

Pro Bono

Brooks Pierce is proud of its commitment to provide *pro bono* legal services to individuals and civic organizations that need legal services but cannot afford them. We take seriously our professional responsibility to "provide community service, community leadership, and public interest legal services without fee, or at a substantially reduced fee, in such areas as poverty law, civil rights, public rights law, charitable organizations representation, and the administration of justice." Rule 0.1[8], (*North Carolina State Bar Revised Rules of Professional Conduct*.)

Pro bono service is not just a professional obligation. It strengthens our communities, and it enhances the lives and legal practices of those who serve. We strongly encourage our attorneys to become involved, to be committed in and take responsibility for our communities, and to help make our communities a better, fairer place to live. We expect our lawyers to represent our *pro bono* clients with the same degree of excellence, integrity, skill, and motivation as with our firm's higher-paying clients.

We have a *Pro Bono* Committee to assist our lawyers in their *pro bono* endeavors. This committee acts as a liaison to Legal Aid or other legal resource organizations to match referred low-income clients with firm attorneys. The committee does not screen potential *pro bono* clients, however, and, except in the highly unusual case of an extraordinary time commitment, committee approval is not required for an attorney to take on a *pro bono* project. Recognizing that each lawyer's *pro bono* commitment is his or her own, our firm does not dictate the number of hours or the manner in which this commitment is to be fulfilled. Our view of *pro bono* service derives from the firm's basic philosophy.

Our lawyers were instrumental in creating and implementing the 50B Project, an award-winning project of the Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association that provides *pro bono* legal assistance to victims of domestic violence who are seeking protective orders from North Carolina courts. Our lawyers also have staffed legal hotlines and served on the Advisory Council of Legal Aid of North Carolina, Greensboro Office. Through Legal Aid, other legal resource organizations, or our own personal and professional associations and contacts, we have provided *pro bono* legal services to individuals in all kinds of cases and conflicts, including family law, employment and housing, environmental, and consumer rights.

Brooks Pierce lawyers provide significant *pro bono* legal services to a number of local, regional, and state nonprofit entities, civic and educational organizations, and religious institutions. Our lawyers often participate as board members or officers of these and other charitable organizations.

We have ongoing relationships in representing *pro bono* clients with a number of organizations, including:

Bel Canto Company
Greensboro Center City Park
Greensboro Children's Museum
Greensboro Opera Company
Greensboro Youth Soccer Association
Guilford County Jail Ministries
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro, Inc.
Heartstrings of Greensboro, Inc.
Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro
Housing Rights Center of Wake County
Jamestown Community Lacrosse Association
Kyle Petty Charity Ride, Inc.
Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. – Advocates for Children's Services
North Carolina Agency for Public Telecommunications
North Carolina Friends Historical Society
North Carolina Open Government Coalition
North Carolina Youth Soccer Association
Piedmont Land Conservancy
Piedmont Triad Entrepreneurial Network
Presbyterian Counseling Center of Greensboro
Ten Thousand Villages
Triad Health Project
Triad Youth Lacrosse Association
United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro
United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County, Inc.
Victory Junction Gang Camp
Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network
Women's Resource Center of Greensboro