



THE IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION
THE IDAHO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

Volunteer Opportunities for Idaho Lawyers:

A. FAMILY LAW (our greatest need)

1. Representation of a party in a family case:

- a) Divorce (usually with custody issues)
- b) Custody (decides primary custody/visitation for unmarried couples)
- c) Modification of divorce/custody order
- d) Representation of a petitioner in a guardianship for a child
- e) Representation of a child in guardianship (outside Ada county only)
- f) Representation of a Petitioner seeking guardianship of a developmentally delayed adult (often an 18 year old child)
- g) Representation of proposed ward in guardianship of developmentally delayed adult (outside Ada county only)

2. Assist persons who are filing a family law case pro se with case preparation

- a) Ada county evening workshops once a month (IVLP already has quite a few volunteers for this in Ada)
- b) Volunteers needed for similar clinics in Canyon County (Caldwell High School) every other month and potentially other locations, depending on need

B. VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Represent a victim in persuading the court to enter a longer-term Protective Order (volunteers will know 2 weeks in advance if they are needed for these short hearings)

2. Represent immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence and whose legal status depends on their abusers get their own legal status (VAWA or U Visa cases—no court appearance, develop a paper record)

3. Representation of a victim/survivor in a family law case to establish safety and security from abusers.

IDAHO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

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The Idaho Volunteer Lawyer Program is a program of the Idaho Law Foundation, endorsed by the Idaho State Bar and receives funding from the Idaho Law Foundation, Idaho Legal Aid Services, Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence and other sources.

C. SENIORS

1. Representation of a Petitioner (or protected person outside Ada County) in a guardianship of an incapacitated adult (often but not necessarily a senior)
2. Representation of a senior on consumer issues, collections, etc.
3. Prepare wills; provide help with probate issues etc. in special hardship cases
4. Advice and consultation at Senior Centers
 - a) IVLP volunteers go to Boise Senior Center twice a month (Meridian, Mountain Home, or Pocatello Senior Center once a month or Idaho Falls Senior Center once a week) for 2 hours to answer questions for seniors that range all over the spectrum of legal topics. Volunteers in Coeur d'Alene go to the St. Vincent DePaul Center about once a week for A&C with low-income area residents.
 - b) depending on interest/availability other venues and more specialized presentations could be developed

D. CHILDREN

1. CASA –attorney for Court Appointed Special Advocate in cases brought by State to protect minor victims of abuse or neglect in placement hearings
2. Many of the matters under A1 and A2 provide direct assistance to children; they are often the “key client”
3. **Soundstart** presentations to low-income parents or grandparents on issues of importance for establishing secure, safe families (divorce, custody, guardianships.).
4. Youth Court (JD 3, & 4) attorneys serve as mentors for high school prosecutors or defenders or pro tem judges for the alternative sentencing court for juvenile status offenses.

E. NON-PROFITS

1. Assist a non-profit organize as a corporation and/or with obtaining 501 (c)(3) status
2. Provide *legal services* to a non-profit to advance its charitable goals (e.g., help the soup kitchen get a zoning permit qualifies as pro bono; serving soup does not)
3. Provide copyright assistance to a nonprofit for materials used in assisting low-income people

F. BANKRUPTCY

1. Answer questions on the Bankruptcy Helpline for people who have filed pro se but need assistance once an issue arises
2. Represent a petitioner in a bankruptcy where there are hardship issues (besides no money 😊)

G. IMMIGRATION

1. Represent victims of violence who have cooperated with law enforcement obtain their legal status (“UVISAs”)
2. Represent immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence and whose legal status depends on their abusers get their own legal status (VAWA—no court appearance, develop a paper record)
3. Assist persons in removal proceedings with Notice to Appear in Immigration Court who are victims of persecution, domestic violence, are parents of children born in the US or children with special needs or those who have other family-related issues.
4. Other misc. immigration work such as representing an “unaccompanied minor” in filing for legal status.
5. Guardianships for refugees

H. OTHER CASE TYPES

1. US District Court pro bono representation of litigants (often inmates) in federal court cases with potential merit (e.g., civil rights violations). Note: These matters often take a good deal of time and are best suited to firms, rather than individual volunteers. Fees are sometimes awarded in these cases.
2. Consumer fraud/abuse; debt defense
3. Wills, powers of attorney etc. for single parents

I. MISCELLANEOUS

1. “Stand-down” for Veterans—answer questions for veterans, homeless and other very low income people on a variety of pre-assigned topics at annual event or help create a forum for more regular access to advice and counsel to homeless people (a potential IVLP project)

2. ***“Soundstart”*** – an IVLP program in which volunteer lawyers visit groups of low income parents or grandparents and make presentations about basic family law issues (presentation materials provided) to help them understand how to create structures that help their families future stability

3. Provide assistance at IVLP office; e.g., do screening investigations for applicants to help determine whether request merits assignment and to gather information for volunteer attorney.

4. Draft legal materials for use by volunteer attorneys in representing low-income people on certain topics or for use by members of the public

J. THE PROJECT OF YOUR CHOICE- If you see a need or have a passion, IVLP will work with you to put together a project that makes sense for you

For more information, contact: Mary S. Hobson, Legal Director, Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program , P. O. Box 895, Boise, ID 83701-0895, 208/334-4510, 1-800-221-3295, or Email at mhobson@isb.idaho.gov

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