

Purpose and Participation

PURPOSE

The purpose of GLAC is to provide family law legal assistance to low-income families in Gallatin County while providing pro bono opportunities to Gallatin County public and private attorneys.

GLAC provides free ongoing CLE training for program volunteer lawyers, and opportunities to receive mentoring from an experienced attorney or contribute pro bono hours as volunteer mentor. GLAC offers the unique ability to gain valuable experience through time manageable pro bono opportunities.

GLAC provides the added benefit to our court system by ensuring the legal experience of self-represented litigants with limited means is as efficient and humane as possible.

CLIENT PARTICIPATION

Clients are referred through a variety of portals including MLSA, the court and the private bar. All GLAC participants are screened for financial eligibility through MLSA.

Clinic participants and are required to participate in family law educational training in preparation for receiving GLAC volunteer attorney services.

Gallatin County Pro Bono Working Group

The Gallatin County Pro Bono Working Group was formed to assist in addressing the unmet legal needs of those with limited in our community through organization and implementation of pro bono efforts. GLAC is a product of the efforts of the Working Group.

If you are interested in joining the Working Group to assist in evaluating, directing or supporting the program into the future, please take a few minutes to contact Pam Poon at:

glawclinic@gmail.com.

GALLATIN LEGAL ASSISTANCE CLINIC

Call 543-8343, Ext. 207
Contact : glawclinic@gmail.com

GLAC



GALLATIN LEGAL ASSISTANCE CLINIC

Providing direct legal assistance to Montana's low-income families



Improving our community by improving access to justice

Critical Need



Federal Poverty Rate for a family of four is \$23,550 a year or about \$1,900 a month.

The need for legal assistance to low-income citizens off Gallatin County has reached critical proportions. Gallatin County's rate of poverty is 21%, well above Montana's average of 14 %.

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) received more than 325 requests for legal assistance in Gallatin County last year. There is one MLSA attorney in Bozeman. One.

The Bozeman **Self-Help Law Center** provides resources and information to approximately 75 people per month, but they cannot provide legal advice or representation.

GLAC was created in an effort to begin addressing the existing unmet legal needs of those who lack the financial ability to pay for legal services.

Your Chance to make a BIG Difference

By volunteering just a few hours a month to GLAC in a comfortable setting outside of your regular place of employment or practice, you will provide what only an attorney can provide. And you will provide it to those who would not otherwise receive legal assistance.

Attorneys working in the public sector or outside traditional practice arenas are encouraged to participate. There are many government agency pro bono policies in place here in Montana accommodating GLAC's unique design!

GLAC will provide the clients and the volunteer attorneys with the necessary notices, agreements, and retainers to accommodate your limited scope legal assistance in the clinic setting.

Click here to [SIGN UP](#) and begin making the difference.

Would you like to make a financial contribution to help support GLAC or have questions? Contact Pro Bono Working Group Chair Pam Poon: glawclinic@gmail.com .

GLAC Clinic Details

CLINIC SETTING

Gallatin Legal Assistance Clinics will take place on a regular schedule by *appointment only*. Clinic participants are triaged in advance in an effort to receive the most targeted attorney assistance possible and to facilitate the best use of volunteer attorney time.

Practice and reference materials together with forms are provided at the GLAC site.

ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Clinic volunteer attorneys will receive primary or secondary malpractice coverage through MLSA while participating in GLAC. If an attorney wishes to take a full-representation case through MLSA or GLAC, coverage extends for the duration of the representation.

Volunteers will receive on-going **free** CLE training, clinic-specific practice materials as references together with support from experienced family law attorneys.