

pro bono from the latin 'pro bono publico,' meaning for the public good; in legal terms, it means representing someone free of charge.

WANTED: VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

Ontario's charitable and nonprofit organizations make important contributions to our communities. When legal issues arise, these groups may not have the resources to retain legal counsel. You can use your legal skills to give back to the community.

Examples of services VLS lawyers provide:

- negotiate a lease for an organization working with refugee women and children
- file a charitable status application for an organization that reunites siblings separated through foster care
- assist on an employee matter for an environmental organization that creates green spaces in low-income communities

Volunteer Lawyers Service is a registered project of Pro Bono Law Ontario, a nonprofit organization that promotes the development of organized pro bono legal services in Ontario.

PRO BONO LAW
ONTARIO



Volunteer Lawyers Service

130 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N6

416-977-4448, ext. 226 (Toronto)
866-466-PBLO (Ontario toll-free)

vls@probononet.on.ca
www.volunteerlawyers.org

Volunteer Lawyers Service is funded by:



Does your charitable organization need a lawyer?



**Volunteer
Lawyers
Service**

A registered Pro Bono Law Ontario project



Legal help for charities and nonprofits

Volunteer Lawyers Service (VLS) was established in 1994 to provide free legal services to eligible Ontario charitable and nonprofit organizations.

VLS recruits lawyers who volunteer their time to helping the charitable sector with their legal needs. Lawyers specialize in areas of business law important to charitable and nonprofit organizations.

Does your charitable organization need a lawyer?

Many charities and nonprofits operate without advice from business lawyers, even when they must address important legal matters. A lawyer can help you anticipate potential consequences and limit risk.

A VLS lawyer can help your organization:

- ▶ prepare an application for charitable status or incorporation as a nonprofit
- ▶ address staffing and employment issues
- ▶ assess your board's exposure to legal risk
- ▶ negotiate a property purchase or lease
- ▶ copyright or trademark your intellectual property
- ▶ draft a privacy statement for your website
- ▶ and more

How to get legal help

Charitable and nonprofit community-based organizations may be eligible for legal help through VLS if their mission is to serve the public interest (environment, arts, social justice) or serve socially and economically disadvantaged people.

VLS provides a number of resources to eligible charities and nonprofits:

- ▶ one-on-one legal advice and representation
- ▶ online resources
- ▶ legal education seminars

For details on how to get free legal help, visit the VLS website at:

www.volunteerlawyers.org



**Volunteer
Lawyers
Service**

▶ *lawyers giving back to the community*