

Stepping Stones

Pro bono Work:

- Assistance with CNCO/SNCO
- SAFE Homes Act compliance with a landlord
- VESSA compliance with an employer
- Help with Motions to Quash subpoenas when victim's files are requested by the court, but a victim doesn't want their records released (*upholding their Absolute Privilege*)

Minimal Charge:

- Civil lawsuits against victims' perpetrators
- Upholding/Enforcing Victim's Rights when violated (*if this is something quick then we would ask for it to be pro bono, but if it is a lengthy process we would hope for minimal charges*)

Mission Impact

We need to build our "bench" of volunteers with expertise in legal matters so they are able to jump into the field when our clients need them.

-Volunteer attorneys (miscellaneous): *Often we have low/moderate-income people who have been the victims of discrimination but who cannot afford legal counsel. We need connection with volunteer attorneys that can help them pursue a legal remedy or refer them to other trusted resources in the community.*

-Criminal Record Relief Clinics (2-4) per year: *We need volunteer attorneys who are willing to help determine whether a client is eligible for criminal record sealing or expungement, help them prepare to file, and represent them if an objection arises.*

-Middle-income Criminal Record Relief clients: *While many of our criminal record relief clients seek the services of Prairie State Legal Services, our program partners, there are also many who do not qualify for their services but still don't have sufficient income to afford legal counsel that can help them file for sealing or expungement.*

-Local policy: *Often times we find ourselves drafting ordinances and other forms of local policy. It would be helpful to have a team of volunteers we can call on to help us ensure that the policy we are proposing is legally sound.*