

PROBONO.ORG is a non-profit clearing house. We aim to increase access to justice in the benefit of the public interest via the pro bono services of law firms and advocates. It is a service for legal practitioners who want to meet their *pro bono* commitment in a focused and streamlined manner.

Pro Bono

According to former Chief Justice Ngcobo, the constitutional guarantee contained in section 34 of the Constitution, “implies the broader promise of access to justice”. “And of fundamental importance when we think about access to justice is the issue of access to legal representation.” The success of ProBono.Org to assist the poor and the vulnerable is premised on the volunteerism and dedication of the legal profession.

What are qualifying matters:

- ✓ Matters in the public interest: The problem or matter must be one with a public interest element. It must raise an issue of broad public concern, or it must impact on disadvantaged or marginalised groups, and/or it must affect a significant number of people, not just the individual; or
- ✓ Matters that increase access to justice;
- ✓ The matter must have merit; and
- ✓ The client must be unable to afford commercial legal fees.

HOW DO WE WORK:

We consult with individual clients (persons or groups) and we run topic specific legal clinics (e.g. labour, refugees, etc).

▪ Individual clients:

- ✓ People with qualifying matters consult with us in person. We prepare a full statement.
- ✓ Qualifying matters are matched with suitable legal practitioners.
- ✓ Matching is done according to the specialisation and/or areas of interest of the legal practitioners.

▪ Clinics:

- ✓ Experienced attorneys run topic specific legal clinics at specific hours on set days per week.
- ✓ Clients make appointments or are seen on a first come first serve basis.
- ✓ Clients with qualifying matters become the client of the relevant law firm.