

# Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

## Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Lithuania

### Introduction

Pro bono legal work in Lithuania is a relatively underdeveloped tradition, primarily driven by NGOs, university legal clinics, and select private law firms. While there is no formal mandatory pro bono requirement for lawyers, the Lithuanian Bar Association encourages voluntary legal aid, particularly for marginalised communities, victims of crime, and asylum seekers. State-guaranteed legal aid provides legal representation for low-income individuals, but many people who do not qualify for state aid still struggle to access legal assistance, creating a strong demand for pro bono services.

### 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	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

### 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 provision of legal services in Lithuania is primarily regulated by Republic of Lithuania Law on the Bar (<b>Law on the Bar</b>)<sup>1</sup> and Lithuanian Code of Ethics for Advocates (<b>Ethics Code</b>).<sup>2</sup> To practice law as an advocate, an individual must meet several licensing requirements: (i) they must be a natural person from Lithuania or an EU member state; (ii) hold a law degree (either a bachelor's and master's or a unified law degree); (iii) have at least five years of legal experience or a two-year apprenticeship as an advocate's assistant; (iv) demonstrate good repute; (v) be proficient in the Lithuanian language, and; (vi)</p>

<sup>1</sup> See <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ddd86b1268901fecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=pohw8vb24> (last visited on October 22, 2025).

<sup>2</sup>

See [https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality\\_distribution/public/documents/National\\_Regulations/DE\\_ON\\_National\\_CoC/EN\\_Lithuania\\_Code-of-Ethics.pdf](https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/National_Regulations/DE_ON_National_CoC/EN_Lithuania_Code-of-Ethics.pdf) (last visited on October 22, 2025).

	<p>pass the Lithuanian Bar Association’s (the <b>Bar</b>) qualification exam. Additionally, they must be admitted to the Bar. Advocates are subject to strict ethical rules, including confidentiality, conflict of interest restrictions, and professional independence requirements.<sup>3</sup> Only registered advocates can represent clients in court, except in certain first instance cases.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>In contrast, in-house lawyers do not need to be licensed advocates and are not required to be members of the Bar. Instead, they are employed by companies or organisations under standard employment contracts and may only provide legal services exclusively to their employer. Unlike independent advocates, in-house lawyers do not have the same level of professional independence and cannot represent external clients in legal proceedings. As such, in-house lawyers’ pro bono services are guided by internal company policies and are often limited as pro bono services typically require involvement of a law firm or non-governmental organization. Further, the law is silent on provision of pro-bono legal services by in-house lawyers.</p>
<h3>Regulatory landscape for pro bono</h3>	
<p>2. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.</p>	<p>According to article 4(5) of Law on the Bar “an advocate shall be entitled to provide legal services free of charge, i.e. to provide legal aid.”<sup>5</sup> However, there is no official explanation of what it means to provide legal services free of charge, including the scope, conditions, procedures, and when an advocate is allowed to offer such services.</p> <p>There are no explicit regulations in Lithuania that either promote or limit the provision of pro bono legal services. Notably, there are no mandatory or</p>

<sup>3</sup> See Article 5 of the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Bar available at <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ddd86b12689011ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=pohw8vb24> (last visited on October 22, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> See Article 34(2) of the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Bar available at <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ddd86b12689011ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=pohw8vb24> (last visited on October 22, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> See Article 4(5) of the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Bar available at <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ddd86b12689011ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=pohw8vb24> (last visited on October 22, 2025).

	<p>minimum fees imposed on legal services that would restrict advocates from offering their services free of charge.</p>
<p>3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>No, lawyers in Lithuania do not need a separate license to provide pro bono legal services beyond the standard qualifications required to practice law. However, only licensed advocates can represent clients in court, regardless of whether the service is provided pro bono or for a fee.</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>Under the Law on the Bar, there is no separate or special “pro bono license.” However, any lawyer qualified outside of Lithuania (and outside the EU, i.e., from a “third country”) who wishes to provide any legal services in Lithuania (including pro bono) must first be registered on the Bar’s list of third-country lawyers.</p> <p>In other words, the law does not distinguish between paid or pro bono services. As soon as a foreign-qualified lawyer wants to provide legal services in Lithuania (no matter if they are free or paid) they must comply with the registration (and the attendant requirements) set out in Articles 73–76 of the Law on the Bar.<sup>6</sup></p>
<p>5. Are lawyers required by such rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours? If so, how many?</p>	<p>No, there are no requirements in Lithuania mandating lawyers to complete a minimum number of pro bono hours. As stated by the Lithuanian Court of Appeal “providing free legal aid is a right granted to advocates by law, but it is in no way an obligation”.<sup>7</sup> Pro bono work in Lithuania is voluntary, and while the Bar encourages legal professionals to assist individuals in need, there is no statutory enforcement of pro bono service obligations.</p>
<p>6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?</p>	<p>No, aspiring lawyers in Lithuania are not required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers. However, pro bono work is encouraged within the profession as a way to contribute to society, but it is not a formal requirement for licensing.</p>

<sup>6</sup> See <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ddd86b12689011ecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=pohw8vb24> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> The decision of the Lithuanian Court of Appeal of March 24, 2005, made in civil case [No. 2-164](#).

<p>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?</p>	<p>No, there are no aspirational pro bono hour targets set for lawyers by the Bar, regulatory bodies, or any other organisation.</p>
<p>8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?</p>	<p>No, Lithuanian advocates do not receive CLE or equivalent credits for pro bono work. Under the Law on the Bar and Ethics Code, lawyers are required to engage in professional development, but pro bono work does not count toward this requirement. Article 39(5) of the Law on the Bar states that advocates must continuously improve their qualifications, which typically involves attending seminars, courses, or training programs approved by the Bar.</p> <p>While pro bono work is encouraged, there is no system in place that grants lawyers CLE credit or formal recognition for hours spent providing free legal services.</p>
<b>Insurance and advertising</b>	
<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>Yes, the advocates providing legal services need to have professional indemnity insurance under Article 20 of the Lithuanian Bar Law.<sup>8</sup> This applies to all practicing advocates as the law mandates coverage for damages caused during legal activities exceeding €290, regardless of whether the services are paid or unpaid. The requirement to maintain professional indemnity insurance applies uniformly, regardless of whether services are provided pro bono or for a fee.</p> <p>In-house lawyers are generally not subject to this requirement, as they provide legal services only to their employer and do not act as independent advocates.</p> <p>Lawyers can fulfil the insurance requirement by working under the coverage of a pro bono legal services provider or law firm involved in the same project, provided the arrangement ensures adequate liability coverage.</p>
<p>10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or</p>	<p>According to Regulations on the Use of Advertising in Legal Practice, approved by the</p>

<sup>8</sup> See <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/ddd86b1268901fecb2fe9975f8a9e52e?jfwid=pohw8vb24> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

soliciting new pro bono clients?	<p>Lithuanian Bar Association’s Council on March 13, 2014,<sup>9</sup> advertising pro bono successes is not explicitly prohibited, but it must adhere to professional ethics, accuracy, and may not include misleading information. It should not diminish the professional activities of other lawyers or law firms or unjustifiably elevate the lawyer’s or law firm’s professional activities.</p> <p>Soliciting new pro bono clients is also not explicitly prohibited, but the manner of solicitation must comply with ethical guidelines. The information provided should not be intrusive, exploit the recipient’s difficult situation, or otherwise violate principles of good morals.</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><b>Civil Law.</b> Many individuals require assistance with issues such as family disputes, housing, and social welfare.</p> <p><b>Human Rights and Victim Support.</b> The protection of human rights and assistance to victims is a key area where pro bono legal services play a role in Lithuania. Many vulnerable individuals, including victims of violence, refugees, and marginalised communities, lack the financial resources or knowledge to navigate the legal system. Several NGOs (e.g., Caritas, Lithuanian Red Cross, Lithuanian Human Rights Center, etc.), legal aid centers (e.g., the Vilnius University Law Clinic), and pro bono programs focus on providing legal support to these individuals.</p>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>European Foundation of Human Rights (<b>EFHR</b>) in Lithuania – EFHR provides free legal advice to victims of discrimination and other human rights abuses, particularly focusing on the rights of ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Lithuanian Human Rights Center – is an organization that offers legal support and advocacy for various human rights issues, collaborating with pro bono lawyers to assist individuals in need.</p>

<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.advokatura.lt/uploads/Documents/document\\_112/140313reklama-1internetui.pdf](https://www.advokatura.lt/uploads/Documents/document_112/140313reklama-1internetui.pdf) (last visited on 4 November 2025).

	Vilnius University Law Clinic – in partnership with law firms, this clinic provides primary legal aid on civil, employment, social welfare, and administrative issues to individuals regardless of their financial status.
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?	No, there are no noteworthy examples of how innovative technology or artificial intelligence are being used to enable access to pro bono in Lithuania at the time this report was made.
<b>Sources of Pro Bono Opportunities and Key Contacts</b>	
14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.	Advocates in Lithuania commonly source pro bono matters through the Lithuanian Bar Association’s coordinated calls for volunteer advocates and related guidance, which connect lawyers with priority initiatives and referral partners. <sup>10</sup> Screened referrals are also available via the Vilnius University Law Clinic, which conducts intake and triage before directing suitable cases to external counsel. <sup>11</sup> Rights based and impact opportunities are channelled by the European Foundation of Human Rights, which engages pro bono litigators and researchers through its helpdesk and minority rights docket, <sup>12</sup> and by the Human Rights Monitoring Institute, which partners with counsel on test case development, amicus briefs and comparative research across privacy, criminal justice and expression. <sup>13</sup> Community driven discrimination and equal treatment matters are frequently referred through the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights. <sup>14</sup>
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?	Local and foreign lawyers can register interest and receive pro bono opportunities through the Lithuanian Bar Association’s coordinated volunteer calls, which periodically invite advocates to join priority initiatives and provide participation guidance. <sup>15</sup> The Vilnius University Law Clinic also facilitates engagement by

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.advokatura.lt/dla-ukrainciv/> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

<sup>11</sup> See <https://teisesklinika.lt/> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

<sup>12</sup> See <https://lt.efhr.eu/> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

<sup>13</sup> See <https://hrmi.lt/en/> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

<sup>14</sup> See <https://www.zmogausteisiugidas.lt/en/themes/organisations-that-can-help-you/non-governmental-organisations/lithuanian-human-rights-center> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.advokatura.lt/dla-ukrainciv/> (last visited on October 23, 2025).

	onboarding external lawyers for referred matters following its intake and triage process. <sup>16</sup>
16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?	In Lithuania, the recognition of pro bono legal work is still developing, and there are currently no nationally established awards or rankings dedicated exclusively to pro bono contributions. However, Lithuanian legal professionals and organizations can participate in various international platforms that honor exceptional pro bono efforts (e.g., Chambers' Europe award for "Pro Bono: Outstanding Firm", Pro Bono Institute awards, etc.).

### Acknowledgements

**Name of Local Counsel:** Sorainen

**Name of Individual at Local Counsel:** Augustas Klezys

### Learn more

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

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<sup>16</sup> See <https://teisesklinika.lt/> (last visited on October 23, 2025).