

Pro Bono at Legal Aid DC



TAKING A PUBLIC BENEFITS LAW CASE

What Type of Public Benefits Law Cases Does Legal Aid DC Place Pro Bono?

Pro bono attorneys **represent clients with disabilities** who need representation in administrative hearings to appeal the denial of Social Security Disability Insurance/ Supplemental Security Income (SSDI/SSI) benefits. These attorneys help low-income individuals and families **secure vital health and financial support**.

What Can I Expect From a Pro Bono Public Benefits Case Referral from Legal Aid DC?

- **Training, sample briefs, and expert mentorship**
- Single **remote** or **in-person** appearance
- Strict scheduling
- Most cases will have a hearing within about six months
- Multiple **interviews** of the client
- **Guaranteed hearing** – cases do not settle

What Opportunities do Public Benefits Cases Present?

- Persuasive Writing
- Oral Advocacy
- Client Interviewing
- Regulatory Interpretation
- Taking Testimony from Fact and Expert Witnesses

I definitely would not have been able to receive my benefits without legal help. I think, when I had an attorney, I noticed the attitude change in how Social Security was responding to me.

LEGAL AID PRO BONO CLIENT

60%

of DC residents are denied SSI/SSDI benefits at the initial application.

70%

of claimants succeed on appeal.

Many claimants can't work and **spend years** appealing for benefits.



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