

Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Jamaica

Introduction

Pro bono legal service has a long history in Jamaica, with many individual Attorneys-at-Law engaging on a case-by-case basis with recipients of pro bono services alongside, and as a part of, their regular legal practices. Provision of such pro bono services is frequent among solicitor firms of all sizes in Jamaica, as well as by individual practitioners and sole-trade solicitors. Whilst there is a long-standing tradition and history, and pro bono legal services are regularly provided in Jamaica, further and more centrally organised pro bono legal services would be welcomed.

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	No	No	No	No

The landscape

Professional regulation	
1. 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.	The Legal Profession Act and Regulations govern the licensing and regulation of attorneys in Jamaica in general. ¹ There are no differences in the regulatory requirements placed by statute on in-house counsel and attorneys in private practice, save for certain requirements for those whose practice falls under the Anti-Money Laundering/Proceeds of Crime regime.
Regulatory landscape for pro bono	
2. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.	There are no specific laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services as distinct from legal practices in the ordinary course of business. It should be noted that the standard of care required to be met by attorneys remains the same for pro bono services as for

¹ See <https://www.generallegalcouncil.org/legislation/> (last visited 27 September 2025).

	paid services.
3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?	No specific qualification is required in Jamaica for the provision of pro bono legal services beyond the usual qualifications to practice law.
4. Do foreign-qualified lawyers need any additional license to provide pro bono services (beyond their foreign qualification to practice law)?	Legal services in Jamaica, pro bono or otherwise, can only be provided by locally registered attorneys. Foreign-qualified attorneys can practice law in Jamaica, including pro-bono services, if they complete a conversion course and meet certain qualifications, such as having obtained a degree of a university of institution recognised as being equivalent to the degree of Bachelor in Laws and holding a qualification obtained in a common law jurisdiction for admission to practice law ² .
5. Are lawyers required by such rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours? If so, how many?	There is no requirement that attorneys work a minimum number of pro bono hours in Jamaica.
6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?	There is no mandate that aspiring attorneys complete any minimum number of pro bono hours in order to become a licensed Attorney-at-Law in Jamaica, save for the Legal Aid Programme that exists at the Norman Manley Law School, which does have a mandatory requirement for law students to participate in the provision of pro bono legal aid services as a requirement for successful completion of the Programme.
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 mandatory targets, incentives or suggested resource allocations are set by the Legal Aid regime or by any local bar associations in Jamaica.
8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?	Attorneys in Jamaica do not receive any CLE or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked. Provision of pro bono services is enabled solely by the attorney’s individual motivation and capability.

² The Jamaican Bar Association, Frequently Asked Questions, see <https://www.jambar.org/frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=No%20entrance%20exam%20is%20required,Jamaican%20Attorney%2Dat%2DLaw?> (last visited 27 September 2025) and Council of Legal Education, Norman Manley Law School, see <https://nmls.edu.jm/6-month-programme> (last visited 27 September 2025).

Insurance and advertising	
<p>9. Do lawyers need professional indemnity legal insurance cover for pro bono legal services they provide? Does the requirement differ for in-house lawyers?</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>Attorneys providing either paid-for or pro bono legal services in Jamaica are not required to obtain professional indemnity insurance or similar coverage.</p>
<p>10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients?</p>	<p>There are no specific rules limiting or prohibiting advertisement of pro bono services in Jamaica over and above those that limit the ability of attorneys generally to advertise legal services and victories.³</p>
Pro bono practice and culture	
<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>In Jamaica, pro bono services are offered by attorneys especially to persons with limited fiscal capability. The areas of law which require, or present pro bono opportunities can therefore range from representation in civil litigation, labour rights and migration law to assistance with property and estate matters and family law. Note that there is a statutory legal aid regime for persons charged with criminal offences.</p>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>There are no specific or dedicated providers of pro bono legal services in Jamaica; rather, pro bono legal services are provided ad hoc by attorneys alongside their regular practices.</p> <p>Legal Aid Council⁴ is the main statutory body that provides free legal representation for eligible Jamaicans, especially in criminal cases (e.g., duty counsel at court or police stations, representation at trial). They also organise legal aid clinics for a broader range of matters.</p> <p>Jamaicans for Justice provides direct legal support in human rights cases, offering assistance to victims and their families, pro bono</p>

³ The Legal Profession Act, see <https://www.generallegalcouncil.org/regulations/amendment-to-the-canons-of-professional-ethics-2016.pdf> (last visited 27 September 2025).

⁴ <https://legalaidcouncil.moj.gov.jm/about-us>

	advice to low-income and marginalized people, and pursuing strategic litigation on human rights, social justice, and state accountability. ⁵
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>No, there are not any noteworthy examples of how innovative technology or artificial intelligence is being used to enable access to pro bono in Jamaica at this time.</p> <p>However, tools and platforms are emerging, for example, Jamaica’s Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs launched the Jamaica Legal Information Portal, an online platform providing citizens with easy access to information on the laws that govern them. The portal includes an AI helper named “Garvey” to assist users to understand laws.⁶</p> <p>Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions builds web-based tools to support courts, legal aid clinics, and justice administration across the Caribbean, including AccessLegal—a customizable platform that helps legal aid providers manage services more efficiently.⁷</p>
Sources of Pro Bono Opportunities and Key Contacts	
14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.	There is no formal or official source of pro bono matters or specific pro bono resources in Jamaica, nor any centrally organised collection of matters or precedents. However, there are global pro bono clearinghouses and legal services, such as TrustLaw and PILnet ⁸ , which are notable sources of pro bono matters or resources.
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?	There are no public or private organisations with which local or foreign attorneys can register to be made aware of pro bono opportunities; rather, clients in need of pro bono legal services approach attorneys in the ordinary course of their practice.
16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?	There are no formal rankings, lists, awards or public recognition forums related to pro bono work in Jamaica.

⁵ https://jamaicansforjustice.org/redress-and-legal-services/?utm_source

⁶ https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/2025/07/31/digital-platform-give-jamaicans-access-countrys-laws/?utm_source

⁷ https://www.caribbeanjustice.org/what-we-do/?utm_source

⁸ See <https://www.trust.org/trustlaw/> and <https://www.pilnet.org/> (last visited on 11 November 2025).

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Learn more

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