptcy-related issues that arise at the bankruptcy self help desk and clinic.

Location: Self-help desk located at the Federal Building at 300 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Clinics take place at Public Counsel's offices located at 610 S. Ardmore, Los Angeles, CA 90005.

Time Commitment: Self-help desk is open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-2 and 2-4, you could volunteer on a quarterly or monthly basis. Clinics are held every other Tuesday from 12-5.

Qualifications: Attorneys with any level and type of experience [note: no prior bankruptcy experience required].

Contact Person: Maggie Bordeaux at mbordeaux@publiccounsel.org;

Bankruptcy Reaffirmation Hearings

For attorneys who would like to gain valuable client counseling skill by advising debtors regarding the consequences of reaffirming a particular debt prior to their reaffirmation hearing.

Location: Reaffirmation Hearings take place at the in the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Court and the Woodland Hills Bankruptcy Court.

Time Commitment: you could volunteer on a monthly or quarterly basis for a specific hearing date(s) at either court location.

Qualifications: Attorneys with any level and type of experience. No prior bankruptcy experience required

Contact Person: Maggie Bordeaux at mbordeaux@publiccounsel.org;

Homeless Court

For attorneys and law students wishing to make appearances with formerly homeless or at-risk clients before a Superior Court Judge to request dismissals of tickets and warrants for quality of life offenses.

Location and Time: Typically held every other month on a Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 p.m., or Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at a community center such as PATH, located at 340 N. Madison Avenue, near Beverly and Vermont, or The Salvation Army in Pasadena; you may volunteer on a one-time basis or commit to an ongoing schedule.

Qualifications: Attorneys and law students may volunteer. No prior litigation experience required.

Contact Person: Elizabeth Kerns, at ekerns@publiccounsel.org;

Community Development Project Educational Seminars

For attorneys who wish to educate non-profit or small business clients about particular legal issues (usually transactional in nature).

Location and Time: Seminars are arranged at various locations and on various dates throughout the year. The amount of time for each presentation is finite, and attorneys can commit to doing a single presentation without any requirement to do additional presentations. This is a great opportunity to gain public speaking experience. Most of the presentation materials and technical support needed to understand and teach the materials will be provided to the volunteer attorney by Public Counsel.

Qualifications: Attorneys with at least one year of general practical experience.

Contact Person: Carlo Castro, at ccastro@publiccounsel.org;

Early Care & Education Project Educational Seminars

For attorneys who wish to educate child care providers about particular legal issues arising from running a small business.

Location and Time: seminars are arranged at various locations and on various dates throughout the year. The amount of time for each presentation is finite, and attorneys can commit to doing a single presentation without any requirement to do additional presentations. This is a great opportunity to gain public speaking experience. The presentation materials and technical support needed to understand and teach the materials may be provided to the volunteer attorney by Public Counsel.

Qualifications: For attorneys with any level and type of experience.

Contact Person: Betty Barberena at Bbarberena@publiccounsel.org;

[\[Return to Top\]](#)

Public Counsel CARES Project

For nearly 25 years, Public Counsel staff and volunteers have been a constant presence in LA County's social service offices. We've built a reputation of obtaining results for people struggling with poverty. Angelenos know that Public Counsel connects people to essential services, Public Counsel fights for people's dignity and rights and Public Counsel cares about their future.

That's why we're announcing Public Counsel CARES, the new name for our signature General Relief Advocacy Project (GRAP). Public Counsel CARES stands for "Connecting Angelenos to Resources and Essential Services." It also stands for the way our project has grown beyond protecting General Relief (GR) benefits to pushing for systemic changes and being a louder voice for Angelenos' rights.

For any attorney, law student, or non-attorney professional interested in volunteering, Public Counsel's CARES Project is the largest and most well-established legal advocacy program working on-site in multiple offices of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Each year hundreds of volunteer law students, attorneys and persons with no prior legal experience are trained in a one day experience consisting of an informational seminar in the morning and advocacy in the afternoon. In one day you will be able, with the supervision and support of our staff attorneys, to advocate on behalf of impoverished clients, helping them secure desperately needed shelter, food, healthcare, transportation and other social services and benefits.

Qualifications: No prior experience in the subject area required.

Time Commitment: Half day for training and half day for advocacy service.

Contact Person: Lucy Petrow, at lpetrow@publiccounsel.org; note: if you are from a law firm or business group and wish to coordinate a day of CARES advocacy for multiple members of your organization, please contact Miss Petrow to make appropriate arrangements;

Homelessness Prevention Clinic at People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

For attorneys and law students interested in doing intake and providing limited advice to homeless and at-risk individuals at a once-a-month walk-in clinic.

Location and Time: PATH's 340 N. Madison Avenue site, near Beverly and Vermont; second Wednesday of every month; from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; could volunteer on a limited one-time basis or commit to an ongoing schedule.

Qualifications: This is for attorneys and law students with any level and type of experience.

Contact Person: Sarah Evans, at sevans@publiccounsel.org.

[\[Return to Top\]](#)

Attorney Or Law Student Volunteer For Pro Per Guardianship Clinic

Background Information: Public Counsel's *Pro Per* Guardianship Clinic has an available position for a volunteer attorney or law student to assist *pro per* litigants to file applications for probate guardianship. This is an opportunity to work directly with low-income people on a one-on-one basis. We assist friends or family of children whose parents are either unable or unavailable to care for them. Under the guidance of Public Counsel's staff attorney, volunteers conduct client intake interviews, navigate the legal software used to complete the required paperwork and are educated about the court process and legal requirements so that they may explain the relevant law and procedures to litigants. Volunteers are also offered the opportunity to observe court hearings.

Minimum Qualifications: Attorney or law student with any level of experience.

Expected Time Commitment: Clinic hours are Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.- 4 p.m. Volunteers may also assist at the Public Counsel main office on Thursdays. We request that volunteers commit to 6-8 hours per week, for a minimum of 12 weeks.

Date Needed: Immediate

Location(s):

Pro Per Guardianship Clinic
Stanley Most Courthouse (Downtown Los Angeles)
111 N. Hill St., Room 230
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Main Offices of Public Counsel
610 South Ardmore Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

How to Apply for the Position:

Please send your resume and cover letter to:
Leslie Parrish
Senior Attorney
Children's Rights Project
610 South Ardmore Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90005
Tel: (213) 385-2977 x133, Fax: (213) 385-9089
lparrish@publiccounsel.org

[\[Return to Top\]](#)