



## Our Mission

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

### Core Purpose:

To advance the paralegal profession.

### Core Values:

- Responsive to member needs.
- Committed to honesty and integrity.
- Supports unity within the profession.
- Provides visionary leadership.
- Open to the exchange of ideas.
- Embraces diversity.
- Committed to the profession's Code of Ethics.

### Goals:

- To achieve financial security.
- To achieve a more inclusive membership.
- Regulation and educational standards for the paralegal profession is achieved through the advocacy efforts of NFPA.
- To advance the paralegal profession through strategic alliances.

***NFPA® – The Leader  
of the Paralegal Profession™***

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# Pro Bono

## Paralegals Making a Difference



**National  
Federation  
of Paralegal  
Associations, Inc.**

# Welcome!

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.® (NFPA®) promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community. NFPA, the first national paralegal association, is headquartered in the Seattle, Washington area.

## NFPA — The Leader of the Paralegal Profession™

### NFPA DEFINITION OF *PRO BONO*

At the 1999 Fall NFPA Convention, the delegates voted to amend NFPA's Model Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Guidelines for Enforcement to define "pro bono publico" and to add an ethical consideration to encourage paralegals to aspire to perform 24 hours of *Pro Bono* service annually.

*"Pro Bono Publico means providing or assisting in providing quality legal services in order to enhance access to justice for persons of limited means; charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the legal needs of persons with limited means; or individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect rights, civil liberties or public rights."*

### MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

*Pro Bono* presents unlimited opportunities for paralegals to use their professional skills and abilities to assist members of the community who cannot afford, or do not have access to, the justice system. The majority of paralegals who participate in *Pro Bono* activities assist in the area of family law. However there are great unmet legal needs in housing, health, employment, community/regional problems and finance/consumer problems.

Paralegals can participate in events within their current practice area, or expand into a new area of interest. In either case, *Pro Bono* provides for professional growth and recognition. If there is not a NFPA paralegal association in your area, you are encouraged to contact the local bar association or local legal aid office for more information on becoming involved in a *Pro Bono* program. Paralegals can also participate in *Pro Bono* activities as part of an employer-sponsored *Pro Bono* program.

### NFPA *PRO BONO* PROGRAM

The NFPA *Pro Bono* Committee is chaired by the NFPA *Pro Bono* Coordinator, who is appointed by the NFPA Board of Directors. NFPA is divided into five Regions and there is a volunteer (Committee) member from each Region who acts as a *Pro Bono* mentor for each association within a Region. These individuals answer questions and provide information to initiate or enhance local *Pro Bono* programs for these associations.

The Committee also develops and maintains a *Pro Bono* section on the NFPA website. This section can be viewed at [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org) and provides information about *Pro Bono* activities held across the country. This information can be viewed by paralegals, attorneys, and the public.

### NATIONAL EVENTS

The *Pro Bono* Committee hosts an annual NFPA *Pro Bono* Conference. Attendance is open to all NFPA members. The annual conference is normally held in conjunction with the American Bar Association and National Legal Aid Defender Association's Equal Justice Conference and is hosted by a local NFPA member-affiliated association. For details about the convention, visit [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org).

NFPA also publishes a directory which lists, by area of law and association, the *Pro Bono* programs where paralegals can participate. This directory can be viewed at [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org).

### ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Paralegals should keep in mind how the unauthorized practice of law statutes in each jurisdiction apply to *Pro Bono* participation. It is extremely important that malpractice insurance be provided for paralegals by the agency or organization for which you are volunteering. Be sure to check with the agency or organization to determine whether paralegals are specifically covered under the policy.

## Want More Information?

If you would like more information about *Pro Bono* opportunities, contact the NFPA *Pro Bono* Coordinator by e-mail at [ProBono@paralegals.org](mailto:ProBono@paralegals.org) or visit the *Pro Bono* section of our website at [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org).