

PRO BONO RESTRAINING ORDER PROJECT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the PBRO Project!

The Pro Bono Restraining Order (PBRO) Project is a collaboration between the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and many Connecticut firms committed to providing quality legal representation to victims of domestic violence. It has been operating since January 2021 and is currently in Hartford, Rockville, and Norwich and quickly expanding to other areas. We are asking lawyers across all practices to support this crucial initiative.

Here's what you can expect as a volunteer:

MINIMAL INTRUSION INTO YOUR SCHEDULE

When you join our team of volunteers, you will tell us how many restraining order hearing days (generally mornings only) you are willing to take every quarter (or every year). Each volunteer will commit to be available to represent a victim in court on a date scheduled in advance. This system ensures that all volunteer attorneys will have sufficient time to plan for an initial consult and prepare for the restraining order hearing. By committing in advance to be available, you enable us to respect everyone's time and commitment.

LIMITED APPEARANCE – BUT UNLIMITED APPRECIATION

For any busy professional, it can be difficult to make a community service commitment when you can't predict the amount of time and effort expected of you. Volunteer attorneys represent a maximum of 2 clients on their scheduled date, and they are notified at least 2 business days in advance when there are no clients in need of their service. They file a limited appearance for restraining order hearings, and do not follow their case(s) beyond that.

TRAINING

We will provide a 2-hour webinar at no cost to you. The training will draw on the knowledge of family court judges, family relations officers, domestic violence advocates, and experienced attorneys to provide an efficient but comprehensive overview of the restraining order process and guidance on working with a survivor in a trauma-informed manner. We will email you training registration information as the trainings are scheduled or provide a recording of the most recent training.

BEING A LIFESAVER

When you volunteer, you will be providing a critical emergency service to individuals who fear for their safety and often the safety of their children. Legal representation increases the possibility of a victim obtaining a restraining order from 32% to 83%. Sadly, most applicants in Connecticut lack representation at their restraining order hearing – but it doesn't have to be that way.

Every time an attorney shows up to support a victim, they send a powerful message: domestic violence is not acceptable, it is not your fault, and it is not something you have to face alone.