

New York County Lawyers' Association **(NYCLA)**

Contact Information

Website: www.nycla.org
Phone: (212) 267-6646
Address: 14 Vesey Street
New York, NY 10007

Description of Organization

The New York County Lawyers' Association has historically been one of the largest and most influential county bar associations in the country. The Association is organized as a bar association exclusively for charitable and educational purposes with the primary objective of promoting the public interest by: 1) advancing the science of jurisprudence; 2) promoting the administration of justice and reforms in the law in the public interest; 3) elevating the standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession and fostering the spirit of collegiality among members of the Association and throughout the bar; 4) applying its knowledge and experience in the field of law to the promotion of the public good; 5) arranging for the provision by its members of free legal services for indigent, low income and other persons in need, and ensuring access to justice for all; 6) advocating for a strong and independent judiciary; 7) encouraging diversity throughout the legal profession; 8) maintaining high ethical standards for the bench and bar; 9) promoting high-quality legal education and other resources for law students and lawyers; and such other charitable and educational activities appropriate to a bar association as will primarily promote the public interest.

Note: Volunteers must be NYCLA members in order to participate in NYCLA volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

Legal Counseling Project: This project provides counseling to clients four times a month on an appointment-only basis in the areas of family, employment, consumer bankruptcy and landlord/tenant law. No representation of any kind is undertaken. Clients are prepared during the clinics for pro se representation. Volunteer attorneys may be asked to review documents, answer questions, discuss areas of concern that the client should be aware of when entering into certain agreements, or point out various methods whereby the client can either correct a problem or seek appropriate assistance and direction. Mentors, who are experienced in the four practice areas, are available by telephone on each clinic night to assist volunteers.

Manhattan CLARO: The Manhattan CLARO Program operates weekly clinics in New York County Civil Court on Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm. Volunteers provide limited legal advice during court-based clinics to unrepresented Manhattan residents, many of them

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disabled, elderly, indigent or working poor. A consumer law expert is onsite at every CLARO session to provide support and answer questions from volunteer attorneys.

Project Restore: This project provides assistance to individuals with misdemeanor and felony convictions who are denied vocational licenses by the New York Department of State. This unique program provides representation for applicants whose adjudicated criminal history predates the employment license application and is the basis for the denial.

U.S. Tax Court Project: NYCLA is the first bar association in New York to offer a Tax Court Pro Bono Program. This project provides counseling to clients seeking advice in the area of tax law at calendar call sessions of the U.S. Tax Court conducted in New York. No representation of any kind is undertaken and you will not be required to enter an appearance. Clients are advised by volunteers while appearing pro se before the U.S. Tax Court. Volunteers may be asked to consult with pro se petitioners regarding the merits of their cases and evaluate any settlement proposals from the Internal Revenue Service, act as a communicator or mediator between the parties in an effort to assist in resolving the case and provide procedural advice to pro se petitioners who decide to proceed to trial.

State Central Registry Project: This program provides representation to the individuals who seek to amend, seal, or expunge indicated reports of abuse from the New York State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

Unemployment Insurance Advocacy Project: This project, a collaboration with Volunteers of Legal Service, recruits and trains volunteer attorneys to represent individuals denied unemployment insurance benefits in administrative hearings before the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board. Volunteer attorneys interview clients, review documents, develop a case theory, conduct direct and cross-examinations, and make closing arguments before an administrative law judge.

Areas of Substantive Law

Bankruptcy Law
Consumer Law
Criminal Law
Family Law
Landlord/Tenant Law
Tax Law

General Notes

Capacity: NYCLA has the capacity to supervise and manage approximately 20 volunteers. The volunteer can work off-site.

Experience: Previous experience in substantive law is required.

Supervision: Mentors will be available for questions.

Note: In order to volunteer for any NYCLA program, a volunteer must be a NYCLA member in good standing.