



Pro Bono

Changing lives. One story at a time.

As lawyers, we use the legal system to help tell a person's story, and the judges, legislators, and administrative officials who hear these stories can change sentences, laws, and lives. Whether we are representing clients directly, filing amicus briefs on their behalf, or helping to reform legislation, we believe that everyone deserves to be heard. And we are passionate about using our legal skills and knowledge to help change and improve people's lives, one story at a time.

Highlights

We support our lawyers in pro bono work by including pro bono hours as part of billable hour expectations. Our attorneys have volunteered with dozens of organizations, advocated for many different causes, and helped countless individuals around the world, from neighborhoods across the United States to villages in Africa. We currently support a variety of organizations and individuals with pro bono legal service, including:

- American Bar Association Free Legal Answers
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Center for Disability & Elder Law
- Chicago Community Loan Fund
- Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights / Chicago Urban League Center for
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation Project
- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
- Global Alliance for Africa
- HIAS
- Illinois Legal Aid Online
- Law Firm Antiracism Alliance
- Legal Aid Chicago
- National Immigrant Justice Center
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago
- Wills for Heroes

Recognition

- Chapman received the Bank of America Legal Department 2020-2021 Pro Bono Award in recognition for expanding pro bono opportunities through virtual clinics with legal aid organizations.
- The Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) honored Chapman with the ISBA 2021 John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award, which recognizes law firms for service to community and the legal profession.
- The Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) named Chapman to the 2021 Pro Bono Recognition Roster, recognizing law firms and corporate legal departments for the inspiring and life-changing pro bono work performed by attorneys and legal professionals in Illinois. This is the eighth time Chapman has been named to the PILI roster since the launch of the program.
- The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) named Chapman as its 2020 Corporate Partner of the Year. The firm was recognized for an estate planning app developed by the Chapman Practice Innovations team that helps CDEL expand access to estate planning services for persons marginalized by poverty, age, and disability in Illinois.
- Chapman has been recognized as an American Bar Association (ABA) Free Legal Answers Pro Bono Leader for five consecutive years (2018-2022) for the work of our attorneys on behalf of the ABA Free Legal Answers program. In addition to Chapman's firmwide recognition, Pro Bono Counsel Sara Ghadiri has also been recognized as a Pro Bono Leader for her individual contributions.
- The Chicago Legal Clinic honored Chapman with the 2019 Pro Bono Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the clinic's mission to provide legal services and education to underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- Legacy Awards: Pro bono service is part of our firm's fabric and we are honored to have been recognized for our commitment and contributions over many years: Chapman has supported the Gads Hill Center for more than 100 years and was honored with the Corporate Partner Award; we have worked with Cabrini Green Legal Aid for over 20 years and were recognized as a Volunteer Law Firm of the Year; and we have worked with the Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago for more than a decade and received the Corporate Hero Award.



Pro Bono Matters

Read more about our pro bono philosophy, successes, and impact.



Chapman Develops Apps for Legal Aid Organizations

Chapman's Practice Innovations (CPI) team supports the firm's pro bono efforts with app development for legal aid organizations we support. By coding legal logic, our CPI and pro bono attorneys create apps that automate processes and improve efficiency of legal aid services. Read more about the estate planning app we wrote for the Center for Disability & Elder Law, and the criminal record expungement app we created for Legal Aid Chicago.



Pro Bono Spotlight

Chapman's Pro Bono Counsel Sara Ghadiri is a passionate advocate for people who cannot use their voice in the American legal system. In this Q&A article, Sara discusses her pro bono practice, and why she is so committed to justice.

Pro Bono Partners

[Sara Ghadiri](#)

[Rebecca Wallenfelsz](#)

Chapman Updates

NEWS

[Sara Ghadiri Named One of The Outstanding Young Persons of Illinois](#)

May 2019

Chapman Associate and Pro Bono Counsel Sara Ghadiri was named to the 2019 class of The Outstanding Young Persons of Illinois by the Illinois Jaycees — Sara was the only honoree this year in the category of political, legal, and/or government affairs.

EVENTS

[Legal Aid Chicago's 2020 Relay for Justice](#)

September 14, 2020

Chapman sponsored Legal Aid Chicago's 2020 Relay for Justice, a virtual walk, run, and bike event.