



PRO BONO CENTER

Allegheny County Bar Foundation



Legal Services Directory

*Free and reduced-cost legal services
available to low-income residents of
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*

Prepared by: The Pro Bono Center
Allegheny County Bar Foundation
400 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
Phone: 412-402-6677

1st ed., March 2009

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation

Balancing the scales of justice through education, philanthropy, and community service

www.acbf.org

Preface

About the Pro Bono Center: The Pro Bono Center (Center) is part of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides educational programming, promotes public awareness of the legal and judicial systems, renders legal services to low-income clients, and provides financial assistance and grants to legal-related organizations. The Center is frequently the first stop, and often the place of last resort, for persons of limited financial means who are in need of legal services. A full-time Pro Bono Coordinator works actively to identify areas of need for legal services and develop new programs to meet those needs. The Center supports and works directly with community organizations and legal service providers that screen and place eligible clients with volunteer attorneys. The Center also provides volunteer opportunities for attorneys through programs sponsored by the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

About this directory: The Legal Services Directory is intended to be used to refer low-income individuals and organizations to an appropriate provider of free or reduced-cost legal services. It is limited to programs that provide legal advice, referral, and/or representation. Many other resources not listed here may be helpful to a person seeking assistance. One very helpful source of additional information on programs statewide is PALawHELP.org.

Inclusion of a program in this directory is not intended to be an endorsement of the quality of a program's services nor any guarantee that the services listed are available.

This directory is a publication of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and was made possible through the assistance of the Pittsburgh Paralegal Association.

If you are a provider listed in this directory, please notify the Pro Bono Center of any changes that you feel are needed to better represent the services you provide. Submit changes to:

Pro Bono Coordinator
Allegheny County Bar Foundation
436 Seventh Ave., Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Phone: 412-402-6677
Fax: 412-261-3622
Email: probono2@acba.org

Who is eligible for services? Eligibility for pro bono legal services is normally based on income, although some programs, particularly those serving the elderly, are available without regard to income. Income-based programs normally set their limits according to a percentage of the federal poverty guidelines. The guidelines are set each year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and can be found in the *Federal Register* or at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>. Some Pro Bono Center projects accept clients whose family income is no higher than 250% of the poverty guideline, while other organizations and projects have

much lower eligibility thresholds. Eligibility of a non-profit organization normally is determined by the size of the non-profit's budget.

The Lawyer Referral Service, 412-261-5555: Individuals who are ineligible for pro bono programs, due to either their income or the nature of their legal issue, may get help in finding an attorney through the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) of the Allegheny County Bar Association. LRS is designed to assist the public in locating lawyers for specific types of legal matters. Clients can be referred to LRS by telephone, mail, or the Internet. LRS operates by matching potential clients to a member of the referral attorney panel. LRS will provide up to a 30-minute consultation with an LRS member for \$30. After the brief consultation, clients determine if they would like to hire the attorney at the attorney's regular fee scale.

Table of Contents

Preface.....	i
Table of Contents	iii
Alphabetical Index of Providers	iv
Chart of Providers	vi
Children and Families (adoption, child custody, divorce, domestic violence, support)	1
Civil Rights	4
Consumer (bankruptcy, credit, debt, foreclosure).....	5
Criminal	6
Disabilities and Health.....	7
Disaster.....	9
Divorce.....	10
Education (expulsion, special education, student rights, suspension)	11
Elderly (guardianships, health insurance, powers of attorney, wills)	12
Employment (discrimination, unemployment compensation, wages).....	13
Entertainment.....	14
General Legal Service Providers.....	15
Housing (discrimination, landlord/tenant, public housing)	17
Immigrants	18
Military and Veterans (benefits, employment, family, housing)	19
Non-profit Corporations.....	20
Public Benefits (social security, SSI, welfare).....	21
Taxes	22

Alphabetical Index

ACBA Modest Means Program	15
ACHIEVA.....	7, 11
American Civil Liberties Union	4
Adoption Committee Birth Parent Consultation Project.....	1
Allegheny County Public Defender	6
Allegheny County Solicitor	1
Anti-Predatory Lending Clinic.....	5, 17
Child Custody Guardian Project	1
Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh	15
Community Justice Project	4
Custody Conciliation Pro Bono Project.....	1
Disability Rights Network	7, 11
Disaster Relief Project	9
Divorce Law Project	1, 10
Duquesne University School of Law, Community Enterprise Clinic	20
Duquesne University School of Law, Unemployment Compensation Clinic	13
Education Law Center.....	4, 7, 11
Fair Housing Partnership	17
Fed. Court Prisoners Civil Rights Pro Bono Project.....	4
Federal Public Defender.....	6
Flood Assistance Program	9
Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts	14, 20
Indigent Birth Parent Attorney Project	1
Innocence Institute of Point Park University	6
Juvenile Court Project.....	2
KidsVoice.....	2
LawLinks	20
McKees Rocks Clinic.....	15
Mental Health America—Allegheny County	7
Military Personnel Pro Bono Project.....	19
Millvale Wellness Center Community Clinic.....	15

Neighborhood Legal Services Association	2, 5, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21
North Hills Community Outreach	16
Pennsylvania Health Law Project	7, 12
Pennsylvania SeniorLaw Help Line.....	12, 16
Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force	8
Pittsburgh Refugee & Immigrant Assistance Center	18
Pro Se Assistance Project.....	2
Regional Housing Legal Services	17
Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services	5, 17
Taxpayer Advocate	22
University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Civil Practice Clinic.....	8, 12, 21
University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Tax Clinic	22
Uptown Legal Clinic	16
Veterans Legal Clinic.....	16, 19
Welcome Center for Immigrants & Internationals	18
Wills Project.....	12
Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.....	2
Women’s Law Project.....	2, 4
YWCA’s Legal Resources for Women.....	3, 10

Chart of Legal Service Providers

	Children and Families	Civil Rights	Consumer	Criminal	Disabilities and Health	Disaster	Divorce	Education	Elderly	Employment	Entertainment	General Legal Services	Housing	Immigrants	Military and Veterans	Non-Profit Corporations	Public Benefits	Taxes
ACBA Modest Means																		
ACHIEVA																		
ACLU																		
Adoption Birth Parent Consultation Project																		
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Children and Families (Adoption, Child Custody, Divorce, Domestic Violence, Support)

ADOPTION COMMITTEE BIRTH PARENT CONSULTATION PROJECT*

Phone: 412-261-5555
Web: www.acbf.org

Provides legal consultations to low-income birth parents contemplating or involved in private and private-agency adoptions. A project of the Adoption Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Clients are referred through the ACBA's Lawyer Referral Service.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SOLICITOR

Phone: 412-350-1120
Web: www.alleghenycounty.us/acic

Represents plaintiffs in enforcement of child support orders where defendant is in contempt. Cases are taken at the discretion of County Solicitor's office.

- No representation of defendants in child support cases.
 - No representation on child custody issues.
-

CHILD CUSTODY GUARDIAN PROJECT*

Phone: 412-288-3131

Provides attorneys to serve as guardians representing the best interests of at-risk children in high-conflict custody cases. The custody guardians are appointed by the Allegheny County Family Court. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership staffed by volunteer attorneys from Reed Smith.

CUSTODY CONCILIATION PRO BONO PROJECT*

Phone: 412-350-4311

Provides limited representation of clients at custody conciliations. When a conciliation is scheduled by the Family Court, the client may apply for an attorney by filling out a form available from the Generations office. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership managed by Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC and staffed by volunteer attorneys from Partnership member firms and legal departments.

DIVORCE LAW PROJECT*

Phone: 412-391-4467
Web: www.acbf.org

Provides representation in simple, no-fault divorce actions. A pro bono project of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

- Spouses must be separated for at least one year.
 - No custody, support, or property disputes.
-

INDIGENT BIRTH PARENT ATTORNEY PROJECT*

Phone: 412-261-5555
Web: www.acbf.org

Represents indigent birth parents in termination of parental rights proceedings in Orphans' Court. Clients are referred through the ACBA's Lawyer Referral Service.

JUVENILE COURT PROJECT*

Phone: 412-391-4467
Web: www.acbf.org

Provides pro bono legal representation to qualified low-income parents who are parties to a dependency action through Allegheny County's Juvenile Court.

KIDSVOICE*

Phone: 412-391-3100
Web: www.kidsvoice.org

KidsVoice is a non-profit organization that represents abused, neglected and at-risk children in Juvenile Court dependency proceedings.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572
Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222
Web: www.nlsa.us

General legal aid organization serving low-income persons in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. Holds Family Law Clinic on alternating Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 at downtown Pittsburgh office. Certain cases qualify for full service, which may entail representation at court proceedings. Some cases eligible for reduced-fee referrals to private attorneys. Services include: Domestic Violence, Custody, Divorce, and Support.

PRO SE ASSISTANCE PROJECT OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY*

Phone: 412-350-5600
Address: 440 Ross Street, Pittsburgh, 15219
Web: http://www.alleghenycourts.us/family/adult/pro_se_assistance.asp

Assists financially eligible unrepresented applicants in the preparation of motions to be presented to a

Family Court judge. Run by the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Family Division.

- Walk-in only. Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Applicants must sign-up at the Information Desk on the 1st floor of the Family Court. Persons seeking assistance will generally be seen in the order they sign up.
 - Bring documentation of income, including tax returns, pay stubs, W-2s, and welfare grant information.
 - No divorce actions.
-

WOMEN'S CENTER AND SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

Phone: 412-687-8005 or 877-338-8255
Web: www.wcpittsburgh.org

Provides advocacy and support services for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Provides 24-hour crisis hotline; advocacy and support services; individual counseling and support groups; comprehensive intervention and prevention services; temporary shelter. Services include:

- Children's counseling
 - Civil legal matters for victims of violence
 - Emergency shelter
 - Legal advocacy
 - Medical advocacy
 - Protection from Abuse orders
-

WOMEN'S LAW PROJECT

Phone: 412-227-0417
Web: www.womenslawproject.org

Accepts small number of high-impact cases that have the potential to benefit large numbers of women or to advance women's rights. Offers free telephone counseling and consumer education service. Volunteer counselors give basic self-help information about procedures and laws on issues pertaining to women in Pennsylvania, such as:

- Domestic Violence
- Child Custody
- Child and Spousal Support
- Separation and Divorce

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Children and Families

- Legal Rights of Lesbian and Gay Parents
 - Family and Medical leave
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Employment Discrimination
-

YWCA'S LEGAL RESOURCES FOR WOMEN*

Phone: 412-255-1243 or 412-255-1246

Web: www.ywcapgh.org

Provides indigent women low-cost legal education and referrals for affordable legal representation on legal issues including but not limited to:

- Divorce
 - Custody
 - Support
 - Juvenile
 - Bankruptcy
 - Adoption
 - Immigration
 - Wills and Trusts
 - Employment Discrimination
-

See also: Divorce
General Legal Service Providers

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Civil Rights

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Phone: 412-681-7736
Web: www.aclu.org

ACLU's mission is to preserve the protections and guarantees of the U.S. Constitution, including First Amendment rights, equal protection, due process, and privacy. Provides advocacy and legal representation in the areas of: Criminal Justice, Death Penalty, Disability Rights, Drug Policy, Free Speech, HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Immigrants' Rights, Lesbian and Gay Rights, National Security, Police Practices, Prisoner's Rights, Privacy & Testimony, Racial Justice, Religion and Belief, Reproductive Freedom, Rights of Poor, Safe & Free, Standup/Youth, Voting Rights, Women's Rights

COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

Phone: 412-434-6002
Web: www.communityjusticeproject.org

A non-profit, public interest law firm that focuses on high-impact cases that protect and expand the civil rights of low-income people. Enforces laws that protect civil rights in areas such as education, employment, and housing. Provides training and advocacy initiatives to assist families with welfare, childcare, and transportation.

EDUCATION LAW CENTER*

Phone: 412-258-2120 or 412-258-2121
Web: www.elc-pa.org

The Education Law Center is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring all Pennsylvania children have access to a quality public education, including early childhood and early intervention services from birth through age 21. Provides extensive web-based information about legal rights and procedures on issues of public education. Offers legal support to community organizations seeking state and local policy reform to improve schools and provides technical assistance and support for *pro*

bono attorneys working on matters of public education. Formal legal representation is also provided at no cost to students and families on cases involving public education reform.

FEDERAL COURT PRISONERS CIVIL RIGHTS PRO BONO PROJECT*

Phone: 412-208-7518
Contact: Colleen Willison
E-mail: Colleen_Willison@pawd.uscourts.gov

Represents prisoners who have filed non-frivolous civil claims in federal court. Ranges from one-day mediations to more protracted civil rights litigation. Managed by the Federal Court staff.

WOMEN'S LAW PROJECT

Phone: 412-227-0417
Web: www.womenslawproject.org

Accepts small number of high-impact cases that have the potential to benefit large numbers of women or to advance women's rights. Offers free telephone counseling and consumer education service. Volunteer counselors give basic self-help information about procedures and laws on issues pertaining to women in Pennsylvania, such as:

- Domestic Violence
- Child Custody
- Child and Spousal Support
- Separation and Divorce
- Legal Rights of Lesbian and Gay parents
- Family and Medical leave
- Sexual harassment
- Employment discrimination

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Consumer (Bankruptcy, Credit, Debt, Foreclosure)

ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING CLINIC*

Contact: Action Housing
Phone: 412-281-2102
E-mail: ahi@actionhousing.org
or
Contact: NeighborWorks Western Pa.
Phone: 412-281-9773
E-mail: info@nwwpa.org

See also: General Legal Service Providers
Housing

Allegheny County Sheriff's
Department, Mortgage Foreclosure
Hotline: 412-350-4704

Assists homeowners who are in danger of losing their homes due to predatory lending practices. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership staffed by attorneys from United States Steel Corporation and Pietragallo Bosick & Gordon, LLP.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572
Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222
Web: www.nlsa.us

General legal aid organization serving low-income persons in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. Holds Debt Advice Clinic on alternating Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 at downtown Pittsburgh office. Services include bankruptcy, debt collection, credit, mortgage foreclosure, and repossession.

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

Phone: 1-800-846-0871

Assists homeowners facing financial difficulties to avoid foreclosure.

Criminal

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Phone: 412-350-2400
Address: 542 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15219
Web: www.alleghenycounty.us/opd

Defendants must apply in person at the Public Defender's office. Client interviews are conducted Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Every applicant must bring a copy of their charges and verification of income or support. Provides legal counsel to indigent defendants in the following matters:

- Any proceeding where personal liberty is in jeopardy
- Criminal extradition proceedings
- Critical pretrial identification procedures
- Involuntary commitment under the Mental Health Procedures Act
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court appeals
- Person is charged with juvenile delinquency
- Post conviction hearings at the trial and appellate levels
- Preliminary hearings
- Probation and parole violation hearings
- State habeas corpus proceedings
- State trials, including pretrial and post-trial motions
- Superior Court appeals

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Phone: 412-644-6565
Web: <http://paw.fd.org>

The Office of the Federal Public Defender, Western District of Pennsylvania, operates under authority of the Criminal Justice Act of 1964 (as amended), 18 U.S.C.A. § 3006A. The office provides defense services to individuals who are financially unable to obtain adequate representation in federal criminal cases, appeals, and habeas corpus matters. A person's eligibility for defender services is determined by the federal court. Individuals may apply for counsel by contacting the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

INNOCENCE INSTITUTE OF POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

Phone: 412-765-3164
Web: www.pointpark.edu

Journalism-based program that investigates allegations of wrongful convictions.

Disabilities and Health

ACHIEVA

Phone: 412-995-5000
Web: www.achieva.info

Provides comprehensive services and supports for children and adults with disabilities and their families.

DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Phone: 412-391-5225
Hotline: 800-692-7443
Web: www.drnpa.org

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (DRN) is a statewide, non-profit corporation designated as the federally-mandated organization to advance and protect the civil rights of adults and children with disabilities. DRN works with people with disabilities and their families, their organizations, and their advocates to ensure their right to live in their communities with the services they need, to receive a full and inclusive education, to live free of discrimination, abuse and neglect, and to have control and self-determination over their services. DRN works to ensure that people with disabilities have equal and unhindered access to employment, transportation, public accommodations, and government services; to enforce their rights to vocational, habilitative, post-secondary educational, health, and other services; and to protect them from abuse and neglect.

EDUCATION LAW CENTER*

Phone: 412-258-2120 or 412-258-2121
Web: www.elc-pa.org

The Education Law Center is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring all Pennsylvania children have access to a quality public education, including early childhood and early intervention services from birth through age 21. Provides

extensive web-based information about legal rights and procedures on issues of public education. Offers legal support to community organizations seeking state and local policy reform to improve schools and provides technical assistance and support for *pro bono* attorneys working on matters of public education. Formal legal representation is also provided at no cost to students and families on cases involving public education reform.

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA—ALLEGHENY COUNTY*

Phone: 412-391-3820 or 877-391-3820
Web: www.mhaac.net

Mental Health America—Allegheny County provides programs and services that support the health of mind and body and works to eliminate the stigma of mental illness and addiction for all. Provides legal consultation and/or representation on civil matters, for individuals receiving treatment and support services through the community mental health system.

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH LAW PROJECT

Phone: 1-800-274-3258 (Voice)
1-866-236-6310 (TTY)
E-mail: staff@phlp.org
Web: www.phlp.org

Provides free information, advice, and direct representation on issues of accessing healthcare coverage and services through publicly-funded healthcare programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, and ABC. Provides assistance in appealing a decision on coverage or to deny, reduce, or terminate services.

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

PITTSBURGH AIDS TASK FORCE*

Phone: 412-345-7456

Web: www.patf.org

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) is dedicated to saving, sustaining, and empowering the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infections by providing one-to-one emotional and practical support for a person living with HIV/AIDS. PATF legal program ensures that people living with HIV/AIDS have access to legal advice, referral and/or representation through a network of volunteer attorneys.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW, CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

Phone: 412-648-1300

Web: www.law.pitt.edu/academics/clinics/civil-practice-clinic

Staff composed of law students certified as Pennsylvania interns. Supervised by qualified lawyers working in the Civil Practice Clinic. A team of students will research and represent the client at hearings in court, if necessary. Services include:

- Denial of SSI benefits
 - Disability claims
 - Guardianships
 - Health insurance complaints
 - Simple estate planning (including powers of attorney, living wills, and wills)
 - Senior citizen's issues
 - Social Security benefits
-

Disaster

DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT*

Phone: 412-402-6677

Web: www.acbf.org

Provides representation and advice to victims of disasters and catastrophes. A project of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Public Service Committee.

FLOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM*

Phone: 412-402-6677

Web: www.acbf.org

Provides legal advice, referrals, and representation to individuals who are impacted by flooding in Allegheny County.

Divorce

DIVORCE LAW PROJECT*

Phone: 412-402-6714

Web: www.acbf.org

Provides representation in simple, no-fault divorce actions. A pro bono project of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

- Spouses must be separated for at least one year.
- No custody, support, or property disputes.

YWCA'S LEGAL RESOURCES FOR WOMEN*

Phone: 412-255-1243 or 412-255-1246

Web: www.ywcapgh.org

Provides indigent women low-cost legal education and referrals for affordable legal representation on legal issues including but not limited to:

- Divorce
- Custody
- Support
- Juvenile
- Bankruptcy
- Adoption
- Immigration
- Wills and trusts
- Employment discrimination

Education (Expulsion, Special Education, Student Rights, Suspension)

ACHIEVA

Phone: 412-995-5000
Web: www.achieva.info

Provides comprehensive services and supports for children and adults with disabilities and their families.

and procedures on issues of public education. Offers legal support to community organizations seeking state and local policy reform to improve schools and provides technical assistance and support for *pro bono* attorneys working on matters of public education. Formal legal representation is also provided at no cost to students and families on cases involving public education reform.

DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Phone: 412-391-5225 or 800-692-7443
Web: www.dlp-pa.org

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (DRN) is a statewide, non-profit corporation designated as the federally-mandated organization to advance and protect the civil rights of adults and children with disabilities. DRN works with people with disabilities and their families, their organizations, and their advocates to ensure their right to live in their communities with the services they need, to receive a full and inclusive education, to live free of discrimination, abuse and neglect, and to have control and self-determination over their services. DRN works to ensure that people with disabilities have equal and unhindered access to employment, transportation, public accommodations, and government services; to enforce their rights to vocational, habilitative, post-secondary educational, health, and other services; and to protect them from abuse and neglect.

See also: Disabilities and Health

EDUCATION LAW CENTER*

Phone: 412-258-2120 or 412-258-2121
Web: www.elc-pa.org

The Education Law Center is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring all Pennsylvania children have access to a quality public education, including early childhood and early intervention services from birth through age 21. Provides extensive web-based information about legal rights

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Elderly (Guardianships, Health Insurance, Powers of Attorney, Wills)

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572
Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222
Web: www.nlsa.us

NLSA provides legal assistance and representation to older adults (60 and above) who may be victims of physical, emotional, or financial abuse. NLSA also assists in areas of special concern to the elderly such as living wills, powers of attorney, health care planning, and alternatives to guardianship. In some counties, NLSA represents elderly adults who are subjects of guardianship and/or protective services proceedings.

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH LAW PROJECT

Phone: 1-800-274-3258 (Voice)
1-866-236-6310 (TTY)
E-mail: staff@phlp.org
Web: www.phlp.org

Provides free information, advice and direct representation on issues of accessing healthcare coverage and services through publicly-funded healthcare programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Provides assistance in appealing a decision on coverage or to deny, reduce, or terminate services.

PENNSYLVANIA SENIORLAW HELPLINE

Phone: 1-877-PA SR LAW or
1-877-727-7529
E-mail: helpline@seniorlawcenter.org
Web: www.seniorlawcenter.org

A free, confidential telephone service that provides legal information, advice, and referrals on a variety of topics to seniors 60 years old and older throughout Pennsylvania. Interpretation services available in 150 languages.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW, CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

Phone: 412-648-1300
Web: www.law.pitt.edu/academics/clinics/civil-practice-clinic

Staff composed of law students certified as Pennsylvania interns. Supervised by qualified lawyers working in the Civil Practice Clinic. A team of students will research and represent the client at hearings in court, if necessary. Services include:

- Denial of SSI benefits
- Disability claims
- Guardianships
- Health insurance complaints
- Simple estate planning (including powers of attorney, living wills, and wills)
- Senior citizen's issues
- Social Security benefits

WILLS PROJECT*

Phone: 412-771-6460 (McKees Rocks)
Web: www.forstorox.org
or
Phone: 412-621-3342 (Lawrenceville)
Web: www.catholicyouthassociation.com

Offers drafting of wills and other documents for senior citizens who meet income-eligibility guidelines. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership staffed by attorneys from Glaxo Smith Kline, Reed Smith LLP, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection at two locations: Focus on Renewal in McKees Rocks and the Stephen Foster Community Center in Lawrenceville. Services include the following:

- Financial matters
- Health Care Powers of Attorney
- Living Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Wills

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Employment (Discrimination, Unemployment Compensation, Wages)

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION CLINIC

Phone: 412-396-4704

Web: www.duq.edu

The Unemployment Compensation Clinic focuses on unemployment compensation matters for low-income clients. Clinic students work under the close supervision of attorneys and assist clients with issues related to pending unemployment compensation law claims, voluntary quit cases, overpayment issues and appeals.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572

Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222

Web: www.nlsa.us

General legal aid organization serving low-income persons in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties.

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Entertainment

GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL, VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS*

Phone: 412-391-2060 x227

Web: www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/vla.htm

Volunteer attorneys provide *pro bono* assistance to small-budget arts organizations and low-income artists for arts-related legal needs. Practice areas include but are not limited to:

- 501(c)(3) filing
 - Contract review
 - Intellectual property law
 - Litigation
 - Nonprofit governance and by-laws
 - Trademark and copyright law
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**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

General Legal Service Providers

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, MODEST MEANS PROGRAM

Phone: 412-261-5555
Web: http://www.acbf.org/Client_Services/Modest_Means.asp

The Modest Means program was created to provide representation to those individuals who are having difficulty affording traditional legal services, but for one reason or another, do not qualify for various pro bono service providers. Through the program, a client, once screened, will be referred for a fee of \$30.00 to one attorney who has agreed to provide a particular service at a reduced fee. The fees must be paid up front prior to the attorney performing any work.

Services are currently offered only in the following areas (contact the ACBA for current rates):

FLAT FEE:

- Uncontested Divorce (w/ NO property claims)
- Custody Conciliation
- Support Conference/Hearing
- PFA Hearing
- Simple Will
- Living Will
- Power of Attorney
- DUI (ARD Eligible)
- Bankruptcy

HOURLY RATE (the attorney may charge a retainer to be set at his/her discretion after a review of the case):

- Uncontested divorce (w/ property claims)
 - Contested divorce (w/ property claims)
 - Contested divorce (w/ NO property claims)
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CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID OF PITTSBURGH*

Phone: 412-622-0232
E-mail: clapittsburgh@yahoo.com

Operates general legal clinics at two locations, on the North Side of Pittsburgh and in Oakland. Provides assistance with non-criminal matters in the areas of:

- Bankruptcy
 - Consumer Protection (Debtor-Creditor)
 - Elder Law (Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney)
 - Family (Divorce, Support, Custody)
 - Landlord/Tenant
 - Public Benefits (SS, SSI, SSD)
-

MCKEES ROCKS CLINIC*

Phone: 412-771-6460
Web: www.forstorox.org

General legal clinic held twice per month at Focus on Renewal in McKees Rocks. Serves residents of Stowe Township and McKees Rocks area. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, staffed by volunteer attorneys from Alcoa, Inc., Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, and Burns, White & Hickton.

MILLVALE WELLNESS CENTER COMMUNITY CLINIC*

Phone: 412-526-8545

General legal clinic held monthly at the Millvale Wellness Center, a community medical clinic operated by the Sisters of St. Francis and serving the residents of Millvale. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership managed and staffed by volunteer attorneys from Dickie McCamey & Chilcote PC.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

General Legal Service Providers

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572
Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222
Web: www.nlsa.us

General legal aid organization serving low-income persons in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. Holds legal advice clinics alternating weekly between Family Law Clinic and Debt Advice Clinic on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 at downtown Pittsburgh office. Clinics also held in Butler County office. Certain cases qualify for full service, which may entail representation at either court proceedings or administrative hearings. Some cases eligible for reduced-fee referrals to private attorneys. Services include:

- Families: Domestic Violence, Custody, Divorce, Support
- Public Benefits: Energy Assistance, SSI, Unemployment Compensation
- Housing & Shelter: Landlord-Tenant, Utilities, Public and Subsidized Housing
- Consumer: Bankruptcy, Debt Collection, Credit and Repossession, Foreclosure, Sheriff's Sale, Utilities
- Elder Law: Living Wills, Healthcare, Powers of Attorney, Guardianship, and General Legal Assistance

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH*

Phone: 412-487-6316
Web: www.nhco.org

Interfaith, nonprofit organization that addresses the spiritual, emotional, physical, and material needs of people in crisis, hardship, and poverty. Serves individuals and families in all of northern Allegheny County outside the City of Pittsburgh. Holds monthly "Ask the Attorney" general legal clinics at three locations: Allison Park, Bellevue, and Millvale.

PENNSYLVANIA SENIORLAW HELPLINE

Phone: 877-PA SR LAW or
877-727-7529
Web: www.seniorlawcenter.org
E-mail: helpline@seniorlawcenter.org

A free, confidential telephone service that provides legal information, advice, and referrals on a variety of topics to seniors 60 years old and older throughout Pennsylvania. Interpretation services available in 150 languages.

UPTOWN LEGAL CLINIC*

Phone: 412-391-1348 x 120
Web: www.bethlehemhaven.org

Monthly general-law clinic held at Bethlehem Haven, a non-profit organization providing housing, employment, health, and other services to homeless women in the Pittsburgh area. Open to all low-income residents of Allegheny County. Clinic held on second Wednesday of each month, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Clients must be referred to the clinic by a social services or legal services agency. No walk-ins. Provides assistance with non-criminal matters in the areas of:

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Protection (Debtor-Creditor)
- Elder Law (Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney)
- Family (Divorce, Support, Custody)
- Landlord/Tenant
- Public Benefits (SS, SSI, SSD)

VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC*

Phone: 412-363-8761
Web: www.veteransplace.org

Monthly general legal clinic serving low-income veterans held at the Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard. Advice and representation on a variety of non-criminal areas of law, including child custody and child support, divorce, consumer issues, landlord/tenant disputes, and veterans benefits. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership managed by Jones Day and staffed by volunteer attorneys from Partnership member firms.

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Housing (Discrimination, Foreclosure, Landlord/Tenant, Public Housing)

ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING CLINIC*

Contact: Action Housing
Phone: 412-281-2102
E-mail: ahi@actionhousing.org
or
Contact: NeighborWorks Western Pa.
Phone: 412-281-9773
E-mail: info@nwwpa.org

Assists homeowners who are in danger of losing their homes due to predatory lending practices. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership staffed by attorneys from United States Steel Corporation and Pietragallo Bosick & Gordon, LLP.

FAIR HOUSING PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

Phone: 412-391-2535
Web: www.pittsburghfairhousing.org

A private, nonprofit organization that serves as an Equal Opportunity Housing Counseling agency, a fair housing advocate, and an enforcer of fair housing laws.

- Promotes fair housing
- Provides ways to determine and counteract housing discrimination
- Provides relief for victims of housing discrimination
- Supports equal housing choice and opportunities

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572
Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222
Web: www.nlsa.us

General legal aid organization serving low-income persons in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. Services include: Landlord-Tenant, Utilities, Public and Subsidized Housing.

REGIONAL HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES

Phone: 412-201-4301
Web: www.rhls.org

Represents non-profit organizations engaging in community development in low-income neighborhoods.

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

Phone: 1-800-846-0871

Assists homeowners facing financial difficulties to avoid foreclosure.

See also: Consumer

Immigrants

PITTSBURGH REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER (PRIAC)*

Phone: 412-422-7200
Web: www.jfcspgh.org

The Pittsburgh Refugee & Immigrant Assistance Center (PRIAC) is a division of the Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh. PRIAC offers immigration services for individuals and families with limited financial resources. Program is the only low-cost immigration provider recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals of the Department of Justice in the southwestern Pennsylvania area. Provides the following services:

- Staffed by immigration attorneys, accredited representatives, paralegals, and employment specialists.
 - Fees are nominal and arrangements can be made for indigent clients.
 - Immigration services include: consultation, status adjustment, naturalization, status inquiry, visa extension, asylum, petition for relatives abroad, affidavit of support, affidavit of relationship, travel document, diversity visa lottery, etc.
 - Social services include: adoption, guardianship assistance, older adult programs, career/employment initiatives, psychotherapy, and counseling.
 - Other services include: consultations, visa extension, status inquiries, asylum, application review and filing and legal representation.
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WELCOME CENTER FOR IMMIGRANTS & INTERNATIONALS

Phone: 412-422-8795 or 1-866-774-2201
E-mail: info@wcii.org
Web: www.wcii.org

The Welcome Center is a division of the Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh. Its mission is to help immigrants and internationals successfully live in or relocate to Southwestern Pennsylvania so they will contribute to the economic vitality of the region. The Center is designed to be a key entry point for immigrants and internationals, bringing together services providers, community groups and international organizations in order to serve as a central hub for direct WCII services and referrals to the many other organizations in our region that provide services to immigrants and internationals.

- Multilingual staff
-

Military and Veterans (Benefits, Employment, Family, Housing)

MILITARY PERSONNEL PRO BONO PROJECT*

Phone: 412-232-4400
Contact: Timothy O'Brien, Esq.
E-mail: tpob@icubed.com

Offers referrals and/or representation to military personnel and their immediate family members as residents of Allegheny County called to active duty as a result of war and/or military action.

VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC*

Phone: 412-363-8761
Web: www.veteransplace.org

Monthly general legal clinic serving low-income veterans held at the Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard. Advice and representation on a variety of non-criminal areas of law, including child custody and child support, divorce, consumer issues, landlord/tenant disputes, and veterans benefits. A project of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership managed by Jones Day and staffed by volunteer attorneys from Partnership member firms.

Non-Profit Organizations

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CLINIC

Phone: 412-396-4704
Web: www.duq.edu

The Community Enterprise Clinic provides legal counseling and representation to non-profit groups and organizations that are committed to effecting change through economic and community development in distressed communities in the Greater Pittsburgh region. Students working under the close supervision of an attorney provide some of the following services:

- Preparation of incorporation documents and bylaws
- Applications for recognition of 501(c) tax-exempt status
- Processing of trademark or other intellectual property recognition
- Understanding reporting requirements with the Corporation Bureau and IRS

GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL, VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS*

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- 501(c)(3) filing
- Contract review
- Intellectual property law
- Litigation
- Nonprofit governance and by-laws
- Trademark and Copyright Law

LAWLINKS*

**Member or project of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation*

Public Benefits (Social Security, SSI, Welfare)

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION*

Phone: 412-255-6700 or 866-761-6572
Address: 928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222
Web: www.nlsa.us

General legal aid organization serving low-income persons in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. Certain cases qualify for full service, which may entail representation at either court proceedings or administrative hearings. Services include: Energy Assistance, SSI, and Unemployment Compensation.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW, CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

Phone: 412-648-1300
Web: [www.law.pitt.edu/academics/clinics/
civil-practice-clinic](http://www.law.pitt.edu/academics/clinics/civil-practice-clinic)

Staff composed of law students certified as Pennsylvania interns. Supervised by qualified lawyers working in the Civil Practice Clinic. A team of students will research and represent the client at hearings in court, if necessary. Services include:

- Denial of SSI benefits
 - Disability claims
 - Guardianships
 - Health insurance complaints
 - Simple estate planning (including powers of attorney, living wills, and wills)
 - Senior citizen's issues
 - Social Security benefits
-

See also: General Legal Service Providers

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Taxes

TAXPAYER ADVOCATE

Phone: 412-395-5987 or 1-877-777-4778
Web: www.irs.gov/advocate

Offers free, independent, and confidential tax assistance to taxpayers unable to resolve their tax problems through normal channels or individuals experiencing a hardship.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW, TAX CLINIC

Phone: 412-648-1300
Web: www.law.pitt.edu/academics/clinics/tax

University of Pittsburgh School of Law Tax Clinic gives free legal help to persons, based upon their level of income, who have income tax problems or need income tax advice. The Tax Clinic is operated by School of Law students supervised by three law professors who are experienced tax lawyers. Services include:

- Advice and assistance for income tax returns being examined by the IRS
 - Advice and assistance for IRS tax collection problems
 - Advice and assistance for tax cases pending before the United States Tax Court
 - No tax return preparation
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