What is the **C**ommunity **C**ounsel **P**rogram?

The Community Counsel Program is a legal assistance program for eligible community-based non-profit organizations. Community Counsel Program provides pro bono transactional services to organizations that are working to better the economic and social conditions for low-income residents and communities in distress.

We strive to help non-profits more effectively address the legal and risk management issues that arise in connection with their operations.

Our clients serve:

⇒ Low-income neighborhoods and homeless individuals
⇒ Healthcare needs
⇒ Victims of domestic violence
⇒ Migrant Farmworkers
⇒ Disaster relief and preparedness
⇒ And more

Affordable homes by Homes for Hillsborough, Inc.
Picture by Homes for Hillsborough, Inc.

Typically, the organizations we serve have less discretionary dollars in their budgets, and generally cannot afford the fees charged by a private law firm

When organizations are unable to afford an attorney:

- They either do not address their legal issues, or
- They hire attorneys with programming dollars thereby reducing the services they deliver to the community.

Community Counsel Program leverages its limited staff resources by matching eligible nonprofits with volunteer attorneys in these areas:

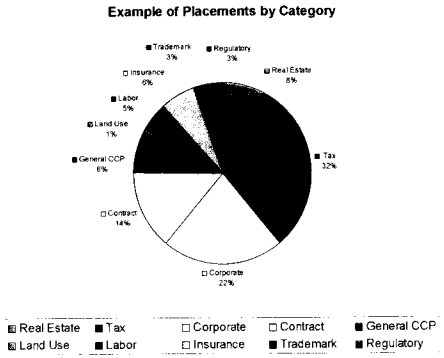
Corporate	Real Estate
Tax	Insurance
Labor	Trademark
Contract	General CCP
Land Use	Regulatory

Legal Assistance Provided Through the Community Counsel Program:

Our goals:

⇒ Help eligible nonprofits build and maintain their capacity to serve the needs of our community.

⇒ Provide a credible source through which transactional lawyers may offer pro bono services.



How *you* can help?

lunteer by:

Adding your name to our CCP list of participating attorneys;

Helping us recruit attorneys who have expertise in our practice areas;

Making yourself available to act as a **mentor;**

Joining our strategic planning committee now being formed.

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nefits to Volunteers:

Professional liability coverage for all volunteer attorneys;

Resource materials and forms are provided

Legal Services staff attorneys and private attorneys are available to mentor less experienced volunteers;

The Program **collects and records the number of hours of pro bono service donated by** its volunteers for reporting to the Florida Bar.

Participation gives valuable legal experience, the opportunity to expand legal knowledge and the **opportunity to help your community.**

For more information,

Contact the Legal Services Organization nearest you

Clearwater
Jane Helms
Project Probono Coordinator
Gulfcoast Legal Services
(727) 443-0657
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Manatee/ Sarasota
Nishit Patel
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Pro Bono Public Service

"Pro bono legal service to the poor need not be provided only through legal services to individuals; it can also be provided through legal services to charitable, religious, or educational organizations whose overall mission and activities are designed predominately to address the needs of the poor. For example, legal service to organizations such as a church, civic or community service organization relating to a project seeking to address the problems of the poor would quality."

Source: Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, Comments to Rule 4-6.1 Pro Bono Public Service

Pro Bono Opportunities offered through

Community Counsel Program

Empowering Our Community

Picture by Greater Palm River Point Community Development Corp.

A collaborative partnership of legal services organizations

Community Law Program

25 YEARS GLS