

Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

Contact Information

Website: <http://www.brooklynvlp.org/>

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Description of Organization

The mission of the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is to ensure that the legal system is accessible to those who, because of special needs or the overwhelming burdens of poverty, would not otherwise have their rights protected or their voices heard. Since 1990, dedicated volunteers from the private bar have provided critical pro bono assistance through the VLP to thousands of individuals and families from Brooklyn's poorest neighborhoods. The goal of each VLP volunteer is to use the legal system to help people regain dignity and control over their lives.

Volunteer Opportunities at Brooklyn Bar Association VLP

Article 17A Guardianship: Assist clients with obtaining guardianship of a developmentally disabled person. The VLP will assist residents of Brooklyn either with pro se assistance or direct representation in Kings County Surrogate's court.

Chapter 7 bankruptcy: Draft bankruptcy petitions and provide representation.

Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO): Provide limited legal advice at free, weekly walk-in clinic for Brooklyn residents.

Foreclosure Intervention: Represent and assist Brooklyn residents facing foreclosure.

Senior Legal Education and Assistance Program (Senior LEAP): Participate in public education program that provides seniors with information about life planning and fraud prevention.

Uncontested Divorce Clinic: Assist self-represented men and women whose lives are in crisis or at a standstill because they were abandoned or are survivors of domestic violence and/or emotional abuse. Most are referred to the VLP by the Office of the Self-Represented in Supreme Court.

Areas of Substantive Law

Consumer Law

Family Law

Wills

Elder Law

Foreclosure Intervention

Article 17A Guardianship

General Notes

Capacity: Volunteers work in the downtown Brooklyn office, but can work from their own home or office.

Experience: Previous experience is not required. VLP conducts training programs for attorneys in its primary areas of referral.

Supervision: Staff Supervising Attorneys and experienced practitioners in each of the referral areas serve as mentors to volunteer or attorneys.

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