

ACC STL Celebrates 2023 National Pro Bono Month

Members volunteer to provide free legal counsel to individuals and families by partnering with local organizations

ACC STL members are giving back to the community in a big way during National Pro Bono Month, volunteering dozens of hours of free legal counsel and guidance, and volunteering for community services projects.

Patricia Duft, the 2023 ACC STL Pro Bono Chairperson, and Senior Legal Director at Medtronic, says that ACC STL members consistently step up and show up to provide much needed free legal counsel to underserved communities, families, and individuals.

"By giving back to the St. Louis legal community, we gain much more personally than we professionally give to the clients we serve by preserving access to legal services," said Duft. "This is the foundation of our legal framework."

During the past several years, ACC STL members have worked with many not-for-profits, including:

- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri: ACC STL members have addressed a wide variety of legal matters for clients, including small business, real estate, and housing issues.
- Supporting LSEM's Justice Speaks fundraising event.
- Missouri Veterans Estate Planning Clinic in conjunction with the Missouri Veterans Commission office of legal counsel. Veterans and their spouses receive free legal counsel on simple wills, living wills, and power of attorney valued at \$35,000 or less. Members gave pro bono hours for three clinics this year in March, August, and October.
- Missouri Voter Protection Coalition: Members provided support to help citizens understand their voting rights.
- Joining with St. Louis University Law School to sponsor Pro Bono CLE opportunities.
- Operation Food Search, a local St. Louis area food bank.
- Annual backpack/school supply drive for local schools.

ACC STL members are making a real difference in the lives of people in need, and their commitment to pro bono work is truly inspiring.

To learn more about becoming a member of the Pro Bono committee or if you would like to volunteer, please send an email to Elizabeth LeBrun at accstl@qabs.com; or visit the ACC STL Pro Bono website page, <https://www.acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/st-louis/pro-bono-st-louis>.