

LAWPRO approved Pro Bono Ontario projects

(Last updated: March 2024)

IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS

Name	PBO Partners	Program Description
Free Legal Advice Hotline	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
Older Youth Adoptions Project	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.
PBO's Education Law Program (formerly known as the Child Advocacy Project)	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.
PBO at CHEO	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.
PBO at Children's Hospital (London)	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.
PBO at Holland Bloorview	Gowlings, Holland Bloorview Kids' Rehabilitation 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.
PBO at McMaster Children's Hospital	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.
PBO at SickKids	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.
PBO's ACSD Appeals Program	BMO Legal & Regulatory Compliance 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

Name	PBO Partners	Program Description
Amicus Duty Counsel Program at Court of Appeal	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.
Amicus Duty Counsel Program at Divisional Court	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.
Amicus Duty Counsel Program at Small Claims Court	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.
Appeals Assistance Program	Superior Court of Justice, Divisional Court, Court of Appeal for Ontario, The Advocates' Society and roster	Matches counsel with self-represented appellants and respondents at all levels of

	lawyers	appellate court. Services range from brief advice up to and including representation, at counsel's discretion and subject to agreement with client.
Appeals Assistance Program – Crown Wardship Branch	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.
Federal Court Assistance Program	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.
Law Help Ontario at Small Claims Court	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.
Law Help Ontario at Superior Court	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.
Law Help Ontario Remote Services Project	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.
Mediation Assistance Project (Pilot)	Roster mediators	Provides pro bono mediation to clients of Law Help Ontario who have matters that are subject to mandatory mediation.
PBO at Mt. Sinai	PBO, BMO Law Group, Mt. Sinai	Provides free Powers of Attorney for Property or Personal care to low-income Ontarians being treated at Sinai Health System on an in or out patient basis.
Supreme Court Leave to Appeal Program	Supreme Court of Canada, Canadian Bar Association and roster lawyers	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.
Toronto Small Claims Court Judgment Debtor Examination Program	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
Trial Matching Project	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
Charity Toolbox		Guided self-help tool for organizations seeking to incorporate or apply for charitable status.

FACILITATED PROGRAMS

4 Villages Employment Law Clinic	Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP, 4 Villages Community Health Centre	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.
519 LGBTQ Advice Clinic	Roster lawyers, The 519 Community Centre	Free legal information, summary advice and referrals in an LGBTQ positive environment. Advice clinics held weekly.
Aboriginal Artists' Program	Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto	Free legal advice and representation to low-income Aboriginal artists on Intellectual property, commercial contracts and other business law matters.
Artists Legal Advice Services (ALAS)	University of Toronto law school	Free legal advice specifically for individuals in the arts community

		such as stage performers, graphic designers, writers, etc.. Clinic also hosts several information sessions throughout the year and maintains a legal database on legal issues unique to the arts community
Centre francophone Clinic Support Project	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.
CILAC Pro Bono Project	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.
CNIB Corporate Health and Capacity Building Project	RBC Law Group, Blakes, CNIB	RBC Law Group and Blakes act as counsel to CNIB on various corporate governance and management issues.
College of ECE Legal Assistance Program	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.
Corporate Pro Bono Program	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.
Estate Planning Program	Roster lawyers, Hamilton Community Legal Clinics	Volunteer lawyers provide free wills and Powers of Attorney to low-income Hamiltonians.
Evergreen Brickworks Redevelopment Program	Blakes Cassels and Graydon LLP, Evergreen Canada	Blakes represents Evergreen on matters relating to the redevelopment of the Don Valley Brickworks in Toronto
Inmate Appeals Duty Counsel Program	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.
Legal Clinic for the Greek	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.
Luke's Place (Durham region, in-person services)	Roster lawyers, Luke's Place	Free legal advice, brief services and referrals to survivors of domestic violence in family law matters
Miller Thomson's Accelerator Projects	Miller Thomson LLP, MaRS 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	Miller Thomson provides pro bono summary advice to start-up businesses and entrepreneurs at the listed Ontario accelerator centres.
Miller Thomson at Ryerson	Miller Thomson LLP, Ryerson Law Research Centre	Free legal information, summary advice, referrals and representation to Ryerson students.
Ontario Securities Exchange Commission Litigation Assistance Program	Roster lawyers	Free legal advice and representation to unrepresented respondents appearing in administrative enforcement proceedings before the OSC.
Queen's Elder Law Clinic	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.
Queen's Business Law Clinic	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.
Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (temporarily approved with a view to permanent approval)	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.
Ryerson Law and Business Clinic	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
Slingshot X LASL Clinic	Gilberts LLP	Corporate and IP law services, legal

	Lincoln Alexander School of Law Ryerson University (LASL)	education and resources for organizations facing financial barriers
South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario	Roster lawyers, SALCO	Free legal information, summary advice and representation to low-income members of Ontario's South Asian Community
Teen Legal Helpline	Teen Legal Helpline, Roster lawyers	Free online service that matches teen questions with experienced volunteer lawyers who provide confidential summary legal advice.
Test Case Support Program	American College of Trial Lawyers, Community Legal Clinic Simcoe Haliburton	Expertise and support for the clinic's test cases.
The Stop Community Food Centre (formerly the Green/Arts Barns Redevelopment Program)	Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, The Stop	BLG acts as General Counsel to the Stop.
Unison Health Community Services (formerly known as Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre)	McCarthy Tétrault LLP and Unison Health Community Services	McCarthy's acts as general counsel to Unison.
Virtual Family Law Clinic (pilot)	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.
Visual Artists' Legal Clinic of Ontario	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.
Volunteer Legal Assistance Program	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.
Wellspring Employment Law/LTD Advice Clinic	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.