

We Need You!

Pro Bono legal programs are often the only outlets available to victims of crime, civil offenses and other violations of rights. Your participation in such programs, of any kind, is critical to providing quality legal services to people who would otherwise be unable to acquire them. We encourage you to seek out and participate in these increasingly important programs.

You may also wish to consider the Middle District of Louisiana's Civil Pro Bono program. This program assists pro se inmates in Civil matters, generally brought by inmates under 42 USC 1983.

For more information, please visit: www.lamd.uscourts.gov/civil-pro-bono-pilot-program

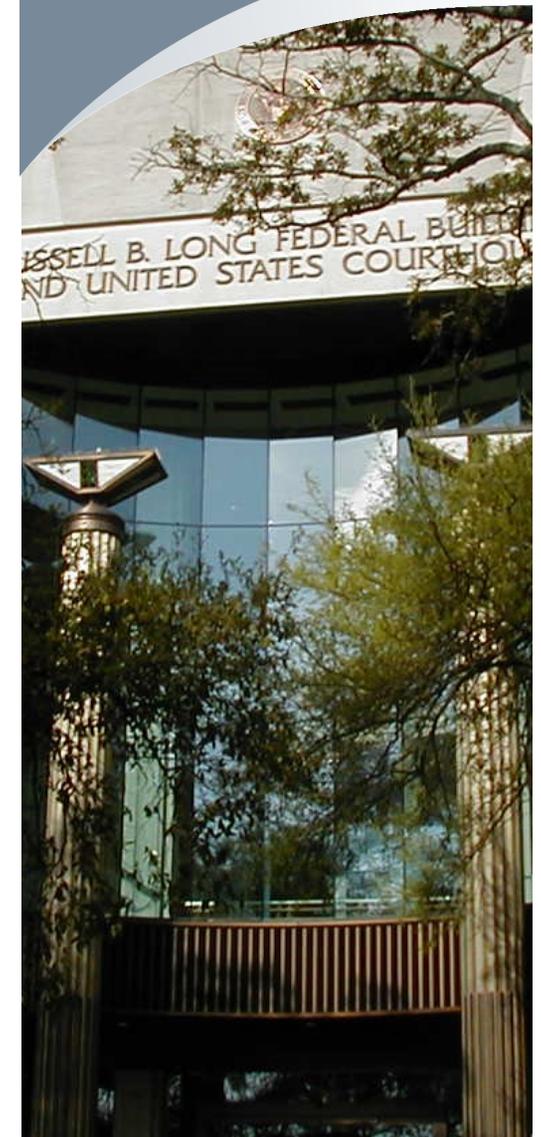
United States District Court Middle District of Louisiana

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The Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent (POWER) Act of 2018

P.L. 115-237





The Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent (POWER) Act of 2018

Pro bono legal services are vital to empowering survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Often, these survivors lack the support and resources to secure the representation necessary to obtain justice when such traumatic and life-altering offenses occur. As required by the POWER Act of 2018, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana urges you to volunteer your time and expertise in one of the many excellent local programs for survivors of domestic violence and similar abuses. These include, but are not limited to The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project, Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS), and Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge—Domestic Violence Referrals.

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project

Civil legal aid to the poor and important social justice issues have been addressed by the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project for more than 33 years through its programs and services throughout East and West Baton Rouge, Ascension, Iberville and Livingston parishes. Low-income residents in the five-parish area may seek legal information and assistance through individual representation, self-representation services, educational seminars or advice clinics.

Website: www.brba.org

Phone: (225) 344-4803

Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS)

This is fee based service wherein the public is matched with a panel member who will provide legal assistance. The LRIS is a service offered through the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

Website: www.brba.org

Phone: (225) 344-4803

Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge—Domestic Violence Referrals

Teen Court is a voluntary diversion program wherein teens age 10-17 sentence their peers for first time misdemeanor offenses, such as shoplifting, simple battery and possession of marijuana. A community collaboration, cases are referred from the District Attorney's Office for disposition through the volunteer-based program. Trained teens serve as jurors, bailiffs or advocates for the Monday night hearings held at the local Juvenile Court. Prior to the hearings, advocates receive the defendant's statement and the redacted police report. Defense advocates discuss strategy with their client in advance. Volunteer attorneys preside as judges. Following the hearing, teen volunteers and offenders will deliberate on a constructive sentence, components of which may include community service, participating as a future juror, or attending educational programs, parent/child communication workshops and life skills group sessions. Offenders failing to fulfill their sentence are referred back to the District Attorney's Office for further action.

For more information about the BRBF Teen Court program, please contact Donna Buuck at donna@brba.org or (225) 214-5556.