



Client Collaboration



DLA Piper Pro Bono
COURAGE | COMPASSION | COMMITMENT

The graphic features a dark blue central panel with white text. The background is a close-up photograph of a dandelion seed head, with the seeds blowing away, creating a sense of movement and light. The text is centered and reads: "DLA Piper Pro Bono" in a large, red, serif font, followed by "COURAGE | COMPASSION | COMMITMENT" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this is a paragraph of white text describing the firm's commitment to pro bono work.

DLA Piper Pro Bono

COURAGE | COMPASSION | COMMITMENT

DLA Piper has a longstanding and deep commitment to giving back. This commitment exists at every level within the firm and is part of the firm's culture. Collaborating with our clients is an integral part of that commitment, and it provides us the opportunity to build and grow long-term relationships while simultaneously living our shared values. Our pro bono program focuses on collaborating with our clients on initiatives that generate real impact in our communities. Our mission is to advance gender and racial equality, advocate for children, and combat hunger. We are focused on promoting access to justice in our communities and around the world.

Together we make a greater impact

When we work with our clients, we know that we are increasing the number of individuals and nonprofit organizations we can serve. We are one of the largest providers of pro bono legal services globally, which uniquely positions us to provide innovative and creative solutions to our clients. We believe that we are adding value for our clients, many of whom do not have the internal infrastructure needed to source and evaluate pro bono projects.

Experience in teaming with clients – With a long history of building partnerships both locally and globally, we know which projects can be impactful and successful. DLA Piper has teamed with dozens of in-house departments.

Dedicated team – The DLA Piper Pro Bono team has over a dozen experienced lawyers across the world who work full time to develop meaningful and impactful pro bono opportunities, both for our lawyers and our clients. Our team understands the legal needs of our communities, maintains close partnerships with local legal services

providers, develops meaningful pro bono opportunities, and coordinates training and support for volunteers.

Focus on community needs – In developing our pro bono program, we focus on the needs of our communities, and adapt our work as those needs change. For example, in response to the pandemic, we mobilized quickly, converting multiple legal clinics on which we team with our clients to virtual clinics, and developed other opportunities to help remotely. We transitioned, along with several of our clients, from sending volunteers to help domestic violence survivors in

a local courthouse, to helping prepare protective orders over the phone.

Tailored to clients – We work hand-in-hand to identify projects that not only help in the areas of greatest need, but also fit the interests and time constraints of the lawyers with whom we team.

From facilitating one-time legal clinics to helping clients build their own pro bono programs from the ground up, we develop pro bono client partnership opportunities to meet client goals and increase the overall impact of our pro bono efforts.

“Some of the most rewarding moments of my career so far have involved pro bono matters. Pro bono work has made me a better lawyer because of the diversity of experience it provides, like meeting colleagues and friends in the legal aid world and collaborating with clients on pro bono matters.”

— Stephanie Lim, Associate, Chicago

DLA Piper's pro bono work

In 2021, our lawyers and staff contributed 103,351 hours in North America and 197,512 hours globally to pro bono and community engagement work. Our work focused on a number of areas, including:

Transactional

Our lawyers are able to leverage their experience in areas like employment, real estate, tax, and IP to provide valuable counsel to nonprofits and small businesses.

Feeding the hungry in our global neighborhood

We represent a network of food banks across the country, offering legal counsel and volunteer support.

Second chances for juveniles

We represent children in contact with the criminal justice system, both in court, and in expunging and sealing juvenile records.

Serving those who serve our country

A number of our lawyers in the US work to support military personnel and their families throughout the US, both before and after discharge.

Immigration

Tens of thousands of people enter the United States every year seeking safety and security for themselves and their families. Whether they are requesting asylum based on gender-based violence or assisting human trafficking survivors to step out of the shadows to report domestic violence, DLA Piper has long been committed to helping them attain a life without fear.

Gender-based violence

We assist survivors in obtaining protective orders so that they can start over. We also offer assistance to trafficking victims, to members of the LGBTQ community, and to women and girls who have been subjected to abuse.

New Perimeter

DLA Piper's unique nonprofit, New Perimeter, provides long-term pro bono legal assistance in underserved regions of the world to support access to justice, social and economic development and sound legal institutions. Our work is designed to strengthen a country's legal system, encourage economic growth, support women's advancement and promote the rule of law.

Highlights of client teaming



Almost a decade ago, DLA Piper helped AIG launch its pro bono program, and more recently has teamed with AIG lawyers on anti-human trafficking research, special education matters and provided advice to low-income entrepreneurs via a legal clinic.



Six teams of lawyers from Allstate and DLA Piper are working on gender-based violence asylum cases.



We join forces with Discover Financial Services to staff legal clinics for survivors of domestic violence as well as residents who come to our Woodlawn clinic on the south side of Chicago.



We team with GE lawyers on our New Perimeter project teaching in Zambia and most recently, on research related to the coronavirus pandemic.



**Hewlett Packard
Enterprise**

Since 2014, DLA Piper has teamed with HPE to help eligible individuals clear their criminal records, increasing their ability to obtain housing and support themselves.



We have recently teamed with Nike lawyers to help veterans obtain Combat Related Special Compensation benefits.

Sanofi

Lawyers from DLA Piper team with Sanofi and Kids in Need of Defense to represent immigrant children fleeing persecution and other harm.

We have been recognized for our efforts

- City Bar Justice Center award (with AIG)
- Pfizer award
- GSK award
- Kids in Need of Defense award (recognizing, in part, work with Sanofi);
- Pro Bono Institute award (with Verizon)
- ABA John Minor Wisdom Award

Pfizer case study

In 2006, DLA Piper and Pfizer launched an innovative pro bono partnership – a collaboration that has become our longest-running client pro bono partnership to date. Our first project was to support Pfizer’s Strategic Legal Thinking Seminars for Nonprofit Executives, an ongoing series of lectures often led by DLA Piper lawyers addressing the legal needs of the nonprofit community.

Since then, we have worked together on numerous initiatives, and continue to collaborate in ways that enrich our communities, our clients, and ourselves. The partnership between Pfizer and DLA Piper remains active and we are planning several other joint pro bono initiatives.

“It was exciting for us to partner with DLA Piper’s New Perimeter team on this important pro bono project. The Pfizer team greatly enjoyed working with the students, all of whom were engaged and eager to learn, and it was personally gratifying for our attorneys to contribute to the professional development of the next generation of lawyers in Zambia. This is another great example of Pfizer Legal Division’s commitment to giving back.”

— Maryana Zubok, Pro Bono Lead for Pfizer Legal Division

2020

Helping immigrant children. Together, in conjunction with Kids In Need of Defense (KIND), we provide representation to children seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

2019

NYU Cancer Center Legal Health Clinic 10 year anniversary. Pfizer celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the program by recognizing the firm, as well as the New York Legal Assistance Group for their participation.

2018

New Perimeter project in Zambia. Through New Perimeter, lawyers from Pfizer joined a team of DLA Piper lawyers to deliver training to approximately 100 undergraduate law students at the University of Zambia School of Law.

2014

Family court legal services project. We worked with Pfizer on this project to provide brief consultations to unrepresented petitioners in family court.

2009

NYU Cancer Center Legal Health Clinic launch. We worked together to develop the NYU Cancer Center Legal Health Clinic to provide pro bono legal services to cancer patients.

2006

Launch of innovative pro bono partnership. DLA Piper and Pfizer launched an innovative pro bono partnership. Our first project was to support Pfizer’s Strategic Legal Thinking Seminars for Nonprofit Executives, an ongoing series of lectures often led by DLA Piper lawyers addressing the legal needs of the nonprofit community.

Verizon case study

In 2009, Verizon looked to DLA Piper to help launch a national pro bono program for its legal department, which has led to a partnership that has facilitated dozens of impactful pro bono projects spanning a decade. Verizon's goal was to find a way for its legal team, which is dispersed across multiple states, to engage and collaborate across the country as opposed to creating 20 different local programs.

From the beginning of our partnership, we have worked closely with Verizon to design and implement their pro bono program. Our national presence and working relationships with legal services providers nationwide have helped us identify pro bono opportunities that resonate with their volunteers and align with our mutual goals. We have collectively generated a positive and lasting impact on our communities, serving hundreds of clients in need nationwide, including:

- Introducing diverse students to legal careers through participation in the Street Law program
- Supporting veterans by creating a monthly legal clinic at a VA medical center
- Assisting immigrants in need by hosting legal clinics
- Taking on full-scope representation of immigrants in their asylum cases
- Hosting over 20 Clinic-in-a-Box programs to advise more than 150 nonprofits and small businesses across the country
- Driving criminal justice reform by helping individuals seeking to expunge their criminal records to increase their job opportunities and expand their access for college financial aid

“Partnering with DLA Piper was the first decision we made as part of the pro bono program, and it was the best decision we’ve made. Our partnership has been instrumental to the success of Verizon’s program and enabled our volunteers to provide meaningful help to individuals and nonprofits throughout our communities.”

— John P. Frantz has chaired Verizon’s pro bono program since its founding in 2009

DLA Piper’s Pro Bono Program: By the Numbers

197,512

Globally, DLA Piper lawyers and staff contributed 197,512 hours of pro bono services in 2021 .

27

In 2020 and 2021, DLA Piper and its lawyers received 27 awards and honors for pro bono work in North America.

200

In 2021, 200 DLA Piper lawyers from 50 offices worked on 41 New Perimeter projects around the world to promote access to justice, sound legal institutions, and social and economic development.

We always welcome opportunities to increase the impact of our pro bono efforts through collaboration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our pro bono team to learn more about how we can work together.

About us

DLA Piper is a global law firm with lawyers located in more than 40 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific, positioning us to help clients with their legal needs around the world.

For more information

To discuss collaboration opportunities or learn more about DLA Piper's pro bono programs, please contact:

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