

Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Turkey

Introduction

Pro bono legal services in Turkey can be regarded as a relatively new concept, particularly when compared to the sophisticated and institutionalised pro bono programmes in the United States and Continental Europe. Consequently, the legal regulations and organisations in Turkey concerning the provision of pro bono legal services are not yet well established nor adequate to meet current demands. Specifically, the provisions in the Lawyer's Act (outlined below) and the priorities of Turkish law firms require further development to make the provision of pro bono legal services more prevalent in Turkey.

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	Yes

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>Under Turkish law, legal services provided by lawyers are governed by the Lawyers Act (Law No: 1136), which was published in the Official Gazette on 7 April 1969, numbered 1136.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 9 of the Lawyers Act, an individual accepted as a lawyer is issued a licence, enabling them to practise law. Acceptance as a lawyer takes effect from the moment the licence is granted. The conditions for acceptance as a lawyer are outlined in Article 3 of the Lawyers Act as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a Turkish citizen; • Graduating from a Law Faculty in Turkey, or graduating from a foreign law faculty and successfully passing exams for courses not taken according to the curriculum of Turkish law faculties; • Completing a legal internship and obtaining a document confirming the

	<p>completion of that internship;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a place of residence in the same region as the bar association with which the lawyer is to be registered; and • Not being in a condition that prevents the individual from practising law according to the Lawyers Act. <p>There is no additional legislation applicable in Turkey for in-house counsel. Further, if a lawyer is employed by the government or a state-owned enterprise, they are only permitted to act on matters relating to those authorities or companies, as per Article 12 of the Lawyers Act.</p>
Regulatory landscape for pro bono	
<p>2. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.</p>	<p>There are no rules in Turkey that specifically regulate the provision of pro bono legal services by lawyers.</p> <p>However, as a general rule, Article 164/4 of the Lawyers Act provides that: (i) it is not possible to agree on a fee for legal services that is below the Minimum Attorney Fee Tariff¹; and (ii) if free legal services are provided for disputes, such services shall be notified to the Management Board of the Bar Association.</p>
<p>3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>There is no separate licence requirement for lawyers in Turkey for providing 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 lawyers do not require any additional licences to provide pro bono legal services in Turkey. Since non-Turkish foreign-qualified lawyers are not permitted to be registered with a Bar Association, foreign-qualified lawyers may only provide pro bono legal services through their employer or in conjunction with a registered Turkish lawyer or foreign Attorney Partnership.</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 rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours.</p>

¹ See <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2024/10/2024i003-4-1-1.pdf> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

<p>6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?</p>	<p>Aspiring lawyers are not required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services in order to become licenced lawyers.</p>
<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>In Turkey, there are no mandatory or aspirational pro bono hour targets set by bar associations or any regulatory authority of lawyers.</p>
<p>8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?</p>	<p>Lawyers in Turkey do not receive any “Continuing Legal Education” or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked.</p>
<p>Insurance and advertising</p>	
<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>There is no specific requirement for both lawyers and in-house counsel in relation to the professional indemnity legal insurance coverage for pro bono legal services. There is also no difference between lawyers and in-house lawyers. Furthermore, there are no mandatory insurance requirement for lawyers under the Turkish legislation.</p>
<p>10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients?</p>	<p>Article 55 of the Lawyers Act prohibits lawyers from making any attempt or act that may be considered an “advertisement” in order to obtain a “job opportunity”. Since soliciting activities might be deemed as “seeking/obtaining job opportunity”, both advertisement of pro bono legal services and soliciting pro bono clients may also be prohibited under the Lawyers Act.</p>
<p>Pro bono practice and culture</p>	
<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>There are no published official reports or statistics with respect to pro bono legal services and/or unmet legal needs. That being said, women’s rights, children’s rights, and disability rights are areas that present more opportunities for pro bono legal services, since such areas widely affect people with low income in the Turkish jurisdiction. Furthermore, refugee rights are another example of unmet legal needs in Turkey, considering the number of refugees who</p>

	<p>have fled to Turkey in recent years to escape the Syrian civil war.</p>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>Although there are no main providers of pro bono legal services in Turkey that are regulated by law or established by government, there are several non-governmental organisations, universities, and law firms establishing pro bono departments.</p> <p>The Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Center is one of the well-known institutions in Turkey providing pro bono legal services.²</p> <p>In particular, the Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Center provides legal counselling for clients and helps clients draft contracts and other legal documents. It also conducts research in specific legal fields, as requested by its clients. In addition to the Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Center, the Pro Bono Association – established in 2022 and collaborating with Istanbul Bilgi University – is also a small and newly established organisation serving the same purpose.³</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>To the best of our knowledge, there are no such examples in relation to pro bono matters. Commercial legal platforms and tools are emerging, however, that could also potentially be used in pro bono matters, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AyLex AI, a Turkish AI legal assistant that searches case law decisions, analyses statutes and precedents, and generates draft documents like petitions and contracts.⁴ • DavaHukuk, an AI platform with a legal assistant, that can research case law and automate document creation. Unlike traditional chatbots, the system uses agentic AI to understand the user's request, autonomously conduct research on relevant case law, and suggest the most suitable legal solutions.⁵

² See <https://probono.bilgi.edu.tr/tr/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

³ See <https://www.probonodernegi.org/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

⁴ https://www.aylex.ai/?utm_source (Last viewed on 19 February 2026).

⁵ https://davahukuk.com/?utm_source (Last viewed on 19 February 2026).

Sources of Pro Bono Opportunities and Key Contacts

<p>14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.</p>	<p>There are no governmental sources of pro bono and/or other pro bono legal services in Turkey.</p> <p>On the other hand, there are currently very limited non-governmental sources of pro bono and/or other pro bono resources in Turkey. The Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Center, however, is one of the most successful non-governmental sources rendering pro bono legal services in Turkey.</p> <p>Other non-governmental sources of pro bono and/or other pro bono resources in Turkey include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pro Bono Association, which brings together lawyers or law firms from across Turkey with civil society organisations, enabling them to provide free legal support to civil society; • Mor Çatı Women’s Shelter Foundation, which provides pro bono legal services in respect of violence against women and provides psychological and legal services via volunteer experts and lawyers;⁶ • Youth Re-autonomy Foundation of Turkey, which provides pro bono legal services aimed at reintegrating children who have been involved in criminal activities back into society;⁷ and • Foundation for Children with Leukaemia, which tries to create solutions for children with leukaemia and associated health problems.⁸
<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>There are no public or private organisations with which a local or foreign attorney can register to learn of such opportunities.</p> <p>The Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Center is the most well-known organisation in the Turkish jurisdiction and may be able to provide further guidance on the types of pro bono opportunities that exist in Turkey from time to</p>

⁶ See <https://morcati.org.tr/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

⁷ See <https://www.tcyov.org/hakkimizda/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).

⁸ See <https://en.losev.org.tr/> (Last visited on 14 January 2025).

	time. ⁹
16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?	A Pro Bono award ceremony was organised by Istanbul Bilgi University in 2017. ¹⁰

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Learn more

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

⁹ See <https://probono.bilgi.edu.tr/en/> (last visited on 26 January 2025).

¹⁰ See <https://probono.bilgi.edu.tr/tr/haberler/pro-bono-odulu-sahiplerini-buldu-13/> (last visited on 14 January 2025).