



# 2023

M U L T N O M A H   B A R   A S S O C I A T I O N

## Pro Bono Pledge

*Take a matter that matters*



**“Every Oregon lawyer has an obligation to help ensure access to justice for all. The MBA Pro Bono Pledge - to represent a client of limited means or an organization serving that community and to provide financial support for legal services for the poor - is a public commitment to that bedrock principle of democracy. I encourage all lawyers to take the Pledge - you will learn much about the interrelated nature of reality and you, your clients, and our system of justice will benefit immensely from your participation.”**

*Martha L. Walters  
Chief Justice  
Oregon Supreme Court*

Thousands of low-income members of our community are facing serious legal problems. Families are losing their homes. Women are threatened by abusive relationships. People with disabilities are being unfairly denied benefits. Having the law on their side is not always enough. Sometimes they need a lawyer by their side. Unfortunately, only about 15% of low-income Oregonians receive needed legal representation.

The Multnomah Bar Association's Pro Bono Pledge seeks to dramatically increase access to justice by calling on attorneys to commit to at least one pro bono matter in 2023. In addition, law firms are asked to adopt a written pro bono policy and encourage participation in the individual pledge. Both are asked to financially support legal service organizations of their choice.

The benefits of pro bono representation are many. Lives are often changed and sometimes saved. Belief in our justice system is restored. Attorneys who accept pro bono work receive personal satisfaction and valuable training, and law firms often receive public recognition.



**“Giving back to our community by way of pro bono service - especially in these difficult times - is more important than ever for lawyers. We should each take time for a pro bono matter and support the MBA's mission to provide service to our community.”**

*Tim Resch  
2022-23 MBA President*



**“It is not impossible until we do it; we simply must decide that access to justice is so embedded in what it means to be an American Citizen that anybody, powerful or not can have their day in court. Until we reach this goal, there is no justice. The Judicial Branch of Government is dedicated to fairness and that cannot be attained without equal access to the judicial system. We have a moral and professional duty to ensure justice exists for all. It is possible.”**

*Judith Matarazzo  
Presiding Judge  
Multnomah County Circuit Court*

The MBA Pro Bono Pledge aims to mobilize lawyers' time and money to knock down the barriers that block access to the justice system for so many Oregonians. By giving a relatively small amount of each, together we can make a significant contribution to our community and a profound difference in the lives of individuals.

Attorneys and firms can sign the pledge online at [www.mbabar.org/probonopledge](http://www.mbabar.org/probonopledge).

## Recognizing Your Commitment

By adopting the pro bono pledge, you are inspiring others and expressing your dedication to justice for all. Individual and firm pledge signatories will be recognized in the *Multnomah Lawyer*. Additionally, we would like to thank the following firms who have taken the pledge:

Alterman Law Group PC  
Ball Janik LLP  
Barrack Law Firm PC  
Barran Liebman LLP  
Berkshire Ginsberg, LLC  
Bodyfelt Mount LLP  
Brindle McCormack, PC  
Buchalter  
Bullivant Houser Bailey PC  
Clarke Balcom PC  
Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP  
Crawley LLP  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Denecke Employment Law  
Dotten ADR  
Dunn Carney LLP  
Dwyer Mediation Center  
Farleigh Wada Witt  
Foster Garvey PC  
Gearing Rackner & McGrath  
Gevurtz Menashe  
Harrang Long Gary Rudnick PC  
Jurva Martin PC  
K & L Gates LLP  
Kivel & Howard LLP  
Knauerhase Law Office  
Koch Law LLC  
Kramer & Associates

Lane Powell PC  
Law Office of Gary Underwood Scharff  
Law Office of Julia M. Fraser  
Law Office of Laura A. Fine  
Law Offices of Julie D. Elkins  
Law Works LLC  
LeDuc Montgomery LLC  
Lee O. Tyler, PC  
Leonard Law Group  
Lindsay Hart LLP  
Lisa Kenn Family Law, LLC  
Lissa Kaufman Law LLC  
MalcolmLaw LLC  
Maloney Lauersdorf Reiner PC  
Markowitz Herbold PC  
McKean Smith LLC  
Mersenne Law LLP  
Miller Nash LLP  
MKB Lawyers  
Morris Stannard & Batalden Family Law PC  
Oregon Counsel  
Pacific Injury Law Firm  
Parker Butte & Lane PC  
Patricia Ferrell-French, Attorney at Law  
Pearl Law LLC  
Perkins Coie LLP  
Piucci Law Firm  
Professional Liability Fund  
PSU Student Legal Services  
Reluctant Cynic Legal Services  
Richardson Wang LLP  
Rizzo Mattingly Bosworth PC  
Rose L. Hubbard Attorneys at Law  
Samuels Yoelin Kantor LLP  
Schantz Law PC  
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Stoll Berne  
Swider Haver LLP  
The IP Gnome, LLC  
The Law Firm of Peter Bunch  
Todd Trierweiler & Associates  
Tonkon Torp LLP  
Vangelisti Mediation  
Waxler Immigration Law LLC  
Wyse Kadish LLP  
Yates Family Law PC  
Yunus Muhammad PC



**“Pro bono attorneys volunteering with Oregon’s civil legal aid programs make a positive impact in the lives of their client, the justice system, and the community as a whole. Your help is needed now more than ever to help preserve a low-income tenant’s tenancy, maintain a protective order for a survivor of abuse, and advocate for an elderly person in need of legal help. Please sign the MBA pro bono pledge and help make a difference by increasing services to those unable to afford legal assistance.”**

*Jill Mallery  
Statewide Pro Bono Manager  
Legal Aid Services of Oregon*



**“So many of us went to law school to make a difference. We can make that difference through pro bono service. Pro bono work positively impacts our community by expanding access to justice, particularly for low-income members of our community. Volunteering your time and skills to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves is extremely rewarding. And it is an excellent opportunity to grow your skills as a lawyer while helping those in need.”**

*Nikki Abercrombie  
2022-23 YLS President*

## Resources

To aid you in fulfilling your pledge, consult the following resources:

- **The Multnomah Bar Association Pro Bono Pledge**  
Downloadable versions of both the individual and firm pro bono pledges.  
[www.mbabar.org/probonopledge](http://www.mbabar.org/probonopledge)
- **Pro Bono Opportunities**  
A listing of various pro bono opportunities available in Multnomah County.  
[www.mbabar.org/probono](http://www.mbabar.org/probono)
- **Pro Bono Policy Toolkit**  
An online resource to help your firm create a written pro bono policy.  
[www.osbar.org/probono](http://www.osbar.org/probono)
- **Pro BonoOregon Listserv**  
Allows attorneys to select pro bono cases online from a list emailed weekly.  
[www.oregonadvocates.org](http://www.oregonadvocates.org)

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