

# PRO BONO INSIGHTS

A Quarterly Georgia Legal Services Program Newsletter

## STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year, GLSP proudly recognizes volunteers who go above and beyond to serve our clients and communities. This year's six honorees exemplify the spirit of justice, compassion, and commitment that drives our mission forward.

"Throughout Georgia, the legal needs of our neighbors and communities far exceed the services that GLSP's staff is able to provide," said GLSP Executive Director Susan Coppedge. "This year's honorees demonstrate that pro bono volunteers are not only essential to providing services for more individuals, they also bring creative ideas and approaches that address the unique needs of their communities. We are grateful to these professionals who bring their skills and expertise to help bridge the justice gap."

From building innovative programs for unhoused individuals to launching new legal clinics and responding to disaster survivors statewide, these champions have made a lasting impact. Their stories remind us that pro bono service isn't about legal expertise – it's about showing up, listening deeply, and helping people reclaim stability and dignity.

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***Congratulations and thank you to all of our award winners!***

## 2024 PRO BONO CHAMPION: AMY IHRIG

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Champion Award: The attorney who accepted the largest number of cases in the prior year.

Amy Ihrig played a pivotal role in developing the GLSP Vital Docs program in Savannah, which helps unhoused individuals obtain birth certificates—critical documents that unlock access to housing, employment, and other opportunities. In 2024 alone, she assisted over 50 clients. This marks the third consecutive year that a Savannah attorney has received the statewide Pro Bono Champion award.



## 2024 PRO BONO ADVOCATE: BRENDA HOLMES

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Advocate Award: The attorney who did the most to weave pro bono into the fabric of their practice of law.



With over 25 years of legal experience, Brenda Holmes answered the call when GLSP sought attorneys to assist survivors of Hurricane Helene. She supported clients throughout the state in resolving legal issues stemming from disaster-related damage, offering peace of mind through her thoughtful and compassionate service.

## 2024 PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD: ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Service Award: The person or entity (legal or nonlegal) who has done the most to support and promote pro bono success in their community in partnership with GLSP.



Recognizing a critical need, the Athens-Clarke County Probate Court reached out to GLSP to propose a monthly probate clinic. The Court has been instrumental in providing space within the courthouse to host these clinics and actively refers clients in need of this vital assistance. Community partners like the Court are essential to expanding access to justice and delivering services where they're needed most.

## 2024 POWERHOUSE LAW STUDENT AWARD: SCOTT ANDERSON

Powerhouse Law Student Award: a law student or recent law graduate who has volunteered and achieved noteworthy success with GLSP by providing excellent service to the Pro Bono Unit or staff-based advocacy efforts/projects.

Since January of 2022, Mr. Scott Anderson has balanced being a law student at Charleston School of Law, volunteering with GLSP's Savannah Regional Office, and full-time employment as a Primary Patent Examiner at the US Patent and Trademark Office. His work with GLSP included assisting staff attorneys with client calls, drafting estate planning documents, and supporting intake for the Vital Docs project.

Now admitted to the bar, he continues to volunteer —this time as an attorney.



# 2024 WISE COUNSEL AWARD: DOUG ALEXANDER & BETH BOONE

Wise Counsel Award: An in-house and/or long-time volunteer lawyer who has demonstrated professionalism, service, and commitment to GLSP.

With over 45 years of legal experience in the Brunswick region, Mr. Doug Alexander has accepted numerous case referrals from the local office and regularly refers a wide variety of matters to GLSP. He also spearheaded monthly legal clinics at a Brunswick homeless day shelter. His selfless service and unwavering dedication have made a lasting impact on the community.



Ms. Beth Boone practiced law for over 17 years before retiring in 2024 from Hall Booth Smith. A longtime supporter of GLSP, she has hosted multiple events at her office, served on the Access to Justice Committee, and is a former GLSP board member. She continues to volunteer for cases, participates in Ask a Lawyer Day, and remains active in the monthly homeless day shelter clinic. Her warmth and professionalism are unmatched.

# DISCOVER WHAT THOUSANDS OF GEORGIA ATTORNEYS ALREADY KNOW: PRO BONO WORK MAKES YOU HAPPY

GLSP's Pro Bono Unit offers a wide array of in-person and remote direct service opportunities across the state. These opportunities allow Georgia-licensed attorneys to assist clients one-on-one with legal matters ranging from court appearances and document drafting to helping clients access vital resources.

Pro bono attorneys expand access to justice and open pathways out of poverty for Georgia residents. Volunteers draft wills and powers of attorney to protect housing, families, and futures; clear criminal records to help clients pursue jobs and stable housing; represent survivors of domestic violence at protective order hearings to support safety and independence; and complete guardianship for a kinship caregiver to help secure stable homes for children.

## Here's a Snapshot of Available Cases

Looking to make a meaningful impact? Here are a few of the current pro bono opportunities:

A Walker County resident seeks legal advice regarding Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Volunteer will need to help client understand the eligibility process and next steps. This is a remote opportunity.

Volunteer attorney needed to assist a Floyd County grandparent with a kinship adoption. Biological parents are expected to consent. Make a lasting difference by helping complete this family's journey.

Assist a Dougherty County senior citizen with a simple will. This individual is in need of basic estate planning support to ensure their wishes are clearly documented and legally protected. This is a remote opportunity.

We post both remote and in-person opportunities on Paladin, our pro bono opportunity portal. These include direct service cases where volunteers work individually with clients, as well as clinics where volunteers assist one or more clients at GLSP-hosted events.

More information on direct service and clinic opportunities is available on GLSP's Paladin page ([bit.ly/GLSP\\_Paladin](https://bit.ly/GLSP_Paladin)), or you can contact Sarah Anderson at [sjanderson@glsp.org](mailto:sjanderson@glsp.org).

# MEET THE TEAM- REGIONAL OFFICES



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# MEET THE TEAM- CENTRAL SUPPORT



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Ashley Clark  
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