

# LAWPRO approved Pro Bono Ontario projects

(Last updated: June 2020)

## IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS

| Name                             | PBO Partners   | Program Description  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Free Legal Advice Hotline</b> | Roster lawyers | Provides approx. 30 min telephone summary advice and brief legal services (like court form completion assistance and help drafting demand letters) to callers with civil law problems. |

## Children's Programs

| Name  | PBO Partners   | Program Description  |
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| <b>Older Youth Adoptions Project</b>  | Association of Corporate Counsel , Ontario Chapter, and Catholic Children's Aid Society of Ontario           | Promotes family formation by providing free lawyers to facilitate the adoption process for families of foster children over the age of 18.   |
| <b>PBO's Education Law Program (formerly known as the Child Advocacy Project)</b> | The Advocates' Society and Justice for Children & Youth  | Provides free lawyers to help low-income families whose children face challenges to their rights at school with respect to bullying, unfair discipline or failure to accommodate disabilities. |
| <b>PBO at CHEO</b>  | BLG, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)   | Helps low-income families of critically or chronically ill children address the legal problems that affect their children's health or their ability to care for their children.                |
| <b>PBO at Children's Hospital (London)</b>  | Lerners LLP, Siskinds LLP, The Advocates' Society and Children's Hospital at London's Health Sciences Centre | Helps low-income families of critically or chronically ill children address the legal problems that affect their children's health or their ability to care for their children.                |
| <b>PBO at Holland Bloorview</b>   | Gowlings, Holland Bloorview Kids' Rehabilitation Hospital  | Helps low-income families of critically or chronically ill children address the legal problems that  |

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|  |   | affect their children's health or their ability to care for their children.   |
| <b>PBO at McMaster Children's Hospital</b> | McMaster Children's Hospital  | Helps low-income families of critically or chronically ill children address the legal problems that affect their children's health or their ability to care for their children. |
| <b>PBO at SickKids</b>                     | The Hospital for Sick Children, McMillan LLP and Torkin Manes LLP   | Helps low-income families of critically or chronically ill children address the legal problems that affect their children's health or their ability to care for their children. |
| <b>Unaccompanied Minors Program</b>        | McCarthy Tétrault LLP, RBC Law Group, Canada Border Safety Association, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada and Toronto Pearson Airport | Provides pro bono Designated Representatives to unaccompanied minors arriving at Pearson Airport seeking refugee status.  |
| <b>PBO's ACSD Appeals Program</b>          | BMO Legal & Regulatory Compliance<br>Babin Bessner Spry   | Supports applicants for Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) benefits who seek to appeal funding decisions made under the program.                           |

## Litigation Assistance Programs

| <b>Name</b>  | <b>PBO Partners</b>                            | <b>Program Description</b>  |
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| <b>Amicus Duty Counsel Program at Court of Appeal</b>    | Court of Appeal for Ontario and roster lawyers | Provides weekly amicus (friend of the court) on Wednesday sittings of motions pending appeal at the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Amicus assists the Court by advancing factual and legal position of self-represented litigants who appear. |
| <b>Amicus Duty Counsel Program at Divisional Court</b>   | Divisional Court and roster lawyers            | Provides weekly amicus (friend of the court) on Thursday sittings of motions pending appeal or review at the Divisional Court. Amicus assists the Court by advancing factual and legal position of self-represented litigants who appear.   |
| <b>Amicus Duty Counsel Program at Small Claims Court</b> | Small Claims Court and roster lawyers          | Provides bi-weekly amicus (friend of the Court) on Friday motions. Amicus assists the Court by advancing factual and legal position of self-represented litigants who appear.   |

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| <b>Appeals Assistance Program</b>                         | Superior Court of Justice, Divisional Court, Court of Appeal for Ontario, The Advocates' Society and roster lawyers         | Matches counsel with self-represented appellants and respondents at all levels of appellate court. Services range from brief advice up to and including representation, at counsel's discretion and subject to agreement with client.                            |
| <b>Appeals Assistance Program – Crown Wardship Branch</b> | Ontario Court of Justice, Superior Court of Justice, Court of Appeal for Ontario, The Advocates' Society and roster lawyers | Matches counsel with appellants of Crown wardship no access orders. Services range from brief advice up to and including representation, at counsel's discretion and subject to agreement with client.   |
| <b>Federal Court Assistance Program</b>                   | Federal Court of Canada, The Advocates' Society and roster lawyers  | Matches counsel with self-represented litigants in the Federal Court of Canada. Services range from brief advice up to and including representation, at counsel's discretion and subject to agreement with client.   |
| <b>Law Help Ontario at Small Claims Court</b>             | Small Claims Courts, roster lawyers (various firms) and students (primarily through Pro Bono Students Canada)               | Provides brief services (including in-person legal advice and periodic representation in court) to self-represented litigants with civil non-family matters. Court based centres currently active at 47 Sheppard Ave. E. in Toronto and 161 Elgin St. in Ottawa. |
| <b>Law Help Ontario at Superior Court</b>                 | Superior Courts, roster lawyers (various firms) and students (primarily through Pro Bono Students Canada)                   | Provides brief services (including in-person legal advice) to self-represented litigants with civil non-family matters. Court based centres currently active at 393 University Ave. in Toronto and 161 Elgin St. in Ottawa                                       |
| <b>Law Help Ontario Remote Services Project</b>           | Roster lawyers (various firms) and students (primarily through Pro Bono Students Canada)                                    | Provides brief services (including telephone legal advice) to self-represented litigants with civil non-family matters in Small Claims Court and Superior Court, who live outside a city with a court-based help centre.   |
| <b>Mediation Assistance Project (Pilot)</b>               | Roster mediators  | Provides pro bono mediation to clients of Law Help Ontario who have matters that are subject to mandatory mediation.   |
| <b>PBO at Mt. Sinai</b>                                   | PBO, BMO Law Group, Mt. Sinai   | Provides free Powers of Attorney for Property or Personal care to low-income Ontarians being treated at  |

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| <b>Supreme Court Leave to Appeal Program</b>                          | Supreme Court of Canada, Canadian Bar Association and roster lawyers              | Sinai Health System on an in or out patient basis.<br>Matches counsel (all former Supreme Court clerks) with self-represented litigants seeking leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Services range from brief advice up to and including representation, at counsel's discretion and subject to agreement with client. |
| <b>Toronto Small Claims Court Judgment Debtor Examination Program</b> | Toronto Small Claims Court, Blake, Cassels and Graydon LLP, McCarthy Tétrault LLP | Provides weekly amicus (friend of the court) on Wednesday sittings of Judgment-Debtor Examination Court. Amicus assists the Court by advancing factual and legal position of self-represented litigants who appear and helping to resolve matters  |
| <b>Trial Matching Project</b>   | Toronto Small Claims Court, Bennett Jones LLP, Stockwoods LLP                     | Provides representation to low-income, self-represented litigants who have a scheduled trial at the Toronto Small Claims Court. Service is distinct from the same day pro bono duty counsel service that is provided in the same court.  |

## Charitable Law Program (formerly known as Volunteer Lawyers' Service)

| Name                   | PBO Partners | Program Description  |
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| <b>Charity Toolbox</b> |              | Guided self-help tool for organizations seeking to incorporate or apply for charitable status. |

## FACILITATED PROGRAMS

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| <b>4 Villages Employment Law Clinic</b> | Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP, 4 Villages Community Health Centre     | <b>Free legal information, summary advice and referrals to low-income individuals in the CHC's catchment area on employment law and related human rights issues. Advice clinics held bi-monthly.</b> |
| <b>519 LGBTQ Advice Clinic</b>          | Roster lawyers, The 519 Community Centre                            | Free legal information, summary advice and referrals in an LGBTQ positive environment. Advice clinics held weekly.   |
| <b>Aboriginal Artists' Program</b>      | Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto | Free legal advice and representation to low-income Aboriginal artists on Intellectual  |

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|  |   | property, commercial contracts and other business law matters.   |
| <b>Centre francophone Clinic Support Project</b>           | Roster lawyers, Centre francophone                                    | <i>Emeritus</i> lawyers and lawyers in the 25% & 50% fee categories conduct client intake, provide summary advice and conduct legal research and writing in support of clinic lawyers.                         |
| <b>CILAC Pro Bono Project</b>                              | CILAC, various community groups                                       | Free legal information, summary advice and referrals to members of the Iranian-Canadian Community. PLE and summary advice clinics held monthly at various locations.   |
| <b>CNIB Corporate Health and Capacity Building Project</b> | RBC Law Group, Blakes, CNIB   | RBC Law Group and Blakes act as counsel to CNIB on various corporate governance and management issues.   |
| <b>College of ECE Legal Assistance Program</b>             | College of Early Childhood Educators, PBO & Cassels Brock & Blackwell | Provides of pro bono legal services to members of the CECE facing complaints or who have been referred by the CECE's Complaints Committee to the CECE's Discipline Committee or Fitness to Practise Committee. |
| <b>Corporate Pro Bono Program</b>                          | Roster lawyers, Connect Legal   | Free legal advice and representation to help Ontario's charities, non-profits, low-income entrepreneurs, start-ups and arts organizations improve governance and manage risk.                                  |
| <b>Estate Planning Program</b>                             | Roster lawyers, Hamilton Community Legal Clinics                      | Volunteer lawyers provide free wills and Powers of Attorney to low-income Hamiltonians.  |
| <b>Evergreen Brickworks Redevelopment Program</b>          | Blakes Cassels and Graydon LLP, Evergreen Canada                      | Blakes represents Evergreen on matters relating to the redevelopment of the Don Valley Brickworks in Toronto   |
| <b>Inmate Appeals Duty Counsel Program</b>                 | Inmate Appeals Duty Counsel Program and roster lawyers                | Provides brief services to qualified indigent self-represented individuals before the Court of Appeal for Ontario with respect to criminal appeals and appeals with respect to related regulatory offences.    |
| <b>Legal Clinic for the Greek</b>                          | Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association, The Greek Community of Toronto | Free legal information, summary advice and referrals for GCT's clients. Clinics held on a monthly basis.   |
| <b>Luke's Place (Durham region, in-person services)</b>    | Roster lawyers, Luke's Place  | Free legal advice, brief services and referrals to survivors of domestic violence in family law matters  |
| <b>Miller Thomson's Accelerator</b>                        | Miller Thomson LLP, MaRS  | Miller Thomson provides pro  |

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| <b>Projects</b>  | Discovery District, and its subgroup, Social Innovation Generation in Toronto, Digital Media Zone located at Ryerson University, the Accelerator Centre, located at the University of Waterloo and the HUB, located in Kitchener | bono summary advice to start-up businesses and entrepreneurs at the listed Ontario accelerator centres.  |
| <b>Miller Thomson at Ryerson</b>   | Miller Thomson LLP, Ryerson Law Research Centre  | Free legal information, summary advice, referrals and representation to Ryerson students.  |
| <b>Ontario Securities Exchange Commission Litigation Assistance Program</b>                                | Roster lawyers   | Free legal advice and representation to unrepresented respondents appearing in administrative enforcement proceedings before the OSC.  |
| <b>Queen's Elder Law Clinic</b>  | Queen's Faculty of Law   | Provides free wills and powers of attorney, assistance completing guardianship applications or certificates of appointment and general legal advocacy to low-income Kingston-area seniors.   |
| <b>Queen's Business Law Clinic</b>   | Queen's Faculty of Law, roster lawyers   | Free legal advice and representation to help charities, non-profits, low-income entrepreneurs, start-ups and arts organizations in the Kingston area improve governance and manage risk.   |
| <b>Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (<i>temporarily approved with a view to permanent approval</i>)</b> | Catholic Crosscultural Services, Refugee Sponsorship Support Program   | Provides public legal education, summary advice and short term legal services to Canadians seeking to privately sponsor refugees.  |
| <b>Ryerson Law and Business Clinic</b>   | Fogler, Rubinoff LLP, McMillan LLP, Miller Thomson LLP, Ridout & Maybee LLP and Ted Rogers School of Business at Ryerson University  | Provides access to free legal information, advice, and referrals on a variety of business-related legal issues to small businesses and entrepreneurs who cannot afford to retain a lawyer. Also provides training and mentorship to Ryerson Law & Business students seeking exposure to the legal profession |
| <b>South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario</b>   | Roster lawyers, SALCO  | Free legal information, summary advice and representation to low-income members of Ontario's South Asian Community   |
| <b>Teen Legal Helpline</b>   | Teen Legal Helpline, Roster lawyers  | Free online service that matches teen questions with experienced   |

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|  |   | volunteer lawyers who provide confidential summary legal advice.  |
| <b>Test Case Support Program</b>   | American College of Trial Lawyers, Community Legal Clinic Simcoe Haliburton | Expertise and support for the clinic's test cases.  |
| <b>The Stop Community Food Centre (formerly the Green/Arts Barns Redevelopment Program)</b>          | Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, The Stop   | BLG acts as General Counsel to the Stop.  |
| <b>Unison Health Community Services (formerly known as Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre)</b> | McCarthy Tétrault LLP and Unison Health Community Services                  | McCarthy's acts as general counsel to Unison.   |
| <b>Virtual Family Law Clinic (pilot)</b>   | Luke's Place, Schlifer Clinic, Roster lawyers, Various shelters             | Provides legal information and short term legal services to women who have left an abusive relationship and are not able to access in-person legal assistance. Project uses web conferencing platforms to connect women with pro bono lawyers for 55min sessions. |
| <b>Visual Artists' Legal Clinic of Ontario</b>   | Torys, Canadian Artists' Federation (CARFAC)                                | Free legal information, summary advice and representation on intellectual property, contracts and other business law matters for low-income visual artists.   |
| <b>Volunteer Legal Assistance Program</b>  | Torys LLP and MS Society of Canada, Ontario and Nunavut Division            | Torys LLP provides public legal education, summary advice and direct representation to eligible individuals living with Multiple Sclerosis.   |
| <b>Wellspring Employment Law/LTD Advice Clinic</b>   | Roster lawyers, Wellspring Cancer Support Centre                            | Free legal information, summary advice and referrals on employment law and long term disability issues for cancer survivors. Clinics held on a bi-monthly basis.  |