

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset, featuring numerous skyscrapers and a body of water in the background. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue.

*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."*

– Helen Keller

Jenner & Block and You:

A Pro Bono Partnership

Jenner & Block began its pro bono program in the 1950s and it continues to be a cornerstone of the firm's values. We are proud to partner with our clients on a wide range of pro bono activities. Together as partners, we learn, grow and make a difference for every client we serve.

Why partner with Jenner & Block on pro bono efforts?

Jenner & Block is a pro bono leader, with connections to deserving clients and qualified referring organizations. We are experienced in every aspect of pro bono – from creating and providing training programs to experience in a wide variety of litigation and transactional matters.

What kind of pro bono clients could I serve?

The types of clients and their needs are as far reaching as the law itself. For example, Jenner & Block has helped people secure asylum after fleeing from persecution. We have helped free wrongly accused clients from prison and secured pardons for others.

What kind of time commitment does pro bono service take?

From litigation to transactional matters, the investment of time varies. We can discuss finding the matter right for you, with your availability in mind.

LITIGATION

ASYLUM CASES

Asylum/immigration cases have long been a hallmark of Jenner & Block's pro bono program. Serving as co-counsel with nonprofits such as the Chicago-based Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), the firm represents asylum-seekers from around the globe. Asylum matters are good for partnering because there are a variety of cases to select from in terms of interest (e.g., regional, political, religious, gender, etc.), and time required. We have co-counseled on asylum matters with in-house counsel from several Fortune 500 companies.

EXAMPLE: The firm recently partnered with a client to achieve a successful outcome in an NIJC referral. The team had one month to prepare and file a Togolese client's petition for political asylum. They were able to assemble a persuasive submission on his behalf and, just 12 days after his asylum interview, the client received the good news that he had won.

TIME COMMITMENT: Time commitment and duration of the case will vary significantly depending on the type of case an lawyer wants – but that variety is one of the attributes of asylum work. Also, we are willing to take on as much or as little of the work as our partners want, and we have found that asylum cases entail meaningful, yet discrete, tasks that can easily be divided. Generally, partnering on an asylum matter requires a short training session and then anywhere from 10 to 60 total hours, depending on the type of case.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / CHILD AND FAMILY PROTECTION

The firm assists individuals of limited means to seek orders of protection under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, through the Cook County Circuit Court's Domestic Violence Pro Bono Order of Protection Program. Once a month, we staff the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, where we interview abuse victims who would otherwise be pro se. We prepare and file petitions for emergency orders and represent them in ex parte hearings. Often weeks later, we return for a contested hearing to obtain a plenary order of protection. We also provide assistance to address unsupported abuse or neglect "indicated" findings by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Being indicated can potentially cause serious consequences, including loss of employment or even loss of child custody. These cases afford lawyers the opportunity to conduct a full evidentiary mini-trial.

EXAMPLE: The firm recently represented a woman who was "indicated" by DCFS because two of her children were present during an incident in which she was attacked by her husband. After a half-day hearing, the administrative law judge concluded that the finding against our client should be expunged, in large part because the evidence presented showed that she was the non-offending party and there was nothing she could have done to prevent or mitigate the incident.

TIME COMMITMENT: 2.5-hour formal training; then approx 10-50 hours depending on the case.

POST- CONVICTION CRIMINAL CASES

Jenner & Block represents indigent defendants in post-conviction proceedings where a criminal conviction involved a substantial denial of a defendant's rights under the US Constitution and/or a state constitution or involved a sentence of a juvenile to life without parole. These matters routinely involve investigation, preparing and filing of an initial petition, motion practice and an evidentiary hearing.

EXAMPLE: A Jenner & Block partner and a client's in-house lawyer are handling a pro bono client's post-conviction petition related to recent decisions invalidating the sentencing of juveniles to life without parole. The matter was referred by Northwestern University's Bluhm Legal Clinic to Exelon's Legal Department, which tapped Jenner & Block to assist with the case.

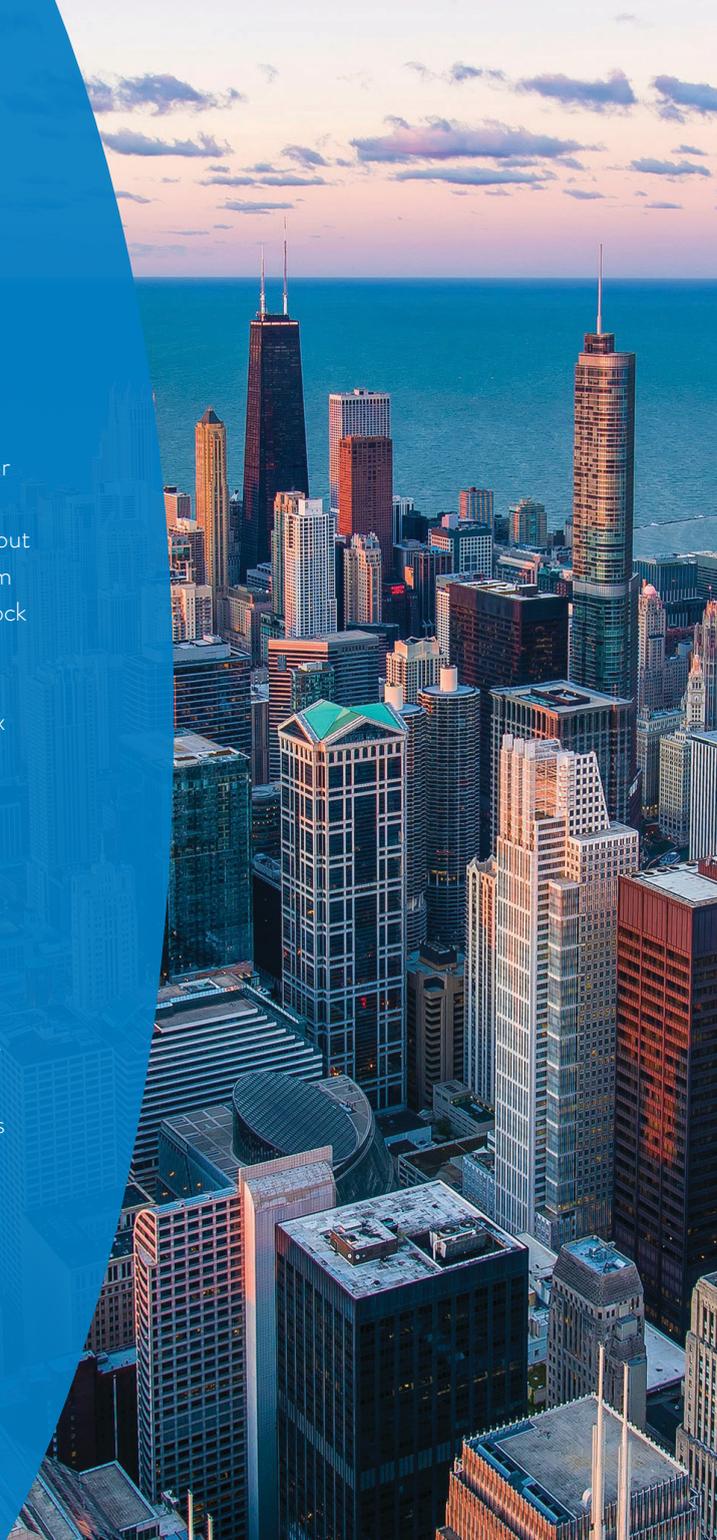
TIME COMMITMENT: Varies by case type and case schedule; approx 10-15 hours/month. Often a long-term commitment.

FAIR HOUSING LITIGATION

Jenner & Block represents tenants and homeowners in housing discrimination cases, public housing disputes and a case brought under a recently passed Chicago rent ordinance.

EXAMPLE: In collaboration with the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, the firm helped obtain a significant settlement for a pro bono client in a lead case that sought relief under the City of Chicago's Keep Chicago Renting Ordinance. The ordinance was passed in 2013 to address a spike in evictions of tenants who lived in properties that fell into foreclosure in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

TIME COMMITMENT: Varies by case type; can involve two and a half hour formal training and short on-site orientation; then approx 10-25 hours per case.



TRANSACTIONAL

WILLS FOR HEROES

Jenner & Block lawyers provide pro bono counsel to help create wills and other estate planning documents, free of charge, for local emergency first responders and their spouses or partners. Even lawyers without estate planning experience are needed to perform client intake, draft wills and powers of attorney using HotDocs document automation software and act as witnesses during the execution of the documents. A short training program run by the CBA takes place before each event.

EXAMPLE: Jenner & Block has partnered with in-house lawyers or counsel from a client in the past to provide these services to police officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs and their spouses or partners.

TIME COMMITMENT: 8 am–2 pm on a designated Saturday.

CENTER FOR DISABILITY & ELDER LAW

Jenner & Block lawyers work with the Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL), which provides direct legal services to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities through the volunteer efforts of lawyers from throughout Chicago's law firms and corporate legal departments. CDEL volunteer lawyers represent clients in civil legal areas, including adult guardianship, real estate, landlord/tenant, dissolution of marriage, simple wills, powers of attorney, consumer fraud, collection defense and financial elder abuse.

EXAMPLE: Although this work is largely transactional, some cases may also involve litigation. For example, in conjunction with CDEL, Jenner & Block and a client's in-house lawyers represented a blind client employee who was defrauded.

TIME COMMITMENT: Varies by case; approx 10 hours/month.

OBTAINING 501(c)(3) STATUS

Jenner & Block regularly helps community organizations obtain 501(c)(3) status, which is vital to their fundraising efforts. We have recently assisted organizations such as Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame, the Ruby Bridges Foundation, the Nelson Mandela Institution, the American Special Hockey Association and the Chicago Debate Commission. The firm has also helped create and/or update organizational documents, including articles of incorporation and by-laws for numerous nonprofits.

TIME COMMITMENT: Approx 20 hours.

REAL ESTATE

Jenner & Block represents not-for-profits or indigent individuals on a pro bono basis on a wide spectrum of real estate matters, including purchases and sales of property, leases, financing and landlord-tenant disputes.

EXAMPLE: Recent projects include the WINGS Domestic Violence Shelter and the Jesse White Community Center. The firm provided legal work to the Jesse White Foundation to construct a community center on Chicago's near north side — home base for the acclaimed Jesse White Tumblers and a venue for athletic and other after-school programs for the surrounding neighborhood. We currently represent WINGS, a not-for-profit that provides transitional housing and support services to homeless and abused women and children, in the construction of a shelter on Chicago's southwest side that is the city's first expansion of domestic violence shelters in more than a decade.

TIME COMMITMENT: Varies by project.

CORPORATE PRO BONO PARTNERS



AWARDS



The American Lawyer

In 2019, *The American Lawyer* ranked Jenner & Block as the no. 1 pro bono firm in the United States and the number three firm internationally. We have been named the top firm 10 times, and placed in the top 10 every year since the survey began in 1990.

The National Law Journal

We have been named to the "Pro Bono Hot List" for six consecutive years, most recently in 2019.

Public Interest Law Initiative

In 2019, Jenner & Block was one of 48 law firms and corporations in Illinois named to the Public Interest Law Initiative's Pro Bono Recognition Roster. Jenner & Block has been on the roster since 2010.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

(NOT PRO BONO LEGAL WORK)

From serving on the boards of national and local organizations to volunteering at food pantries, teaching at schools, or cleaning up local parks and beaches, Jenner & Block lawyers take part in a broad range of community service activities. Many of their choices reflect personal interests and passions outside of the legal arena. It is a way for them to get involved in their communities and an opportunity to develop new contacts they otherwise would not have made. The firm is proud to partner with clients on significant activities, for example:

DIVERSITY PIPELINE INITIATIVES

Jenner & Block regularly teams up with clients on diversity pipeline initiatives such as Street Law and the Just the Beginning Foundation.

EXAMPLE: Since 2007, Jenner & Block and clients have teamed up annually with the Street Law organization to host an educational event for students from CPS. Street Law's Legal Diversity Pipeline Program pairs corporate legal departments and law firms with high school classes to educate students about law, democracy and human rights and to increase their knowledge and interest in



legal careers. During a day-long conference, lawyers lead workshops for the students on a variety of legal issues. The firm also partners with clients to host high school juniors and seniors who are participating in diversity pipeline programs sponsored by the Just the Beginning Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to increase diversity in the legal profession and the judiciary. JTBF focuses its efforts on underserved communities with a high proportion of at-risk students.

TIME COMMITMENT: Classroom visit followed by a day-long legal conference; approx 10 hours.

BEACH & PARK CLEANUP

Jenner & Block has partnered with clients to clean up Chicago's parks and beaches, in cooperation with the Alliance for the Great Lakes; in previous years, the firm and Exelon cleaned up the Ohio and 12th Street Beaches.

TIME COMMITMENT: Three to five hours.

CRFC "LAWYERS IN THE CLASSROOM"

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago's (CRFC) Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom program places volunteer lawyers in second through eighth grade classrooms to help students better understand the US Constitution, our legal system and law-related careers. CRFC trains lawyers to lead interactive lessons, matches lawyers with social studies classes, trains teachers and creates materials and assessments appropriate to each grade level. Working together through this program, teachers and lawyers are able to provide authentic opportunities for students to learn about their rights and responsibilities under the law.

EXAMPLE: Jenner & Block lawyers have participated in teaching lessons on constitutional rights and civic duties in many CPS and local schools, including conducting mock trials with students.

TIME COMMITMENT: Approximately two to three hours per visit and 10 total hours per year, if conducting a mock trial.



Visit *The Heart of the Matter*, our annual report of pro bono and community service initiatives, at probono.jenner.com.



For more information on partnering with Jenner & Block, please contact probonopartnering@jenner.com

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