



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
Equal Access to Justice



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES, INC. 2018-2019 VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT PLAN¹

“Perhaps it is an eviction, a marital conflict, repossession of a car, or misunderstanding over a welfare check—each problem may have a legal solution. These are small claims in the Nation’s eye, but they loom large in the hearts and lives of poor Americans.” President Nixon, on the establishment of the Legal Services Corporation

“Lawyers have their duties as citizens, but they also have special duties as lawyers. Their obligations go far deeper than earning a living as specialists in corporation or tax law. They have a continuing responsibility to uphold the fundamental principles of justice from which the law cannot depart.” Robert F. Kennedy

Introducing Prairie State Legal Services: Working to Close the Justice Gap in our Communities

Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. is a non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal aid to low-income persons and seniors who have important legal problems affecting their basic human needs. Prairie State serves 36 counties in northern and central Illinois, outside of Cook County, from 11 regional offices and several special projects. We represent survivors of domestic violence in orders of protection, divorce and other family cases; people with disabilities who are wrongfully denied benefits; tenants who are being unlawfully evicted from their homes; families who are facing utility shut-offs or mortgage foreclosures; seniors who are facing improper discharge from nursing homes or are victims of elder abuse; veterans who need help securing SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits to which they are entitled; and many others with urgent legal problems. Our assistance can make the difference between continuing physical abuse and safety for a family; between homelessness and a decent place to live; between the danger of transfer trauma for a disabled elderly adult and stability at home or in a nursing home; between access to basic medical care and progression of disease or exacerbation of symptoms; and between hunger and having enough to eat. More information about Prairie State can be found at www.pslegal.org.

Prairie State is the only provider of free civil legal aid in most of the 36 counties we serve. The need for legal assistance far outstrips the capacity of Prairie State’s paid staff of just under 150 attorneys, paralegals, intake specialists, *pro bono* coordinators, and support staff – many of whom are part-time employees – to provide advice and representation to eligible clients:

- Prairie State’s 36 county service area is home to over 435,000 persons with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level and hundreds of thousands more who have incomes below 200% of the

¹ As a recipient of federal funds from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), Prairie State must follow federal regulations promulgated by LSC in the operation of its program and services. These regulations require grantees to prepare an annual Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Plan (45 CFR Part 1614), to operate a PAI program, and to report to LSC annually regarding its PAI services. This document is Prairie State’s PAI Plan for the year 2018-2019.

poverty level. Between 2000 and 2015, the percent of the Chicago region's poor who were living in the suburbs rose from 34% to 49%. The rate of poverty in Illinois is higher than it was before the Great Recession; Illinois is behind other states in recovering from that recession. (Census data; [March 2017 Report on Illinois Poverty](#), and [Illinois Poverty Update April 2018](#), Heartland Alliance)

- In 2017, the Legal Services Corporation, a not for profit corporation which distributes the Congressional allocation for legal aid programs, issued its [Justice Gap Report](#). That report concluded that “71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem in the year preceding the study. Many of these households have had to deal with several issues. Indeed, more than half (54%) faced at least two civil legal problems and about one in four (24%) has faced six or more in the past year alone. The civil legal problems these Americans face are most often related to basic needs like getting access to health care, staying in their homes, and securing safe living conditions for their families.”
- The Justice Gap Report found that over 70% of those low-income people who seek help from a civil legal aid program like Prairie State will not get all of the assistance they need. For example they might receive legal advice rather than representation. In large part, this is because the legal aid program has insufficient staff or other resources to handle the matter.
- In 2017, Prairie State opened over 14,000 cases for services ranging from individualized legal advice over the phone to representation in court. During that same period, however, there were more than 29,600 calls to our centralized intake service. We use a triage system to sort these calls; we were unable to talk to many callers who had important legal problems which did not fall into the most urgent categories. In 2017, because of lack of staff or volunteers to handle the cases, Prairie State closed over 3175 cases with advice or other assistance short of full representation even though the matter was of significant importance to the client's basic needs.

The justice gap – the wide gulf between the critical legal needs of low-income members of our community and the ability of Prairie State to meet those needs – is the reason that *pro bono* work by hundreds of dedicated volunteers is so critical, and why it is essential for us to continue to build cost effective *pro bono* projects which address our clients' most critical needs. We need your help in these efforts.

Prairie State's Volunteer Programs

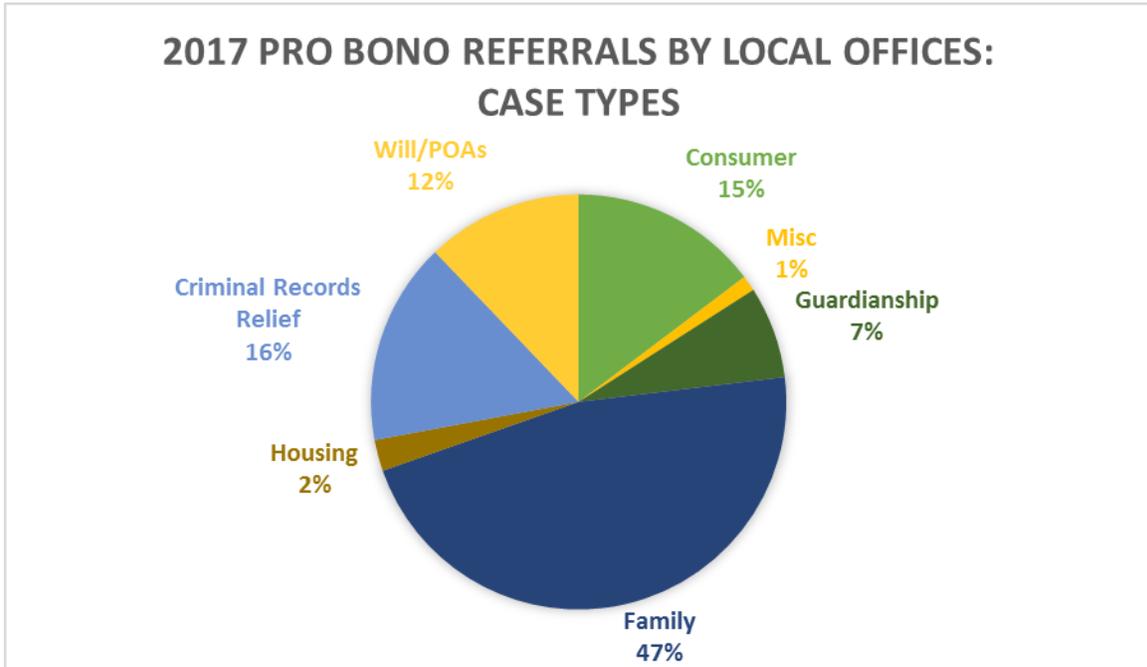
The work of volunteer attorneys, paralegals, law students, undergraduates, intake specialists, support staff, and others across the Prairie State service area provides a critical supplement to the work of Prairie State's paid staff. In addition to enabling Prairie State to help more of northern and central Illinois' most vulnerable residents and making immeasurable improvements in the lives of those clients and their families, volunteers make a larger contribution to the public good. A number of recent studies have uncovered alarmingly low rates of confidence in our justice system. Volunteers support the justice system and the public's faith in that system by increasing the ability of the public to access the courts and helping ensure the fair administration of justice.

Prairie State administers 10 local *pro bono* projects from its 11 regional offices. These local projects operate with strong support from the local bar and courts, and focus primarily on referring individual cases to local attorneys for extended representation, for example in court, in negotiations or before administrative agencies. Several of these local projects also include advice clinics or courthouse help desks. Prairie State also operates a program-wide *Pro Bono* Telephone Counseling/Intake Project. Additionally, dozens of volunteers work in our offices each year in a variety of capacities. All work performed through Prairie State's *pro bono* projects is

covered by Prairie State’s malpractice insurance.

2017 Pro Bono Highlights

- Over 370 volunteer attorneys in our local communities accepted 830 new *pro bono* case referrals from our local offices for advice or more extensive representation. Approximately 47% of these cases involved a family law matter.



- Volunteers reported securing court awards for family law clients referred to them by our local projects totaling over \$556,710 in annual child support or maintenance and \$153,732 in one-time property allocations. These awards will provide essential help to these clients to care for their families.
- Volunteers reported almost 4900 hours of service to clients referred by our local *pro bono* projects and our Social Security Reconsideration Project. This outstanding contribution of volunteer time demonstrates the strong commitment of our volunteers; in some cases these hours help us access grant funding because of the value of this time. We believe that some volunteers underreport their volunteer time, perhaps not realizing that this information is critical to us for our assessment of the effectiveness of our volunteer programs and that the data is considered by some funders of Prairie State.

“It is so rewarding to help with this work.” Peoria volunteer.

- Twenty-three attorney volunteers with our Telephone Counseling/Intake Project completed almost 500 cases by providing individualized advice or other brief services to callers. They also spoke with many additional clients with the most critical cases, offered them initial advice, and referred their cases on to our local offices for more in-depth services. In addition, a volunteer intake specialist who is

not an attorney contributed significant time in taking phone applications, allowing our lawyers to spend their time providing legal advice.

- Prairie State’s Telephone Counseling Service intake hotline began a new partnership with the legal department at McDonald’s Corporation in 2017. McDonald’s attorneys advise clients who need legal advice with landlord-tenant problems including evictions, habitability issues, and security deposits.
- In 2017, at least 15 attorneys volunteered in our offices as unpaid staff, handling cases, interviewing new clients, or assisting the attorneys with their work.
- In total, volunteer attorneys in the community, working through our special projects and working as unpaid staff in our offices completed more than 1360 cases in 2017.
- Over 40 undergraduate, paralegal, and law students interned with Prairie State in 2017. These students interviewed clients, drafted court pleadings, conducted legal research, reviewed files at administrative agencies, reviewed and summarized medical records in Social Security cases, and performed other activities in support of our work. Many law student interns become *pro bono* volunteers after they are admitted to practice; at least one member of Prairie State’s current Board of Directors began with us as a summer law student.
- In 2017, 20 retired, inactive, or out-of-state attorneys were licensed to perform *pro bono* services through Prairie State under [Illinois Supreme Court Rule 756\(k\)](#).
- Prairie State presented 15 live or web-based continuing legal education courses free of charge to volunteers and prospective volunteers, and continued its comprehensive family law eLearning course available through [Illinois Legal Aid Online](#).
- Prairie State continued its partnership with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Rockford, where eight volunteer attorneys provided free legal advice and brief services to more than 35 clients through a courthouse help desk.

“Thank you for believing in us!” Disabled client’s mother on volunteer’s winning favorable decision in disability termination case .

- Prairie State has continued its collaboration with the 17th Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts and the Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic/Northern Illinois University Law School to provide services to victims of domestic violence. The OP Court Project was conceived by one of the judges, who saw a great unmet need for legal representation in plenary orders of protection. Eighteen volunteer attorneys received extensive training in client-centered services and are participating in the project. Prairie State is responsible for matching the clients with volunteer attorneys. In 2017, Prairie State has referred 31 clients to volunteer attorneys through this project. We are planning another training in 2018 to expand our pool of volunteers for this project.
- On April 29, 2017, Illinois State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, in partnership with Prairie State, Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago, and Caterpillar, Inc., hosted the Peoria Second Chance Summit at the Life Together Center in Peoria. This event was preceded the week before by a CLE event to train volunteers to assist clients at the summit. Prairie State played an important role in recruiting the volunteer attorneys. On the day of the event 10 Prairie State lawyers and approximately 40 volunteers

provided free legal services to over 200 individuals. The lawyers counseled clients on reviewing criminal history transcripts, prepared and filed petitions for expungement and sealing, and provided information on alternative forms of relief under Illinois law, such as health care waivers, certificates of good conduct, certificates of relief from disability, and clemency petitions. In addition to the clients who met individually with an attorney, many others obtained legal information from the Summit's resource fair. Following the summit, Prairie State continued to receive calls from potential clients and place these clients with volunteers. The second Peoria Expungement Summit and Second Chance Fair is scheduled for July 21, 2018. There will be 300 pre-registration spots for Summit clients. On June 29, Prairie State will host a CLE event to train Summit volunteers.

“Thank you! You really helped me when I needed help the most.” Waukegan *Pro Bono* Client

- Volunteer attorneys and physicians worked with staff in several of our offices on appeals of denials of SSI disability benefits from the Social Security Administration. Volunteers help us analyze the medical and other evidence, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the potential cases, and develop arguments to support the clients' claims for benefits. In some cases, volunteers took cases on themselves and advocated on clients' behalves before the Bureau of Disability Determination Services at the reconsideration stage of appeal.
- In our Rockford office, we partner with The ARC of Winnebago and Boone Counties, a social service agency which assists people with intellectual & developmental disabilities, in providing *pro bono* representation for parents and caregivers seeking guardianship of their disabled children who are turning 18 and still in need of a legal guardian. We referred 21 clients for *pro bono* representation in 2017. Sixteen volunteer attorneys participate in this project.
- Prairie State continued to work with PILI (the Public Interest Law Initiative) and with members of the local bar and judiciary to promote *pro bono* participation through the Judicial Circuit *Pro Bono* Committees in the Tenth, Eleventh, Fourteenth and Eighteenth Judicial Circuits in 2017. For example, The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit *Pro Bono* Committee, which includes staff from PILI and Prairie State, volunteer attorneys, bar association members, corporate attorneys and a member of the Judiciary sponsored a training on June 16, 2017 on the basics of pursuing an adult guardianship and of serving as a guardian *ad litem*. Following the training, Prairie State's Rock Island office placed 6 cases with the newly trained volunteers. Together with the Pro Bono Committee and PILI, our office supported the Rock Island County Bar Association's power of attorney/living wills clinics, one each in Moline and Rock Island. Five new volunteers joined our *pro bono* ranks as part of these efforts.
- Prairie State continued its successful *pro bono* legal advice walk-in clinics in Bloomington in partnership with State Farm, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit *Pro Bono* Committee, the McLean County Bar Association, Central Illinois Paralegal Association, the Immigration Project, Mid Central Community Action, and the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI). We held two clinics in 2017; 34 volunteer attorneys and 18 volunteer paralegals provided legal help to 60 Prairie State clients.
- Prairie State worked closely with bar associations throughout our 36 county service area to place cases with local attorneys, recognize volunteers, encourage *pro bono* involvement, and develop new volunteer opportunities.

- Prairie State enjoyed ongoing relationships with the corporate legal departments of Abbott Laboratories, AbbVie, Caterpillar Inc., Deere & Company, McDonald's and State Farm.

We thank our volunteers and our *pro bono* partners for making these accomplishments possible in 2017.

2018 Volunteer Involvement Goals

With just over 14,000 attorneys registered with the ARDC in the Prairie State service area and hundreds of thousands of low-income residents in need of legal aid, we continue to explore ways to increase participation in our *pro bono* program and to efficiently integrate volunteers into our service delivery model. While each of our local *pro bono* projects has its own specific goals and plans, the following are our goals for our volunteer program as a whole.

1. Continue to prioritize referral of individual clients to volunteer attorneys for extended representation.

The single greatest need of our clients – and one of the most cost effective uses of the limited resources Prairie State is able to devote to *pro bono* involvement – is for experienced attorneys who will provide direct and extended representation in court and in negotiations. This is particularly true in the area of family law. While thorough advice and brief services enable many of our clients to represent themselves effectively, many more of our clients lack the ability to navigate the legal system successfully without an attorney. We need more volunteer attorneys who are able to commit to providing in-court representation to Prairie State clients. In many of our counties, we are able to match new attorneys with mentor volunteers to provide representation.

2. Increase referrals in the areas of family law, bankruptcy, wills/powers of attorney and expungement/sealing.

We have identified these as areas of significant client need which are particularly appropriate for volunteer involvement. These are cases which do not require a volunteer to “drop everything,” but in which the volunteer can make a very significant difference for a client. These extended representation cases are cost effective for our *pro bono* coordinators to refer. Expansion of our work in expungements and sealing may require us to offer MCLE events for potential volunteers; we are offering events in 2018 in Peoria and Rockford, and we are exploring options for recorded training.

3. Recruit more retired and inactive attorneys to volunteer in our offices.

Retired attorneys who volunteer in our offices and function as unpaid staff are one of our most valuable *pro bono* assets. While most of these attorneys do not have prior poverty law experience, their years of practice allow them to learn new areas of law quickly and they bring a fresh perspective to the issues legal aid attorneys see day in and day out. Because they no longer have an outside practice, many of these retired attorneys are able to devote time to contested or complex matters. Prairie State provides support, training, and supervision to these in-house volunteer attorneys. In our Ottawa office, a retired judge volunteers as our *pro bono* coordinator. This volunteer makes an outstanding contribution to his local community, utilizing his familiarity with both the law and the local bar to increase *pro bono* services to our clients.

We find that many attorneys are not aware that [Illinois Supreme Court Rule 756\(k\)](#) allows them to perform *pro bono* services through a sponsoring entity like Prairie State, even after they have changed their attorney

registration status to inactive or retired. We will continue to publicize this option and to target retiring attorneys in our recruitment efforts. Retired attorneys are not the only potential source of in-house volunteer lawyers. Many attorneys do not have paid positions because of family situations or obligations, but wish to remain active and contribute their special knowledge to their communities. These potential volunteers bring a wealth of value to our clients and our work. We will continue to seek these volunteers, and to provide them with the support they need to represent our clients and find a meaningful volunteer opportunity with us.

4. Develop and offer cost effective “bite-sized” *pro bono* opportunities.

The demand from busy attorneys for discrete, time-limited *pro bono* opportunities has grown enormously in recent years. Prairie State has responded to this demand by making more bite-sized *pro bono* opportunities available to volunteers. In 2010, only 37% of our *pro bono* cases were closed as advice or brief services; in 2017, 67% of our *pro bono* cases were closed as advice or brief services. Our Joliet and Bloomington advice clinics; our Rockford bankruptcy helpdesk; power of attorney clinics; self-represented litigant divorce clinics; our growing number of expungement clinics; and telephone counseling opportunities all provide discrete *pro bono* opportunities to volunteers.

However, while the need for civil legal aid services is almost limitless, it is challenging to create bite-sized *pro bono* opportunities that are meaningful to both volunteers and clients, and also cost effective for Prairie State. Many people who are unfamiliar with the operation of *pro bono* programs are surprised to learn that there is significant time involved in administering them properly. Attorneys volunteering their time expect that Prairie State will screen the cases for client financial eligibility and for at least apparent merit. The cases we refer through our *pro bono* projects remain Prairie State cases. This allows us to offer malpractice insurance to our volunteers and to report the cases to our funders. It also means, however, that we must comply with certain reporting and oversight requirements of our funders and our malpractice carrier. We must follow up to be sure that the cases are completed and that we have case closing data such as the information reflected in this Volunteer Involvement Plan. All of this takes time.

The Prairie State staff time required to refer an advice or brief services *pro bono* case to a volunteer is almost identical to the staff time required to refer a complex litigated matter; Prairie State staff frequently spend two to two and half times more hours screening, referring and following up on an advice or brief services *pro bono* matter than the volunteer attorney spends on the same matter. In some cases, the disproportion is even greater. As we analyze our “bite-sized” *pro bono* opportunities, it is increasingly clear that not all such opportunities make sense.

In 2018, we will continue to assess our current bite-sized *pro bono* offerings to maximize their cost effectiveness and efficiency. We also will continue to refine our data collection and client data base to maximize efficient data entry and effective extraction of meaningful reports. Before committing resources to new discrete *pro bono* ventures, we will evaluate these projects with a close eye toward cost effectiveness.

5. Use technology to train and support volunteers.

We believe that in-person continuing legal education is an effective way to train new volunteers and to thank existing volunteers for their service. However, technology affords new opportunities to efficiently and timely train and support volunteers.

In 2016 we created a substantial library of recorded training to allow for continuous onboarding of specialized *pro bono* project volunteers. We will continue to build that library in 2018.

Prairie State is a sponsoring entity under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 756(k); retired and inactive status attorneys can register with the Illinois ARDC to practice under our auspices, without returning to active status.

Prairie State also is an MCLE provider. We offer a variety of MCLE events and recorded training to support the work of our volunteers. All of our MCLE events are free of charge.

6. Recruit bilingual volunteer attorneys to represent limited English-proficient clients, and train English-speaking volunteer attorneys to use Prairie State’s interpreting and translation resources.

Many residents of our 36 counties have limited ability in English and are need of legal help for basic needs problems, but it has been a challenge to find volunteers to serve these clients. Just over five percent of the clients served by Prairie State staff in 2017 were limited English-proficient, but only 1.7 percent of *pro bono* cases involved limited English-proficient clients. Self-representation is a particular challenge for individuals who are not proficient in English and thus finding volunteers who are willing to work with these clients is a priority. Prairie State has funds available for interpreting and translation services.

7. Involve more non-attorney volunteers.

We continue to explore and experiment with ways to involve non-attorney volunteers. Non-attorneys who are able to volunteer regularly in our Wheaton and Waukegan offices can help screen clients for eligibility for Prairie State’s services, which enables our intake attorneys to spend more time giving legal advice to eligible clients.

Our law student internship program remains a critical piece of our non-attorney volunteer program. In 2018, almost every Prairie State office will host at least one law student intern and several will host two or more. At least 4 of these students will have Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 student practice licenses allowing them to provide advice as well as in-court representation to clients.

Our Peoria office has a vibrant paralegal internship program, and in McHenry a long-time paralegal volunteer makes a significant impact by supporting the work of our local volunteer coordinator. This coming year we will be seeking undergraduate interns and others who would be willing to make a part-time commitment for at least several months to work with our local office *pro bono* coordinators. We believe that this arrangement will be “win-win,” as the interns become familiar with the legal system and our cost in staff time per case drops, allowing us to serve even more clients.

8. Develop opportunities in DuPage County

DuPage County is the most populous county in Prairie State’s service area, and home to about 1/3 of the ARDC-registered attorneys in our 36 counties. The DuPage Legal Aid Foundation, a program initially developed by the DuPage County Bar Association, coordinates *pro bono* family law services in the county as well as some other *pro bono* services. We have developed stronger communication with DuPage Legal Aid over the past year, and are committed to continuing our efforts to work together to maximize services to DuPage County residents. DuPage County lawyers contact us on a regular basis asking what *pro bono* opportunities we can provide to them. In 2018, we will be working to make the best use of those offers of assistance while not

duplicating the excellent work of the DuPage Legal Aid Foundation.

Consultations which have helped us shape this plan

We are fortunate to have broad input as we work to improve our *pro bono* projects.

- We distributed over 320 copies of local summaries of our 2017-18 plan directly to volunteer attorneys, bar leaders and judges in our service area; each of those individuals received the local summary for his or her particular area, along with links to the full plan. Many of those 320+ individuals provided insights and suggestions for improving our *pro bono* projects.
- In DuPage, McHenry, and Peoria Counties, we are part of bar association *pro bono* committees; this gives us the opportunity to learn more about the interests of local attorneys and to receive input on our local *pro bono* efforts.
- Our Board of Directors is actively involved in promoting *pro bono*, and has identified building our *pro bono* programs as one aspect of our current strategic plan.
- Members of the judiciary have reached out to us to help the courts in developing *pro bono* projects, such as local help desks and Winnebago County's OP Court Project.
- We work together with Pro Bono Network based in Oak Park (in Cook County) and Administer Justice based in Elgin to coordinate efforts and maximize *pro bono* opportunities in a cost-effective way.
- In 2016 we conducted an extensive Legal Needs Study in which we asked a wide spectrum of the community to give us input on the types of legal issues it is important for us to address. We also conducted one-on-one interviews with "key informants" such as judges, bar leaders and social service providers. These interviews covered a wide range of topics, including service priorities and potential *pro bono* contributions to our work.

We need your input!

Prairie State needs input to make our *pro bono* program as effective as possible. Our most successful *pro bono* efforts have grown out of conversations with our partners – the courts, bar associations, law firms, social service agencies, state and federal government, and individuals in our communities.

We actively invite bar leaders and other *pro bono* partners to offer input on this plan by contacting Prairie State's Executive Director or Director of Advocacy Training and Volunteer Services:

Michael O'Connor
Executive Director
303 North Main Street, #600
Rockford, IL 61101
(815) 965-2134
moconnor@pslegal.org

Linda Rothnagel
Director of Advocacy Training and Volunteer
Services
5320 West Elm
McHenry, IL 60050
(815) 900-3286
lrothnagel@pslegal.org

You may also contact the staff of our regional offices and special projects:

Bloomington – (309) 827-5021

(serving Livingston, McLean, and Woodford Counties)

- Managing Attorney Adrian Barr (abarr@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Kathy Boyle (kboyle@pslegal.org)

Joliet – (815) 727-5123

(serving Grundy and Will Counties)

- Managing Attorney Andrea DeTellis (adetellis@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Suzanne Helwich (shelwich@pslegal.org)

Kankakee – (815) 935-2750

(serving Iroquois and Kankakee Counties)

- Managing Attorney Ketura Baptiste (kbaptiste@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Nancy Hinton (nhinton@pslegal.org)

McHenry – (815) 344-9113

(serving McHenry County)

- Supervising Attorney Paul Zukowski (pzukowski@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Dori Michaels (dmichaels@pslegal.org)

Ottawa – (815) 434-5903

(serving Bureau, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties)

- Managing Attorney Don Dirks (ddirks@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Ret. Judge James Brusatte (jbrusatte@pslegal.org)

Peoria and Galesburg – (309) 674-9831

(serving Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell and Warren Counties)

- Managing Attorney Denise Conklin (dconklin@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Kate Durham Whetstone (kwhetstone@pslegal.org)

Rockford – (815) 965-2902

(serving Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties)

- Managing Attorney Kimberly Thielbar (kthielbar@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Wendy Crouch (wcrouch@pslegal.org)

Rock Island – (309) 794-1328

(serving Henry, Lee, Mercer, Rock Island, and Whiteside Counties)

- Managing Attorney Gretchen Farwell (gfarrowell@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Cherie Myers (cmyers@pslegal.org)

St. Charles – (630) 232-9415

(serving DeKalb, Kane, and Kendall Counties)

- Managing Attorney Kathryn McGowan Bettcher (kbettcher@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* coordinator Mary Petruchius (mpetruchius@pslegal.org)

Waukegan – (847) 662-6925

(serving Lake County)

- Managing Attorney Samuel DiGrino (sdigrino@pslegal.org)
- *Pro Bono* Coordinator Susan Perlman (sperlman@pslegal.org)

Wheaton – (630) 690-2130

(serving DuPage County)

- Managing Attorney Marisa Wiesman (mwiesman@pslegal.org)

Low Income Tax Clinic – (630) 580-3315

(serving all 36 PRAIRIE STATE counties)

- Project Director, Molly Recar (mrecar@pslegal.org)

Legal Help for Homeowners Project – (224) 321-5640

(serving all 36 PRAIRIE STATE counties)

- Project Director Jesse Hodierne (jhodierne@pslegal.org)

Fair Housing Project – (815) 965-2902

(serving Winnebago, Boone, Lake, and McHenry Counties)

- Project Manager AJ Young (ajyoung@pslegal.org)

Telephone Counseling Pro Bono Project – (630) 690-2130

- Project Coordinator Cindy Matre (cmatre@pslegal.org)
- Telephone Counseling Service Managing Attorney Melissa Fuechtmann (mfuechtmann@pslegal.org)