

This initiative connects low-wage workers with pro bono attorneys who will represent them in unemployment insurance (UI) administrative hearings and appeals before the New York State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. Unemployment insurance is the sole means of temporary wage replacement for workers and it prevents many families from spiraling into poverty. A dedicated advocate makes a huge difference at UI hearings, with represented people winning about 90% of their cases, compared to only 28% for those who appear pro se. Experts at LSNYC screen the cases and provide mentorship throughout. Cases usually require no more than 15 hours spread out over several weeks. Hearing dates occur quickly, however, usually with only several weeks advance notice.

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. Prepare client for examination as witness at hearing.
- c. Represent client at hearing. Conduct direct examination and defend cross. In some cases cross-examine witnesses. Prepare opening and closing statements.

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](#)