

BECOME A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY FOR THE ACLU OF VIRGINIA!

Why volunteer for the ACLU of Virginia?

- Volunteering for the ACLU of Virginia affords an opportunity to work on groundbreaking civil rights and civil liberties issues that advance the law and affect the lives of real people.
- Experienced ACLU of Virginia legal staff provide support and, where needed, supervision to attorneys new to constitutional and civil rights work.
- The ACLU of Virginia's flexible pro bono program attempts to meet each cooperating attorney's needs in terms of time commitment, legal work assigned and issued to be litigated.

What is the working relationship between the ACLU of Virginia and volunteer attorneys?

- On every case, the volunteer attorney co-counsels with one or more ACLU of Virginia staff attorneys.
- ACLU of Virginia staff attorneys will work closely with volunteer attorneys to develop strategy, work with clients, and plan the course of litigation, and allot responsibilities.
- Legal papers prepared by volunteer attorneys are reviewed by ACLU staff attorneys before filing.

What kind of legal work can a cooperating attorney expect to do?

- The type of work assigned to each volunteer attorney depends on his or her skills, experience and interest.
- The work performed by volunteer attorneys may include all aspects of litigation, including case development, client contact, discovery, drafting pleadings, motions practice, trial, and appeal.
- Volunteer attorneys for the ACLU of Virginia have argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Virginia Supreme Court.
- Media inquiries are handled by ACLU staff attorneys.

What about fees and costs?

- The ACLU of Virginia does not charge its clients for legal services, and does not allow its cooperating attorneys to do so.
- When the court awards attorney's fees, the ACLU of Virginia retains all fees for work performed by staff attorneys, and asks cooperating attorneys to donate 50% of fees awarded for their services.
- The allocation of costs will in each case will be set forth in the volunteer attorney agreement