



“What Do You Find Most Rewarding About Doing Pro Bono Work?”

Many attorneys who engage in pro bono service have a variety of reasons for doing so. From fulfilling pro bono requirements to the gratification of serving underrepresented populations, the reasons for pro bono work are bountiful.

Here are a few inspirational quotes and testimonials from attorneys who regularly provide pro bono representation for New Mexicans of modest means.

“Receiving genuine and sincere appreciation for providing legal assistance to someone who would ordinarily not be able to afford it.”

– Jeffrey Jones

“When the client is truly grateful that they found an attorney willing to help them, and with that help, they can see light at the end of the tunnel that brought them to us.”

– George Wright Weeth

“I love that such a small amount of my time can make such a difference in their lives.”

– Cassandra Brown

“Pro bono work is exceedingly rewarding in that it allows me to serve individuals who would otherwise lack access to justice. The bonus for me is that I learn something new with each case.”

– Brooke Nowak-Neely

“It is a true honor to rekindle someone’s faith in the inherent goodness of humanity.”

– Rebecca Kitson

“The most rewarding thing about the clinics is meeting and helping people from all walks of life. The most rewarding thing about taking on a pro bono client is that you definitely know you have made a definite good difference in their life.”

– Twila Larkin

“Helping immigrants who have little money navigate technical issues in immigration law.”

– Arslan Umarov

“We are met with praise, gratitude and respect from our clients.”

– Donna J. Lynch

“I think the most rewarding part of doing Pro Bono Work is the opportunity to give back to our community.”

– Allison Pieroni

“My pro bono clients tell me I’ve solved problems and given them the ability to move on past a difficult relationship. With only a little effort and time, I give my pro bono clients information or options that can change their lives in such a positive way. I like knowing I’ve made a difference.”

– Lucy Sinkular

"I recently accepted my first two Modest Means cases for representation. I am learning what a big difference pro bono attorneys can make in the lives of people who need help with serious issues, such as evictions and electricity shut offs. We live in the midst of much suffering due to income inequality, generational poverty and racism. As attorneys, we have much to learn about the nature of those injustices from the people in our communities. At the same time, attorneys can often help to alleviate severe crises. This is because the legal system is in many ways a microcosm of our larger society. In other words, we have a lot to learn but a lot to share, too."

– Jane Yee

"The 'Thank Yous' and the 'Giving Back.' First, almost if not all, Pro Bono clients I have helped over the many years give you heartfelt, many times emotional, thank you's for the help you provide. Second, I have been fortunate that practicing law has been personally rewarding to me on many levels and so giving back to the community builds good karma and is the right thing to do."

– Allan Wainwright

"It just felt the right thing to do as an attorney to help people of very limited means, and who, like the paying client, lived daily with a legal problem that needed to be resolved. And I cannot remember a single pro bono client whoever failed to say 'thanks!' or 'millones de gracias!'"

– Ron Taylor

"That I can help someone navigate a complex system and help them feel empowered."

– Meredith Baker

"We, as attorneys, possess a very unique set of skills that we can draw from in order to contribute to our society. Anyone can volunteer at a homeless shelter or a food pantry, but we are uniquely situated to give back in a way that others cannot. I am rewarded by the knowledge that I have both the opportunity and the obligation to give and do more with what is inherently within me."

– Sheryl Saavedra

"I enjoy helping people."

– Linda Ellison

"Pro Bono is the intersection of remedy and access on the unbalanced, disproportionate road to justice. Pro Bono Service is NOT an idea, an aspiration or a burden. Pro Bono Service IS an action, a necessity, a responsibility, a reciprocation and an honor."

– Pamela Faris

"I feel that I am helping my community and that, as someone trained in the law, that I should give back to my community."

– Stefanie Beninato

"As a foreclosure defense attorney, my pro bono work is most fulfilling when I help people stay in their homes. It is especially gratifying when I help widows and widowers who have been taken advantage of by financial predators."

– Vanessa DeNiro

"I love the feeling of satisfaction that comes from meeting with someone who has a real problem and having the ability to take steps towards a solution in a short window of time. There is always a way to help even if the answer is that there is no legal solution. Providing a client with a path forward is a wonderful feeling and the gratitude that is shared is pretty amazing too!"

– David Humphreys

"Most rewarding part of pro bono work is getting to help clients you may never have met otherwise navigate problems that are large challenges in their lives!"

– Damon Hudson

"When I have been able to craft a solution for pro bono clients, the depth of gratitude has always been overwhelming. It reminds me that helping someone in need is its own reward."

– Orlando Lucero