

Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (VLP)

Contact Information

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Description of Organization

The Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) provides a wide variety of free civil legal services for low-income people and smaller not-for-profit groups. We involve our own staff attorneys and hundreds of pro bono attorneys to provide these quality services.

Volunteer Opportunities

Full Representation: VLP offers opportunities in a wide variety of substantive areas of law. Most volunteers take a pro bono case and handle it from their own office. These include divorce, non-parent custody, guardianship of children, Article 17-A guardianships, Article 81 Court Evaluator or Attorney for the Alleged Incompetent Person, child support, Qualified Domestic Relations Orders, tax foreclosure defense, deed transfers to obtain clear title to home already living in, income tax problems, immigration, unemployment insurance benefit hearings, not-for-profit incorporation, bankruptcy, debt collection defense, tort defense, name changes for adults and children, veterans' benefits, wills, and powers of attorney.

Limited Scope Representation: In this position, the volunteer takes the morning shift at Buffalo City Court serving as the Attorney of the Morning (AOM) representing low-income tenants facing eviction. Even if some cases continue, your obligation to those clients ends at the end of the shift. Other limited scope opportunities are: Wills Clinic; Family Court Help Desk (advice to pro se petition filers; attorneys must be experienced Family Court practitioners); and Federal Court Pro Se Assistance Program (advice to pro se civil litigants in the Western District of New York; attorneys must be experienced Federal Court litigators).

Other: There are also a limited number of opportunities to volunteer in the VLP office and work with the VLP staff to intake, prepare and process cases.

Areas of Substantive Law

Bankruptcy
Consumer Law
Domestic Violence
Eviction
Family Law

Foreclosure
Housing
Immigration
Matrimonial Law
Non-Profit

Real Estate
Tax
Unemployment
Veterans Affairs

General Notes

Capacity: VLP has hundreds of active volunteers and hopes to add you to that list.

Experience: Previous experience in the substantive law is generally not required. VLP offers some free CLE trainings for its volunteers.

Supervision: Supervision is available for many types of cases.

[Apply to be a volunteer](#)