

# Legal Answers I am an Attorney. I am the Answer.



*Do you want to give back?*

*Can't find the time to do pro bono?*

*Would you volunteer if you could find the **right opportunity?***

*On October 18th, Illinois Legal Aid Online launched a new program that lets you do pro bono work **when** and **where** you want to do it.*

## What is Legal Answers?

Legal Answers is a secure website where lower income Illinois residents can ask an attorney for help with a legal issue. Qualified users post questions about civil legal problems and receive advice from volunteer attorneys. It's like a virtual walk-in legal clinic.

## Why is Legal Answers needed?

Legal Answers addresses the 'connectivity' problem that many lower income people face:

- People living in rural areas often can't find legal help because there are very few legal aid and pro bono resources in their communities.
- People living in urban areas may be unable to access legal aid services because they lack transportation or childcare, or they may work during the day.
- Legal Answers provides legal help for people who are turned away from legal aid offices where there are not enough resources to help everyone.

## How does Legal Answers work?

- Legal Answers uses technology to eliminate common barriers to attorneys doing pro bono work including geographic location, a busy work schedule, and family obligations.
- The client and volunteer will interact asynchronously (not in real time) via a secure website.
- Attorneys are covered by the program's malpractice insurance and can choose to remain anonymous to clients.

## Ready to Volunteer?

Sign up to volunteer at [IL.freelegalanswers.org](http://IL.freelegalanswers.org) by clicking on Volunteer Attorney Registration.

LEGAL ANSWERS IS A JOINT PROJECT OF



# WHY ARE IL ATTORNEYS SIGNING UP TO VOLUNTEER with [IL.freelegalanswers.org](http://IL.freelegalanswers.org)?



## TO INCREASE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In Illinois, there are 325 legal aid attorneys to serve over 4 million low income Illinois residents. Many clients wouldn't ever speak to an attorney if they couldn't ask a civil legal question through the website.



## TO EARN PRO BONO HOURS

Hours spent answering questions on Legal Answers count towards that ARDC pro bono reporting requirement.



## TO FIT THEIR SCHEDULE

Volunteer attorneys can log in and answer a question ANYTIME from ANYWHERE with an internet connection. Attorneys choose themselves from a list of questions waiting to be answered.



## TO BE IN CHARGE

Attorneys only give limited scope advice, no paperwork or going to court. There are resources available for common questions. Attorneys remain anonymous to clients.



## TO BE COVERED

Volunteer attorneys are covered by the American Bar Association's malpractice insurance.

Sign up to volunteer today at [IL.freelegalanswers.org](http://IL.freelegalanswers.org)  
by clicking on Volunteer Attorney Registration.