

# Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

## Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Ghana

### Introduction

Pro bono legal services remain a relatively unstructured concept in Ghana, although there are no specific obstacles to the provision of such free legal services in the country. A substantial number of Ghanaians cannot afford to pay a lawyer or advocate to represent them and are therefore forced to rely on the voluntary assistance of relatives or friends who happen to be lawyers as a means of accessing justice. And that is even on the assumption that the indigent population has access to relatives or friends that are lawyers. However, lawyers are being encouraged to take up a number of pro bono cases every year.<sup>1</sup> This is to facilitate access to justice for all and help ingrain the provision of pro bono legal services as a moral and social obligation within the legal profession. In addition, the Greater Accra Regional Branch of the Ghana Bar Association has launched a pro bono legal outreach program designed to expand public access to justice through free, technology-enabled legal services. The hope is that this will highlight the evolving role of lawyers as drivers of social impact, particularly in enhancing access to justice for the vulnerable.<sup>2</sup>

### At a glance

Minimum pro bono hours requirement for lawyers?	Specific pro bono licence required?	May foreign lawyers practice pro bono?	Insurance required for law firm pro bono?	Insurance required for in-house pro bono?	Rules to limit advertising pro bono work?	Does pro bono work count to CLE credit?	Limitations for in-house lawyers to do pro bono?
No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

### The landscape

Professional regulation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of legal services, including any licensing required to provide legal services. Please highlight any differences for lawyers working as in-house counsel.</li> </ol>	<p>The laws/rules that regulate the provision of legal services in Ghana are as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended</li> <li>The Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquettes) Rules, 2020 (L.I. 2423)</li> <li>The Constitution, Code of Ethics, and Regulations of the Ghana Bar Association (“GBA”)</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.modernghana.com/news/1228822/offer-pro-bono-services-to-the-needy-legal-aid.html?utm\\_](https://www.modernghana.com/news/1228822/offer-pro-bono-services-to-the-needy-legal-aid.html?utm_) (last viewed on 22 February 2026).

<sup>2</sup> [https://asaaseradio.com/greater-accra-bar-launches-free-legal-outreach-to-improve-justice-access/?utm\\_source](https://asaaseradio.com/greater-accra-bar-launches-free-legal-outreach-to-improve-justice-access/?utm_source) (Last viewed on 22 February 2026).

	<p>Licensing Requirements</p> <p>To qualify and practice as a lawyer in Ghana, a person must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hold a qualifying certificate in law from the Ghana School of Law;<sup>3</sup></li> <li>be enrolled and called to the Ghana Bar;<sup>4</sup> and</li> <li>have a valid Solicitor’s Licence.<sup>5</sup></li> </ol> <p>Please note that in Ghana there is no distinction between a barrister and a solicitor. Thus, the Solicitor’s Licence covers both barristers and solicitors.<sup>6</sup></p> <p>For foreign-trained lawyers to practice law in Ghana, they must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete a “Post-Call” Law Course at the Ghana School of Law;<sup>7</sup></li> <li>be enrolled and called to the Ghana Bar;<sup>8</sup> and</li> <li>have a valid Solicitor’s Licence.<sup>9</sup></li> </ol> <p>Please note that the same licensing requirements are applicable to in-house counsel.</p>
<b>Regulatory landscape for pro bono</b>	
<p>2. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.</p>	<p>There are no rules that specifically regulate the provision of pro bono legal services in Ghana, and thus the same rules that govern the provision of normal (i.e. paid) legal services in Ghana apply equally to the provision of legal services on a pro bono basis.</p>
<p>3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>Lawyers do not need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law).</p> <p>The usual local qualification to practice law is all that is necessary to provide pro bono legal services.</p>
<p>4. Do foreign-qualified lawyers need any additional license to provide pro bono services (beyond their foreign qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>Foreign-qualified lawyers do not need an additional license to provide pro bono services beyond their foreign qualification to practice law.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Section 13(3) of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>4</sup> Sections 3 and 7 of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>5</sup> Section 8 of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>6</sup> Section 2(a) of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>7</sup> Section 8(3) of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>8</sup> Sections 3 and 7 of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>9</sup> Section 8 of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

	In addition to their foreign qualification, foreign-qualified lawyers need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. undertake a “Post-Call” Law course at the Ghana School of Law;</li> <li>b. be called to the Ghana Bar; and</li> <li>c. have a Solicitor’s Licence to practice law in Ghana.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>
5. Are lawyers required by such rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours? If so, how many?	No. Lawyers in Ghana are not required to work a minimum number of pro bono hours.
6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?	No. There is no requirement for aspiring lawyers in Ghana to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers
7. Aside from mandatory targets (if any), are there aspirational pro bono hours targets for lawyers set by the local bar association, regulatory body or other body?	No. Despite lawyers being encouraged <sup>11</sup> to provide pro bono legal services, no aspirational pro bono hours targets have been set by any association or body in Ghana.
8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?	No. Lawyers do not receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked.
<b>Insurance and advertising</b>	
9. Do lawyers need professional indemnity legal insurance cover for pro bono legal services they provide? Does the requirement differ for in-house lawyers?  If insurance is required, can lawyers meet the requirement by working under the cover of another pro bono provider, e.g. in partnership with a private law firm or organization working on the same pro bono project?	No. Lawyers do not need professional indemnity legal insurance cover for pro bono legal services they provide.  However, where the pro bono legal services are performed as part of the lawyer’s duties as an employee, Ghanaian law places an obligation on the lawyer’s employer to insure and maintain insurance under any qualifying professional indemnity insurance contract with a licensed insurer for the lawyer. <sup>12</sup>
10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients?	<b>Advertisement</b>  Yes. Under Ghanaian law, a lawyer or law firm is

<sup>10</sup> Sections 3, 7, and 8 of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) as amended.

<sup>11</sup> <https://citinewsroom.com/2023/05/offer-pro-bono-services-to-the-needy-chief-justice-to-new-lawyers/> (last accessed on 4th December 2024).

<sup>12</sup> Section 216(1) of the Insurance Act, 2021 (Act 1061).

	<p>prohibited from publishing a statement about the success rate of that lawyer or firm<sup>13</sup> and the law does not make a distinction between pro bono cases or otherwise.</p> <p><b>Solicitation</b></p> <p>No. Generally, under Ghanaian law, a lawyer is prohibited from soliciting for professional employment from a prospective client either personally or through other means of communication.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>However, the prohibition is applicable if the motive for the solicitation is the pecuniary or financial gain of the lawyer or the law firm.<sup>15</sup></p> <p>Thus, lawyers in Ghana may solicit new pro bono clients if the motive for such solicitation is not financial or pecuniary.</p>
<b>Pro bono practice and culture</b>	
<p>11. What are the main areas of law which require or present opportunities for pro bono? What are the major unmet legal needs?</p>	<p>As has been acknowledged by the government in Ghana, indigenes or the less privileged in society are usually the beneficiaries in terms of legal services.<sup>16</sup></p> <p>The main areas of law within which the named beneficiaries usually require pro bono legal services are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Human rights issues</li> <li>b. Criminal trials</li> <li>c. Immovable property disputes</li> <li>d. Probate and administration matters</li> <li>e. Labour disputes</li> <li>f. Family law matters</li> <li>g. Tenancy disputes</li> </ol>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>The main providers of pro bono legal services in Ghana are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Legal Aid Commission</li> <li>b. NGOs such as the Human Rights Advocacy Centre<sup>17</sup>, and The Fair Justice</li> </ol>

<sup>13</sup> Regulation 15(7)(d) of the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquettes) Rules, 2020 (L.I. 2423).

<sup>14</sup> Regulation 15(1) of the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquettes) Rules, 2020 (L.I. 2423).

<sup>15</sup> Regulation 15(1) of the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquettes) Rules, 2020 (L.I. 2423).

<sup>16</sup> Section 2(a) of the Legal Aid Commission Act, 2018 (Act 977).

<sup>17</sup> [Pro Bono Lawyer Network | Human Rights Advocacy Centre](#) (last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024).

	<p>Initiative<sup>18</sup></p> <p>c. Private law firms</p> <p>d. Private legal practitioners</p>
<p>13. Are there any noteworthy examples of how innovative technology or artificial intelligence is being used to enable access to pro bono or otherwise as part of pro bono cases or matters?</p>	<p>Generally, every innovative technology and/or artificial intelligence being used in the wider legal landscape of Ghana directly or indirectly benefits the provision of pro bono legal services in Ghana.</p> <p>The below are some ways in which technology/artificial intelligence is being used as part of pro bono cases or matters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Certain NGOs involved in pro bono work are leveraging technology to create awareness of the plight of inmates or other victims of injustice.<sup>19</sup> This enables more people (whether lawyers or non-lawyers) to volunteer their services and help in the fight against injustice.</li> <li>2. The advent of legal tech applications like Judy Legal<sup>20</sup> and Dennislaw<sup>21</sup> make it easy for non-lawyers to volunteer and assist the relatively few organizations or lawyers engaged in pro bono services. This lessens the burden on the few lawyers providing pro bono legal services since the non-lawyers have access to legal knowledge and resources and thus, can better assist the legal professionals.</li> </ol>

### Sources of Pro Bono Opportunities and Key Contacts

<p>14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>1. The Legal Aid Commission</b></p> <p>The Legal Aid Commission was established in 2018 under the Legal Aid Commission Act, 2018 (Act 977) to provide legal aid mainly to indigents.<sup>22</sup></p> <p><b>2. The Ghanaian Courts</b></p> <p>Under Ghanaian law,<sup>23</sup> the courts may assign a lawyer by way of legal aid to a party who is financially unable to obtain the services of a lawyer. This may not necessarily be pro bono</p>
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<sup>18</sup> [Home - The Fair Justice Initiative](#) (last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024).

<sup>19</sup> [Worlds Apart: FJI premieres documentary film on Ghana's prison system](#) (last accessed on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024).

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.judy.legal/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.dennislawgh.com/>

<sup>22</sup> Section 2(a) of the Legal Aid Commission Act, 2018 (Act 977).

<sup>23</sup> Section 114 of the Courts Act, 1992 (Act 459).

work for the lawyer because the law stipulates that such lawyers are to be paid fees out of the Ghanaian government's Consolidated Fund.<sup>24</sup>

Notwithstanding the above, Rule 26 of the Code of Ethics of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA) imposes a duty on lawyers to take on court-assigned cases for no fee/reward if need be, and to nevertheless use their best efforts in respect of such cases. Please, note that the Code of Ethics of the GBA is not binding as law.

### **3. The Human Rights Advocacy Centre ("HRAC") – Pro Bono Lawyer Network ("PBLN")<sup>25</sup>**

The Pro Bono Lawyer Network was established by HRAC in December 2010 to provide free legal assistance to the vulnerable in Ghanaian communities whose rights to access justice are limited because they cannot afford legal fees. The PBLN takes on a wide variety of cases ranging from the defense of the rights of women and children in divorce to the negotiation of the release of remand prisoners who have been imprisoned illegally.

### **4. The Fair Justice Initiative (FJI)<sup>26</sup>**

The Fair Justice Initiative (FJI) is a Ghanaian non-governmental organization (NGO) working primarily with inmates of Nsawam Medium Security Prison. Its mission is to combat discrimination and prejudice against current and former inmates, ensure equal access to effective legal representation, and improve the conditions of confinement in Ghanaian prisons.

### **5. Legal Resources Centre<sup>27</sup>**

Legal Resources Centre is a non-governmental organization with significant community-based grassroot initiatives. The Centre works toward the promotion and protection of the rights to Health, Education, Housing, Work, and Criminal/Civil justice. One of the ways by which it does this is through legal aid services.

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<sup>24</sup> Section 114(5) of the Courts Act, 1992 (Act 459).

<sup>25</sup> <https://hracghana.org/about-hrac/> (last accessed on 22 February 2026).

<sup>26</sup> [About - The Fair Justice Initiative](#) (last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024).

<sup>27</sup> [Legal Resources Centre – Reaching out to all with Law, Justice and Development](#) (last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024).

	<p><b>6. HelpLaw Ghana<sup>28</sup></b></p> <p>HelpLaw Ghana was established to provide free legal and related services to as many poor and indigent accused persons who the charity can raise resources to support from their arrest to their trials.</p> <p><b>7.Center for Public Interest Law (CEPIL)<sup>29</sup></b></p> <p>The Center for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) was founded in 1999 as a non-partisan, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) with the primary aim of making the pursuit of justice accessible and affordable to poor and marginalized communities and individuals. It runs a number of programs in this regard including, but not limited to, advocating for certain changes in Ghanaian legislation to ensure the public interest is best served and providing legal aid to ensure access to justice to those individuals who are not able to afford lawyers themselves.</p>
<p>15. Is there any public or private organization with which a local or foreign lawyer can register to be made aware of pro bono opportunities?</p>	<p>Ghana does not have a nationwide pro bono legal system with which local and foreign lawyers can register in order to receive news about pro bono opportunities.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, several of the institutions referred to at <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> above (both public and private) would be happy to receive requests from lawyers to provide pro bono legal assistance with their institutions.</p> <p>Prospective volunteer lawyers may contact them as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Aid Commission <a href="mailto:gar@lac.gov.gh">gar@lac.gov.gh</a> +233 (0) 302 975 749</li> <li>• The Human Rights Advocacy Centre (“HRAC”) – Pro Bono Lawyer Network (“PBLN”) +233 302 768 733 +233 264 214 018</li> </ul>

<sup>28</sup> [Legal Aid for Indigents in Ghana - GlobalGiving](#) (last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024).

<sup>29</sup> [Centre for Public Interest Law \(CEPIL\)](#) (last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fair Justice Initiative (FJI) <a href="mailto:info@fairjusticegh.com">info@fairjusticegh.com</a> +233 598 972 463</li> <li>• Legal Resources Centre <a href="mailto:info@lrcghana.org">info@lrcghana.org</a> +233 302 766 756</li> <li>• Centre for Public Interest Law (“CEPIL”) <a href="mailto:info@cepil.org.gh">info@cepil.org.gh</a> +233 (0) 302 543 580</li> </ul>
<p>16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?</p>	<p>There are no awards or rankings specifically targeted to pro bono work in Ghana. Pro bono organizations or lawyers that have won awards have won such awards in broad categories such as “activism”.</p>

### Acknowledgements

In connection with this chapter, we are grateful for the support and insight of local counsel: **Kimathi & Partners**

### Learn more

[Navigate the full Global Pro Bono Guide](#) to explore the global landscape and pro bono practices and opportunities across 100+ jurisdictions.