



## RAISING THE BAR FOR A STRONGER NONPROFIT COMMUNITY

Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta (PBPA) connects volunteer attorneys with Georgia nonprofits in need of business (transactional) legal services. Through the support of PBPA's volunteer network, nonprofit clients are stronger and better able to serve the underserved.

At the core of PBPA's mission is providing transactional attorneys and in-house counsel with easier access to pro bono opportunities.

### HISTORY

Since 2005, PBPA has assigned and supported over 2,000 volunteer lawyers in aiding over 700 nonprofit clients. PBPA's clients serve many of the underserved in the Atlanta area, including the disabled, elderly, children, and animals. [See [representative list](#).]

Until 2010, PBPA attorney volunteers handled all the legal matters required by PBPA's clients as they arose. Since that time, the increase in PBPA's clients' legal needs outpaced the number of attorney volunteers.

PBPA anticipates accepting at least 50 new clients (an increase of 7.2%) and addressing approximately 770 matters in 2015 (an increase of 12.5%).

### CLIENT SERVICES

Volunteer attorneys, along with two part-time staff attorneys and the Executive Director, handle a wide range of transactional legal matters for nonprofit organizations, including corporate, real estate, contracts, intellectual property, employment, tax and technology. These legal

matters present an equally wide range of complexity and required time commitment. The volunteers are experienced corporate attorneys; PBPA staff attorneys have 17-26 years of experience each in practicing law.

In addition to matching attorneys to handle individual nonprofit legal matters, PBPA provides the following services:

- Nonprofit Legal Check-Ups organized by PBPA and hosted by a law firm paired with an in-house legal department. Teams of attorneys perform legal audits for nonprofits. In addition to serving those in need, volunteer attorneys who participate earn Continuing Legal Education credit.
- Monthly free topic-specific webcasts presented live and offered for viewing afterward on demand.  
[www.pbpatl.org/for-nonprofits/workshops-and-webcasts](http://www.pbpatl.org/for-nonprofits/workshops-and-webcasts)
- Monthly free general-topic workshops held at the Foundation Center as educational and marketing outreach.  
<http://www.pbpatl.org/for-nonprofits/upcoming-events>
- Specific workshops presented at the request of other nonprofits, including the Georgia Center for Nonprofits.
- Monthly legal alerts that present best practices on topics pertinent to nonprofits and maintained in a publicly available collection on the website.  
[www.pbpatl.org/for-nonprofits/legal-alerts](http://www.pbpatl.org/for-nonprofits/legal-alerts)
- Referrals to the Foundation Center, Georgia Center for Nonprofits, LEAD Institute and other nonprofits for non-legal management assistance and training.
- Collaboration with The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and others interested in helping with mergers of nonprofit organizations by providing pro bono legal assistance to eligible organizations.

### CLIENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

An organization must

- be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- serve low-income or disadvantaged individuals in the greater Atlanta area.
- demonstrate that paying for legal services would significantly impair their program budget.

“Volunteering through PBPA gives me the unique opportunity to give back to the local nonprofit community using my own particular skill set. If I can use my expertise to address a specific legal need, then the organization can better devote its time and resources to its core mission. PBPA makes it easy by ensuring each project is a digestible chunk. I find the entire process to be efficient and rewarding – it has also opened my eyes to the amazing work being done across the Atlanta area by smaller, less widely known charities.”

Stephanie Aferiat  
Associate General Counsel  
The Home Depot

## VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

PBPA is the only pro bono organization in Georgia focused on providing transactional attorneys with pro bono opportunities in their area of expertise. Volunteer attorneys benefit by broadening their knowledge of the community and by having the chance to be part of the positive change nonprofits are making in the greater Atlanta area. Attorneys provide high value legal services in their area of expertise, and PBPA provides a turnkey opportunity along with malpractice insurance for all volunteer and staff attorneys.

## MATCHING PROCESS

Organizations interested in PBPA's services go through a screening process that begins with an online application. PBPA staff thoroughly screens and evaluates applicants and their legal matters before assigning volunteer attorneys. Once a legal matter is matched with a volunteer attorney, PBPA remains involved throughout the process, assisting clients and volunteers with the goals of meeting clients' needs and providing a good experience for the volunteer attorneys.

## ACTION PLANS FOR PROGRAM GROWTH

PBPA is seeking to meet more of the demand for its services by stepping up its ongoing fundraising efforts with corporations, foundations, members of the bar and other individuals. To support capacity growth, PBPA's strategic plan calls for a budget to support increased staffing over the next three years. The additional staff will make it possible to expand the number and the reach of volunteer attorneys.

As reflected in Table 1, the increase in the 2014 budget was primarily due to the cost of additional personnel. In July 2014, an additional part-time staff attorney was hired, and a part-time operations manager's hours were increased. As stated above, the 2015 budgeted increase is due to the cost of additional staff for the full year. In 2016 and 2017, the strategic plan calls for hiring a second part-time operations manager and increasing the hours of a part-time staff attorney, which will further increase PBPA's capacity to serve clients and support volunteers.

**TABLE 1 - CAPACITY EXPANSION BUDGET**

Budget Item	2014	2015	2016	2017
Staff Attorneys (incremental)	\$24,200	\$50,500	\$65,000	\$67,000
Operations Managers (incremental)	\$2,500	\$5,500	\$32,500	\$33,500
Subtotal	\$26,700	\$56,000	\$97,500	\$100,500
Other	\$31,428	\$40,158	\$58,658	\$85,658
Budget Increase (over \$363,842 in 2013)	\$58,128	\$96,158	\$156,158	\$186,158
<b>Total Budget*</b>	<b>\$421,970</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>

\*Does not include more than \$20,000 of donated services in the form of office space, parking and office technology.

**TABLE 2 - GROWTH TABLE**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 Increase Over 2014
Budget	\$363,842	\$421,970	\$460,000	\$520,000	\$550,000	\$128,030
Budget Increase	5.46%	15.98%	9.01%	13.04%	5.77%	30.34%
Matters Closed	583	642	710	780	850	208
Value*	\$3,264,800	\$3,595,200	\$3,976,000	\$4,368,000	\$4,760,000	\$1,164,800
Matters Value Increase	28.70%	10.12%	10.59%	9.86%	8.97%	32.40%
Volunteers	576	609	670	740	780	171
Total Clients	655	699	750	810	860	161
Cost/Matter	\$624	\$657	\$648	\$667	\$647	-
ROI (Value/Budget)	8.97	8.52	8.64	8.40	8.65	-

\*Value = # of matters closed (client matters, workshops, and articles) \* average hours per matter (16) \* \$350/hour

“PBPA has served Wilderness Works, an Atlanta charity serving homeless and disadvantaged children, for 7 years. PBPA is like a watch dog that protects and keeps on protecting!”

Bill Mickler  
Executive Director  
Wilderness Works

## INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PBPA

PBPA has begun expanding its capacity to manage more volunteers, handle more legal matters and increase the number of Nonprofit Legal Check-Ups. Specifically, PBPA's goal is to raise \$550,000 annually in support of its continued growth in helping more nonprofits:

- Discover a proactive approach to managing their organizations.
- Benefit from the expertise of skilled volunteer attorneys.
- Provide more services to their clients instead of using limited funds to pay professional fees.
- Become legally compliant and operate with less risk.

Investing in PBPA leads to a stronger nonprofit community serving underserved populations in the Atlanta area – which benefits our entire community.

## CONCLUSION

Many nonprofits operate without legal counsel because they lack the funds to pay a lawyer or the connections to find pro bono assistance. PBPA assists these organizations by making it easy and enjoyable for attorneys to offer pro bono legal assistance, allowing nonprofits to concentrate on their missions.

As PBPA continues to grow, it seeks to support more volunteers and provide many hundreds more organizations with the benefits of free transactional legal services, and in turn improve the lives of the people served by PBPA's clients and the quality of life of the entire community.

### IN 2014 PBPA

- matched 609 volunteer attorneys with 733 different legal matters.
- provided four Nonprofit Legal Check-Up programs for 40 organizations.
- presented 44 workshops to over 800 attendees.
- coordinated free legal services valued at over \$3.5 million to 202 greater Atlanta-area nonprofits.

To learn more about how your tax-deductible gift can help make it possible for PBPA to expand its assistance to even more of the Atlanta area's nonprofit organizations and help them continue their important missions in our community, please contact:

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Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization (Tax ID # 20-2614676). Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Betsy Griswold, *Chair*  
UPS

Briley Brisendine, *Vice-Chair*  
The Home Depot

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Cheryl Naja  
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Happy Perkins  
Retired, GE Energy

Val Rusk  
Turner Broadcasting System



## REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

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Action Ministries, Inc.  
Agape Community Center  
Atlanta Community ToolBank  
Atlanta Legal Aid Society  
Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort Inc  
Auditory Verbal Center, Inc.  
Caminar Latino  
Center for the Visually Impaired  
Center for Working Families  
Child Development Association  
City of Refuge  
Create Your Dreams  
Culture Connect, Inc.  
Embraced  
Emmaus House  
Friends of Disabled Adults  
and Children, Too!  
Fulton County CASA  
Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta  
Georgia Appleseed, Inc

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy  
Georgia Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence  
Georgia Justice Project  
Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance  
Gideon's Promise, Inc.  
GivingPoint  
Good Samaritan Health Center  
of Gwinnett  
Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, Inc  
Habitat for Humanity of North  
Central Georgia  
Hosea Feed the Hungry  
and Homeless  
HouseProud  
International Community School  
Just One Africa  
LaAmistad  
MedShare International

Midtown Assistance Center  
Moving In the Spirit  
North Fulton Community Charities  
Odyssey  
Our House  
PAWS Atlanta  
Plywood People  
(formerly Suffered Enough)  
Positive Impact  
Quality Care for Children  
Refugee Resettlement and  
Immigration Services of Atlanta  
Senior Connections  
Soccer in the Streets  
The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership  
The Drake House  
The Giving Kitchen  
The Global Village Project, Inc.  
Wellspring Living, Inc.  
YWCA of Greater Atlanta

The IRS demanded over \$50,000 from a nonprofit that serves foster children due to the organization's misclassification of a former contractor. PBPA engaged an attorney who represented the nonprofit free of charge through numerous appeals. Two years later, the matter was resolved with the nonprofit only paying about \$1000. The organization would likely have had to shut its doors without the expert assistance it received through PBPA.

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Several years ago, East Atlanta Community Association contacted PBPA for assistance with a program that provides home repairs for low income seniors. PBPA volunteer attorneys prepared contracts with both the homeowners and the contractors. Since that time, EACA has done home repairs for 90 seniors and EACA's former Board Chair credits PBPA with helping to make the program successful.

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In 2012, two well-established nonprofits dedicated to helping the needy agreed that their work would be more efficient if they joined forces. After a nine-month merger process led by PBPA volunteer attorneys, Feed the Hungry is now a program of Action Ministries, and annually serves more than one million meals in Atlanta and North Georgia, 60% of those to children. The merger allowed the two organizations to expand program opportunities and outcomes while improving operational efficiency, fundraising capacity and program capacity.

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Charis Community Housing, a 29 year-old nonprofit that works to create wholesome and viable mixed-income neighborhoods, approached PBPA in the depths of the housing crisis for assistance establishing a working capital loan fund in order to acquire and rehab foreclosed residential properties in historic South Atlanta. Two attorneys volunteered thirty hours of time on the project which enabled Charis Community Housing to complete 12 homes with 11 more currently in process.



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