

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

Contact Information

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NOTE: Placements will be in our Buffalo Office, located at 237 Main Street, Suite 1535, Buffalo, New York 14203.

Description of Organization

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York (PLSNY) is a non-profit, legal services organization with offices in Albany, Buffalo, Ithaca and Plattsburgh. PLSNY provides free, civil legal services to indigent prisoners in New York State correctional facilities.

Volunteer Opportunities at PLSNY

Our [volunteer attorney work](#) involves addressing the needs and rights of incarcerated persons. This includes assistance with client intake, issue spotting, legal research, and drafting administrative appeals, advocacy letters, and court documents. Additionally, volunteer attorneys may represent clients in litigation if interested. Volunteers may also screen and investigate cases for referral to the Pro Bono Partnership Project.

Areas of Substantive Law

Prisoners' Civil Rights

Sentence and Jail Time Calculations

First Amendment Rights

Inadequate Medical and Mental Health Care

Disability Issues

Excessive Use of Force

Parole and Reentry Issues

Family Law

General Notes

Capacity: Our Buffalo office is small, with a staff of three. We have the capacity to support and supervise up to two (2) volunteers.

Experience: Previous experience in prisoners' rights or other areas of substantive law practice is not required. However, volunteer attorneys must attend a three-hour training program provided by PLS staff.

Supervision: Volunteers will be supervised by a staff attorney and/or a managing attorney in a warm and friendly atmosphere.