

# Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

## Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Morocco

### Introduction

In Morocco, the legal system enshrines a right to free justice for those with insufficient financial resources; however, this is for legal aid and is limited to bringing a claim before court – it does not extend to pro bono legal services and there are no laws or regulations in Morocco that govern pro bono legal services. Morocco is a country that presents opportunities for pro bono work as there are segments of its population which require legal assistance but pro bono legal services are constrained by an inability, or even an unwillingness, for people to access them. There is no established foundation among lawyers and law firms and the main providers of pro bono are NGOs.

### 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	No	No	No	No	No

### The landscape

Professional regulation	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Constitution of 1 July 2011 forms the basis of Morocco's legal system. The legal profession is governed by Law No 1-93-162 of 10 September 1993 enacted by Dahir of the Moroccan King relating to the organisation of the legal profession, as amended by Law No 28-08 of 20 October 2008 enacted by Dahir No 1-8-101.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Decree No. 2-81-276 of 1 February 1982 sets out the requirements to practise as a lawyer – a person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be over 21 years of age;</li> <li>• hold a law degree (<i>license en droit</i>) – equivalent to an LLB;</li> <li>• have successfully passed the Bar</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Dahir No. 1-08-102 of October 20, 2008 enacted the Law No. 28-08, which modified the Dahir establishing the Law No. 1-93-162 of September 10, 1993. <http://adala.justice.gov.ma> (last visited on 4 February 2025).

	<p>examination;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have completed an internship with an experienced lawyer;</li> <li>• be registered with one of the 17 Bar Associations (whereby each Bar is managed by an elected council, which is headed by the Bar President); and</li> <li>• have a high degree of fluency in Arabic (as all pleas in Moroccan courts are made in Arabic).<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p>In relation to foreign-qualified lawyers, they must hold a certificate of aptitude to practise law or provide evidence that they have practised law for at least five years in their home country. If the foregoing cannot be met, they must take an exam in Morocco to evaluate their knowledge of the Arabic language and Moroccan law. They must also have a high degree of fluency in the Arabic language and be registered with one of the Moroccan Bar Associations.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>The above also applies to in-house lawyers.</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 specific laws or regulations that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.</p> <p>However, in relation to legal aid, Article 121 of the Constitution provides that justice is free for those who do not have sufficient resources to bring a claim before a court.<sup>4</sup></p>
<p>3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>Other than the requirements to practise law generally as set out in section (a)(1) above, there is no requirement to obtain a specific licence for 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>Other than the requirements to practise law generally as set out in section (a)(1) above, there is no requirement for foreign-qualified lawyers to obtain an additional licence for pro bono legal services.</p>
<p>5. Are lawyers required by such rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours? If so, how many?</p>	<p>Lawyers are not required by any laws or regulations to work a minimum number of pro bono hours in Morocco.</p>

<sup>2</sup> <http://adala.justice.gov.ma> (last visited on 4 February 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?	Aspiring lawyers in Morocco are not required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services in order 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?	There are no aspirational targets and the Bar Associations do not mention any targets in respect of pro bono hours worked by lawyers in Morocco.
8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?	Lawyers do not receive any Continuing Legal Education” 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?	Lawyers do not require professional indemnity legal insurance cover for any pro bono legal services that they provide – that applies to lawyers in private practice and in-house.
10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients?	There are no rules in Morocco that limit or prohibit advertising pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients.
<b>Pro bono practice and culture</b>	
11. What are the main areas of law which require or present opportunities for pro bono? What are the major unmet legal needs?	<p>Morocco is a country which continues to develop and as such there are many areas which require – and therefore present – opportunities for pro bono. The main areas in which people need assistance (legal and general) are domestic servitude, gender parity (particularly in the case of single mothers) and asylum (in the case of refugees).</p> <p>Specifically in relation to pro bono, a significant issue is the inability to access pro bono legal services. The general public has little information on the legal sector and education is a factor as</p>

	<p>approximately 50% of the population is illiterate.<sup>5</sup> By turning to family members for advice rather than seeking legal assistance, this population lacks information about their rights and how to resolve disputes.<sup>6</sup> As well as not being able to access legal services, there is an unwillingness to do so as the population has a low regard for the legal sector which they see as corrupt.</p> <p>There are issues even in relation to legal aid for which there is underlying legislation – legal aid procedures are complex and the criteria for assessing a person’s eligibility is not centralised and therefore the process can be opaque and discretionary.</p> <p>Consequently, there are major unmet legal needs relating to the provision of legal services to those who are (i) unable to pay for them; (ii) unable to access them because they are shunned (such as single mothers) or unaware they exist; and (iii) unwilling to access them because they believe that the legal sector is corrupt. Based on the foregoing, the legal areas that have the most opportunities to provide pro bono legal services are the areas of procedural law, constitutional law, civil law, family law and asylum law – as well as a general need for education.</p>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>The Constitution enshrines a right for individuals who do not have sufficient financial resources to be provided with legal assistance so that they can defend themselves at court. Legal aid (which covers all legal costs an individual may incur) is granted for the whole litigation process, from the legal representation of an individual before the court up to the stage of execution of a decision by the court. Legal aid, in theory, applies to all cases, whether criminal or otherwise.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>In respect of pro bono legal services, the main providers are non-governmental organisations – both national and international. Moroccan NGOs include the following:</p>

<sup>5</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/2ab68f88-91ec-584e-a7cf-8977b5436f35/content> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hiil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HiiL-Morocco-JNS-report-EN-web.pdf> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>7</sup> Law No. 514-65 on judicial assistance. <http://adala.justice.gov.ma> (last visited on 4 February 2025).

- *Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise* – dedicated to alleviating poverty by providing skill training and business opportunities to local communities;<sup>8</sup>
- *Association Oum El Banine* – provides support to women in distress;<sup>9</sup>
- *Fondation Orient Occident* – provides support to young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods and provides socio-educational and professional training;
- *Droit et Justice* – dedicated to improving the judicial system and promoting the rule of law. It is particularly involved in the refugee crisis and provides legal aid for asylum seekers in Morocco;<sup>10</sup>
- *Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité* – provides humanitarian and legal support to vulnerable immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers; and
- *Association Marocaine des Droits Humains* – monitors human rights violations and provides legal support for victims.<sup>11</sup>

There are also pro bono associations which act as reception and attendance centers for refugees, women and other victims of violence, and which provide support with legal proceedings and assist in distributing legal information.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to Moroccan NGOs, there are international NGOs which act in Morocco / for Moroccans. An example is UNHCR which has legal partners across Morocco – asylum-seekers and refugees have the right to approach and request legal assistance from a UNHCR legal

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.highergov.com/awardee/association-marocaine-dappui-a-la-promotion-de-la-petite-entreprise-amappe-13074607/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.oumelbanine.com/om-oss/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.orient-occident.org/who-we-are/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.omct.org/fr/membres-du-reseau/association-marocaine-des-droits-humains-amdh> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>12</sup> Euromed Justice II Project, supra n. 11.

	partner. <sup>13</sup>
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?	There are no specific examples of technology or artificial intelligence being used to enable access to pro bono or furthering pro bono in Morocco, however there is a program to increase the use of technology in the legal sector more generally. In 2003, the Ministry of Justice started a program of court computerisation <sup>14</sup> and in June 2024 it was announced that courts across Morocco will start using artificial intelligence. <sup>15</sup>
<b>Sources of Pro Bono Opportunities and Key Contacts</b>	
14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.	<p>There are no governmental sources and the main sources of pro bono matters and/or other resources are NGOs, including the following (as further described in section (d)(2) above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Droit et Justice</i><sup>16</sup>;</li> <li>• <i>Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise</i><sup>17</sup>;</li> <li>• <i>Association Oum El Banine</i><sup>18</sup>;</li> <li>• <i>Fondation Orient Occident</i><sup>19</sup>;</li> <li>• <i>Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité</i><sup>20</sup> and</li> <li>• <i>Association Marocaine des Droits Humains</i><sup>21</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to Moroccan NGOs, there are international NGOs which could provide sources of pro bono matters such as UNICEF and UNHCR.</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?	While the NGOs noted in section (e)(1) above are sources of pro bono matters, it is not possible for lawyers to register with them – or with any other organisation (public or private) – to be made

<sup>13</sup> <https://help.unhcr.org/morocco/en/services/legal-assistance/#:~:text=UNHCR%27s%20Legal%20Partner%2C%20Cabinet%20Ma%C3%A9tre,legal%20dispute%20you%20may%20face.> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>14</sup> <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/zh/467351468062083154/pdf/298640ENGLISH0MoroccoSA.pdf> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/morocco-uses-ai-in-its-courts/3246947> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.droitjustice.org/> (Last viewed on 26 January 2026).

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.amappe.org.ma/> (last viewed on 27 January 2026).

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.oumelbanine.com/> (Last viewed on 27 January 2026).

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.orient-occident.org/> (Last viewed on 27 January 2026).

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.abcds-maroc.org/> (Last viewed on 27 January 2026).

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.amdh.org.ma/fr> (Last viewed on 27 January 2026).

	aware of pro bono opportunities.
16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?	While there might be awards for international law firms doing pro bono work in Morocco, there are no specific awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work done by Moroccan law firms and/or lawyers in Morocco.

### Acknowledgements

**Name of Local Counsel:** Benzakour Law Firm

**Name of Individual at Local Counsel:** Rachid Benzakour

### Learn more

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