

Survivors of domestic violence often face threats and violence, even after leaving an abusive partner. An Order of Protection signed by a family court judge requires the abuser to stop the violence and threats. It can also order the abuser to stay away from a home, school, or job. If the order is violated, the abuser can be arrested and prosecuted. Orders of Protection are hugely significant for clients, but provide an opportunity for pro bono attorneys to take on a discrete matter. Although the number of hours varies by case, they should require no more than 35 hours of time spread out over several months. The work consists of client interviews, simple fact discovery, and one to three appearances in Family Court to conduct a hearing.

Scope of work for pro bono volunteers includes:

- a. Meet with the client and confer with LSNYC attorneys about the contours of the case. Client meetings can be emotional, because of the history of abuse.
- b. If there are non-trial court dates, appear at them with the client. (Most cases either already have trial dates, or we strongly suspect they will go to trial for another reason.)
- c. Conduct very simple factual discovery as needed.
- d. Prepare for trial, including witness preparation. Work closely with LSNYC attorneys during this process.
- e. Represent client at trial, including taking direct examination and any cross examination. Note that LSNYC attorneys co-counsel these matters, and will appear in court with the pro bono attorney.

Law firms, corporations, law firm lawyers, and in-house counsel who are interested in partnering with LSNYC are encouraged to reach out to learn more. Please contact Adam J. Heintz, Director of Pro Bono Services, at 646-442-3582 or aheintz@legalservicesnyc.org.

[Volunteer Application](#)