

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS)

Contact Information

Website: <http://www.volsprobono.org/>
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Description of Organization

VOLS provides pro bono civil legal services to benefit poor people in New York City. VOLS identifies areas of legal need, develops projects to meet these needs, and recruits volunteer lawyers and law firms to provide the legal services necessary to address these needs.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Elderly Project - VOLS conducts twelve legal clinics each month in Manhattan at eleven senior centers where seniors discuss their legal concerns in confidence, receive legal advice, and obtain a referral to a volunteer lawyer for representation. Areas of legal assistance include wills, medical directives, powers of attorney, housing, consumer matters and Medicaid.

Incarcerated Mothers Law Project - Volunteers provide one-on-one legal counseling to mothers on child custody and visitation issues at the city's jail on Rikers Island and at two state prisons: Taconic Correctional Facility located in Bedford Hills and Bayview Correctional Facility in Manhattan.

Unemployment Insurance Advocacy Project - Volunteers represent claimants who have been denied unemployment insurance benefits at hearings before administrative law judges and may appeal adverse rulings to the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board.

Microenterprise Project: Through VOLS' Microenterprise Project, pro bono attorneys help low-income entrepreneurs to launch and grow businesses and non-profit organizations in New York City. Volunteer attorneys typically help clients with matters related to corporate formation, employment law, basic contracts, commercial real estate, intellectual property, and other issues related to corporate law.

Areas of Substantive Law

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Consumer Law | Power of Attorney |
| Housing Law | Public Benefits |
| Medical Directives | Wills |

General Notes

Capacity: VOLS has the capacity to supervise and manage many AEP volunteers.

Experience: Previous experience in substantive law is not required.

Supervision: For the Elderly Project and the Unemployment Insurance Advocacy Project, VOLS provides mentors to work with volunteers on their cases. For the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project, a family law consultant mentors volunteer lawyers and is on-site at each prison visit.