

## **Pro Bono Legal Aid**

We provide free legal aid services in the public interest (pro bono) to a wide range of clients, from individual asylum seekers, journalists, media, non-profit organizations, charities to some of the individuals with low incomes or with temporary disability status.

We believe everyone should have effective access to their legal rights, and focus our effort on promoting access to the rights of our target groups, including women, children, trafficking survivors and refugees.

Our aim is to have the possible impact on access to justice and access to opportunity, through relationships with our ongoing pro bono clients and by proactively supporting them in addressing systemic issues. Our pro bono clients are clients of the firm: we don't distinguish internally between paid work and pro bono.

In Albania, Article 54, point 4, of Law No. 55/2018 "On the Profession of Lawyer in the Republic of Albania" provides that the provision of "pro bono" legal services is recognized as a credit in fulfilling the obligation for continuous training. This blanket provision refers us to the Statute of the Albanian Bar Association and the Regulation of the School of Law. According to the law, detailed rules for the organization, participation and manner of conducting continuous training, as well as for the unification of "pro bono" services in credits for continuous training are defined in the Statute of the Albanian Bar Association and the Regulation of the School of Law.

As lawyers, we have a privileged position in society. This privilege is the ability to provide legal advice and judicial representation, a skill that not everyone can possess. With this privilege come responsibilities, such as ensuring access to justice for all and contributing to the administration of justice. Since lawyers are defenders of the legal rights of citizens, this assistance and protection should be provided to all people, regardless of their financial or individual circumstances.

There is also a moral obligation to commit to pro bono work, since as lawyers we have the capacity to help people in a way that can change their lives.

Therefore, the role of pro bono lawyers, who have legal skills and experience, is very important, as it is an opportunity for quality and dignified legal representation even for categories in need.

### **Types of Lawyers**

One of the decisions an individual facing legal action must make is whether to hire a private lawyer, seek a court-appointed lawyer, or accept the "pro bono" assistance of a lawyer.

There are differences between a court-appointed lawyer, a "pro bono" lawyer, and a private lawyer.

Court-appointed lawyers are lawyers who take on a case at no cost to the individual, but receive a fee from the Free Legal Aid Department for their work. To qualify for the

assistance of a court-appointed lawyer, an individual must meet specific criteria. Court-appointed lawyers or free legal aid refers to a group of lawyers who work exclusively for clients who qualify for their services—clients with low incomes or special categories.

A “pro bono” lawyer, on the other hand, agrees to take on a case at no cost to the individual or the state. “Pro bono” is a Latin term that refers to work that a lawyer does for free. All lawyers are encouraged to dedicate a portion of their time to volunteering to represent groups that would otherwise not have access to legal aid.

### **Apply for Free Pro Bono Legal Aid**

Legal Aid ensures justice, equality, and access to opportunities for and with people who have low incomes through legal representation for you.

#### **Need help? Follow the steps below**

You can apply for Pro Bono assistance securely by visiting our office in person or by writing to us online 24/7. Please click [here](#) for online apply!

The online Application Request takes about 15 minutes to complete. You can write to us in Albanian or English.

After filling in all the required information in the contact form, please submit it.

Please note that after submitting your application it will take some time to receive a response from Frashëri Firm to complete the admission process. You will receive a response or call from Frashëri Law Firm within 3 business days.

Upon approval of the request, you must appear in person at our office to sign a Standard Agreement for Pro Bono Legal Services.