

Pro Bono

DLA Piper has a long-standing and deep commitment to giving back to our communities. This commitment exists at every level in every office within the firm and is truly ingrained in the firm's culture. We believe that we have a special responsibility to the communities where we live and work, and we take that responsibility seriously.

In 2019, our lawyers and staff around the world devoted over 214,000 hours to pro bono initiatives. Making us one of the largest providers of pro bono legal services globally.

We support expanding access to justice and the rule of law in the communities in which we work. Our aim is to be innovative and collaborative in our efforts so that we can provide the best possible service to our pro bono clients, help improve access to justice and help fortify a culture of pro bono across the legal profession.

Depth and breadth of our work

We encourage our lawyers to pursue pro bono work that they feel passionate about, which means that our work touches upon a number of areas, including:

- Preventing homelessness
- Representing immigrants
- Helping people with disabilities
- Reforming the criminal justice system
- Strengthening nonprofits
- Advocating for LGBTQ rights
- Engaging in impact Litigation

While we work in all of these areas and more, we also have focused on signature projects, which concentrate our efforts in areas of unmet need at the local and national levels. Our signature projects, which are collaborative efforts by lawyers, paralegals and staff, focus on:

- Juvenile justice
- Food security
- Veterans
- Education
- Domestic violence

Representing nonprofit organizations

We know that every nonprofit has legal needs, and our lawyers are able to leverage their experience in areas like employment, real estate, tax, and IP to provide valuable counsel to nonprofits so that those organizations are able to focus on their missions.

Immigration

Tens of thousands of people enter the United States every year seeking safety and security for themselves and their families. Whether they are requesting asylum based on gender-based violence, coming forward to help prosecute a human trafficker or stepping out of the shadows to report domestic violence, DLA Piper has long been committed to helping these individuals attain a life without fear. Most recently, our lawyers have traveled to detention centers to advise asylum seekers of their rights and have represented children and parents separated from one another at the border.

Access to justice and technology

DLA Piper is exploring ways in which we can work collaboratively with our technology clients, legal aid lawyers, academics and others to provide greater access to justice for people around the world who are unable to afford legal counsel. On June 17, 2019, we hosted an inaugural Global Summit on Access to Justice and Technology, which brought together many of these stakeholders, and in the coming months we will delve more deeply into providing tangible technology solutions.



New Perimeter

As a global law firm, we understand that our responsibility goes beyond the cities and countries where we work. DLA Piper established a ground-breaking international pro bono initiative, New Perimeter, that is dedicated to bringing together our global lawyers to provide focused pro bono services in underserved regions around the world.

New Perimeter provides direct assistance to charitable organizations, governments and academic institutions on projects designed to strengthen a country's legal system, improve the skills of its judges, lawyers and law students, encourage economic growth, promote access to justice and the rule of law, and strengthen women's rights. Since its inception, hundreds of DLA Piper lawyers from dozens of offices worldwide have donated their time to provide legal assistance through New Perimeter.

New Perimeter's projects are managed by a full-time team of DLA Piper pro bono lawyers and staff located in the US and Europe, and project participants are selected on a competitive basis among DLA Piper's global offices. New Perimeter's longer-term commitments involve travel to the regions where the client is located. Highlights of New Perimeter's recent work include:

ADVANCING LEGAL EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA

New Perimeter has implemented multi-year legal training programs for students at two different law schools in Zambia to teach legal drafting skills to the next generation of Zambian legal professionals and leaders.

TRAINING WOMEN LAWYERS IN NEPAL

New Perimeter, along with Women Lawyers Joining Hands and the Nepal Bar Association, provides mentoring and training on ethics and commercial law topics to women lawyers in Nepal.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF EAST AFRICAN GOVERNMENT LAWYERS

New Perimeter teams with the East African Development Bank to deliver regional trainings on international negotiations and business transactions to East African public sector lawyers who are negotiating transactions and drafting agreements on behalf of their governments.

MODEL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

At the request of the Partnership for Responsible Financial Inclusion, a collaborative effort by the CEOs of ten leading global microfinance organizations, New Perimeter drafted a model legal framework and extensive commentary on financial protection for clients of microfinance and other financial institutions.

Collaboration

Around the world, we team with our corporate clients to work on pro bono projects together. With Pfizer, for example, we volunteer to staff a legal clinic at the NYU Cancer Institute. With Discover Financial Services, we collaborate to staff a legal clinic for survivors of domestic violence, as well as a community legal clinic on Chicago's South Side. Other examples include teaming with HPE and others to help individuals with criminal records through a record sealing clinic and with AIG to assist survivors of human trafficking in obtaining monetary redress for the crimes committed against them. Through New Perimeter, we have worked with GE and Pfizer, among others, to teach students at the University of Zambia and Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education. We also have provided support and technical assistance to our clients who are building their own pro bono programs.

Awards and recognition

DLA Piper and many of our lawyers have won awards for their pro bono efforts. Recently, DLA Piper was recognized by the ABA for our national efforts in the area of hunger relief and food banking. The City Bar Justice Center also recognized the firm for working to bring access to justice to underserved communities, including assisting immigrants, veterans and cancer patients seeking directive assistance. And the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer's Program will honor DLA Piper with this year's Outstanding Law Firm award.

New Perimeter's work has been recognized with several awards over the years, most notably the Lifetime Achievement Award for Global Citizenship from *The American Lawyer* and Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year by *Who's Who Legal*.

For more information

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