

Her Justice stands with women living in poverty in New York City by recruiting and mentoring volunteer lawyers to provide free legal help to address individual and systemic legal barriers.

## Pro Bono Opportunities with Her Justice

Under our "Pro Bono First" model, Her Justice trains and mentors thousands of volunteer attorneys from law firms throughout New York City to provide critical legal representation to thousands of women living in poverty each year.

There are many ways to join Her Justice as a pro bono partner, helping to bring the power of the legal profession to those in our city who need it most.

### Expert Training & Mentorship from Her Justice

Her Justice staff attorneys conduct live CLE trainings, which also can be viewed online. These trainings introduce attorneys to the relevant procedural and substantive law and provide a step-by-step guide to each stage of the matter. Detailed manuals and sample documents are provided at the trainings. Her Justice staff attorneys also provide ongoing mentoring to volunteer attorneys by reviewing all documents and routinely consulting with volunteers on strategy, research topics, and trial preparation to obtain the best possible outcome for the clients. CLE credit is also available to attorneys who engage in pro bono representation.

"My attorney and Her Justice changed my life. I feel free now to make my dreams come true."

- Gladys, Her Justice client

### Types of Pro Bono Opportunities:

#### Help women and children obtain safety and security.

Securing child custody, a financial support award, or a full order of protection, can mean freedom from abuse, security for mothers and their children, and financial stability. Obtaining volunteer counsel for a litigated Family Court matter can be life-changing.

Volunteer attorneys may choose to take on different types of *Family Court matters* such as family offense (orders of protection), custody and visitation, and child and/or spousal support matters. Matters vary in their level of complexity and duration. Volunteer attorneys conduct interviews, gather evidence, research case law, and advise and strategize with their clients throughout the course of the litigation. Volunteer attorneys appear in court, participate in case conferences, engage in settlement negotiations and may have the opportunity to engage in a full trial.

#### Stand with your client in Supreme Court.

There are two types of divorces: ones where the parties disagree and so the case must be prepared for possible trial; and ones where the parties agree and therefore the case is done without a court appearance.

*Litigating a divorce* in Supreme Court can be unwieldy and confusing for an unrepresented person, and obtaining volunteer counsel can mean the difference between an unfair divorce that leaves a client and her children in poverty, or a just divorce that allows the client to obtain financial independence and provide a safe and healthy life for her children.

In addition to a judgment of divorce, litigated divorce clients may seek relief such as custody of minor children, safe visitation arrangements, child support, health insurance for children, maintenance (alimony), equitable distribution of marital property and/or debt, exclusive occupancy of the marital residence, and orders of protection. Litigated divorces vary in their level of complexity and duration. Volunteer attorneys may select a case that is limited to one or two issues to be litigated, or a more complex case that involves multiple issues and extensive discovery, negotiation, and trial advocacy.

CONTINUED >

Volunteer attorneys who take on litigated divorces have the opportunity to gain skills and experience in a variety of areas, including state court procedure, motion practice and oral argument, client interviewing, discovery, negotiation and drafting of settlement agreements, use of expert witnesses, and trial advocacy.

An *uncontested divorce* can provide a client with a new start on life, free from the abuse of her former spouse. Volunteer attorneys interview their clients and draft the initial and final pleadings for filing in Supreme Court. Uncontested divorce matters generally do not require a court appearance and a judgment of divorce is issued after the submission of documents. Volunteers develop valuable legal skills and help a woman to begin a new life. Generally, uncontested divorces require approximately 10 to 20 hours of legal time. Depending on the jurisdiction, the matter can usually be concluded within six to nine months. Securing child custody, a full order of protection, or a financial support award can mean freedom from abuse, security for mothers and their children, and financial stability. Obtaining volunteer counsel for a litigated Family Court matter can be life-changing.

### Support immigrant clients on their path to lawful citizenship.

*U Nonimmigrant status* is offered to victims of certain crimes, like domestic violence and rape, who cooperates in the investigation or prosecution of her attacker. U Nonimmigrant status allows a client and her family members to work and live lawfully in the U.S., and creates a pathway to lawful permanent resident status. It also allows derivative family members living abroad to travel to the U.S. and reunite with the victim. Volunteer attorneys conduct client interviews, draft affidavits, gather evidence, research immigration laws and regulations, prepare and file applications, secure supplemental relief, and guide derivative family members living abroad through consular processing. There is no court appearance or interview with immigration authorities associated with petitions for U Nonimmigrant status.

*VAWA Self-Petitions* and *Battered Spouse Waivers* provide paths to legal residence in the United States for survivors of domestic violence perpetrated by a U.S. citizen or legal resident spouse. Volunteers learn a new area of law and make a positive difference for clients who live in fear of deportation and of being permanently separated from their children. Volunteer attorneys conduct client interviews, draft affidavits, gather evidence, research immigration laws and regulations, prepare and file applications, secure supplemental relief, and guide derivative family members living abroad through consular processing. These immigration matters are not litigated and typically conclude with a non-adversarial hearing in front of an immigration official.

### Interested in Pro Bono? Contact us to learn more!

Hamra Ahmad, Esq. Director of Law and Policy  
646.442.1173 | [hahmad@herjustice.org](mailto:hahmad@herjustice.org)

## Exclusive Pro Bono Opportunities for Her Justice Corporate Partners

There are a number of unique opportunities exclusive to Corporate Partners of Her Justice, including but not limited to:

- Policy & Advocacy
- Amicus Briefs
- Justice for Trafficking Survivors
- Marital Debt

[Click here to learn more about our Corporate Partner Program.](#)

