

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION: Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project

Name of Organization: Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project

Brief Description of Organization: The Legal Project believes that all people, regardless of income, gender, disability, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity should have access to legal services. This belief reflects a deep commitment to fairness and equal justice under the law. Based upon these beliefs, the mission of The Legal Project is to make the law more accessible to those in need; to increase the legal community's involvement in pro bono work; and to serve as a resource on legal issues and pro bono. There is a special commitment to women and others who may have difficulty in obtaining legal services; however, we provide services to men, women and families. The Legal Project is unique in that it addresses the civil legal needs of the working poor – those who “on paper” make too much money to qualify for programs for the indigent, but who do not earn enough to pay the fees of private attorneys. The Legal Project addresses the need for non-criminal legal assistance by providing innovative, cost effective services that are collaborative in nature and that focus on well-defined, but unmet needs in our communities. It is the primary provider of domestic violence civil legal services in the Capital District. The Legal Project has over 200 attorneys who participate in its programs and serves approximately 3000 clients annually.

Population Served: Low-income persons living in the Capital District

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

Phone: 518-435-1770

Address: 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 59
Albany, NY 12203-3705

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR CONTACT

Name: Susan Pattenaude, Esq.

Title: Director of Pro Bono Services

Phone: 518-435-1770

Email: spattenaude@legalproject.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Legal representation or Legal Advice and Information, depending on program. Representation programs include, but are not necessarily limited to: Domestic Violence Legal Connection; Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance; Bankruptcy and Credit Program; Wills Project; and Immigration Legal Network. Advice and Information programs include Legal Clinic Program; Legal Clinics for Veterans; Small Business Legal Network; Legally Speaking Workshops; and Uncontested Divorce Clinics.

Can Volunteers Work Off Site? Yes.

Type of Work: Community education; Full representation; Limited legal advice and counsel; Limited scope representation

Location of Volunteer Opportunity: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties

Areas of Substantive Law: Bankruptcy; Business Law / Contracts; Consumer Law; Disability; Domestic Violence; Elder Law; Employment; Family Law; Foreclosure; Health Care; Housing; Immigration; Matrimonial Law; Real Estate; Trust and Estates; Unemployment; Veterans Affairs

Supervision: Mentoring and access to experienced attorneys generally available on request.

Training: Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Family Court; Bankruptcy

REQUIREMENTS OF VOLUNTEER

Time Commitment: varies depending on opportunity and program.

Previous Experience in Substantive Law Required: Varies depending on program

Specific/Previous Training Required: Varies depending on program