

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION: ATTORNEY EMERITUS

Name of Organization: Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (BBA VLP)

Brief Description of Organization: The mission of the BBA 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. The VLP's primary referral areas are family law, elder law, consumer law, Chapter 7 bankruptcy, wills, guardianship, and a newly-initiated Foreclosure Intervention Program in partnership with South Brooklyn Legal Services. In addition to serving those in need through direct representation, the VLP has established several innovative education and outreach programs for seniors and self-represented litigants.

Population Served: Low-income persons from Brooklyn, families, and seniors.

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

Phone: 718-624-3895

Address: 44 Court Street, Suite 1206
Brooklyn, NY 11201

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR CONTACT

Name: Jeannie Costello, Esq.

Title: Executive Director

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO): The Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO) is a free, weekly walk-in clinic at Kings County Civil Court where consumers can obtain free information about debt collection. CLARO is a joint project of the VLP and Brooklyn Law School, with the collaboration of MFY Legal Services and Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP). It was created in cooperation with Kings County Civil Court to address the needs of unrepresented consumer debt litigants.

Can Volunteers Work Off Site? Yes.

Type of Work: Limited, legal advice clinic.

Location, Days and Hours of Volunteer Opportunity:
CLARO is held every Thursday at Kings County Civil Court (141 Livingston Street) from 2:30 to 4:30 PM and 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Area(s) of Substantive Law: Consumer Law.

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

Training: The VLP conducts training programs for attorneys in its primary areas of referral. Each program is accompanied by a training manual with relevant case law, statutes, and forms.

REQUIREMENTS OF VOLUNTEER

Time Commitment: Flexible, but as little as two hours per clinic session.

Previous Experience in Substantive Law Required: No.

Specific/Previous Training Required: No.

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