

New York City frequently refuses to provide disabled children with an adequate education, in contravention of federal and state law. Without legal assistance, parents often feel powerless to challenge a school district's denial of special education services. Many parents are unaware of what rights their children are entitled to, or how to pursue relief. Legal advice and representation at special education hearings makes a tremendous difference in the outcomes of these cases. With legal services organizations chronically underfunded, pro bono attorneys play an outsized role in securing justice for these families. Cases are normally concluded in 3 to 6 months.

Scope of work for pro bono volunteers includes:

- a. Meet with the client and confer with LSNYC attorneys to develop a theory for the case
- b. Advocate for the client in advance of the hearing, and prepare the best possible evidence in support of their case.
- c. Represent client at hearing before ALJ - including examining witnesses and making arguments.