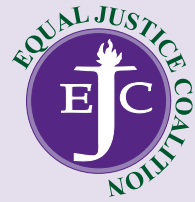


Pro Bono Hours & Legislative Advocacy for Civil Legal Aid



Did you know? Time spent on legislative advocacy in support of civil legal aid counts as pro bono service hours.*

Every year, the Equal Justice Coalition (EJC) supports the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation's (MLAC's) request for civil legal aid funding in the state budget. Attorneys are critical to this effort.

As a lawyer, you are respected in your community for your knowledge of the law, your ability to persuade through well-reasoned arguments, and your commitment to justice. You also understand that people are more likely to achieve their desired outcomes in a legal case when they have representation.

That's why lawyers like you are vital allies in the campaign to increase funding for civil legal aid.

For individual attorneys, legislative advocacy for civil legal aid funding can mean:

- Attending our annual lobby day, [Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid](#)
- Writing to a legislator
- Calling a legislator's office

For firms, legislative advocacy is one way to increase pro bono efforts and improve national rankings. For instance:

- **The Pro Bono Institute** counts time a firm spends on legislative lobbying as pro bono service hours in its annual Pro Bono Challenge.
- To compile its annual pro bono rankings, **The American Lawyer** considers: 1) the average number of pro bono hours per lawyer, and 2) the percentage of a firm's lawyers who performed more than 20 hours of pro bono work in a year.

If you have any questions about pro bono work through legislative advocacy, or would like to discuss how to get involved in this year's budget campaign, please contact Laura Booth, Director of the Equal Justice Coalition, at lbooth@equaljusticecoalition.org.

** Both the American Bar Association's Model Rule 6.1 on Voluntary Pro Bono Public Service AND Rule 3:07 of the Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct specifically state that time spent on legislative advocacy counts towards the pro bono service requirement for all admitted attorneys.*