

MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF PRO BONO HOURS

Jurisdictions in the United States have different rules and regulations regarding whether attorneys are required to report their pro bono legal service. Some states have mandatory pro bono reporting, some states have voluntary pro bono reporting, and others have not implemented any procedure.

Currently, **twelve (12) U.S. states have a mandatory pro bono reporting requirement**, and **twenty-seven (27) U.S. jurisdictions** (26 states and the District of Columbia) **have voluntary pro bono reporting**.¹

Each jurisdiction makes its own determination about which system of reporting to implement, if any, either through a state rule or policy. Jurisdictions that have voluntary or mandatory reporting often ask attorneys to report their pro bono hours to the state bar with their annual attorney registration statements or license renewals. In some jurisdictions, the state access to justice commission, law foundation, pro bono resource center, or similar entities have a role in collecting data about pro bono hours.

An apparent difference between mandatory and voluntary reporting is that attorneys are subject to sanctions under a mandatory reporting regime if they fail to comply with deadlines. In a voluntary reporting jurisdiction, bar associations rely on an attorney's willingness to self-report hours for data collection. In some cases, the voluntary reporting is requested for purposes of qualifying the attorney for a "pro bono honor roll" or similar recognition.

The American Bar Association (ABA) has not taken a position on whether jurisdictions should implement mandatory or voluntary reporting. Rather, the ABA outlines the competing arguments for mandatory or voluntary reporting.²

A primary benefit of mandatory pro bono reporting is data collection, both by the state and by individual attorneys. Other positive considerations from mandatory reporting include increased access to justice/courts, attorney engagement in pro bono service, representation to poor communities, and compliance with an attorney's professional responsibility of pro bono contributions. Countervailing arguments against mandatory pro bono reporting include possible constitutional privacy rights violations, greater burden on attorneys, increased administrative costs and sanctions for noncompliance, and elimination of the pure motivation behind engaging in pro bono service.

Voluntary reporting allows jurisdictions to collect information about pro bono service while reducing the burden on attorneys and avoiding potential constitutional concerns associated with mandatory reporting. Voluntary reporting can produce useful data, but low response rates may result in incomplete or unrepresentative information and may downplay attorneys' professional

¹ Pro Bono Institute last updated this guide in August 2026.

² American Bar Association, "Pro Bono Reporting,"

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service/policy/arguments/.

obligation to provide pro bono service.

Jurisdictions that have adopted a mechanism for either mandatory or voluntary reporting of pro bono hours can efficiently share information about attorneys' aggregate or average pro bono contributions, and monitor trends from year to year. Additionally, attorneys who meet or exceed their jurisdiction's pro bono service goals may be eligible for their state's pro bono honor role or other special recognition, and demonstrate their commitment to fulfilling their professional obligation to provide pro bono legal services.

The chart below identifies whether jurisdictions have mandatory pro bono reporting, voluntary pro bono reporting, or no reporting, for all fifty states and the District of Columbia. The chart contains a brief summary of the rule or policy on pro bono reporting, if any. (Please consult the applicable rule for complete information.)

Summary of State Status on Voluntary or Mandatory Reporting of Pro Bono Hours

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
Alabama	Voluntary	No rule	Each year during Pro Bono Month the Alabama Access to Justice Commission and the Alabama Supreme Court will honor lawyers who provide 50 or more hours of qualified pro bono legal services under RPC 6.1. Attorneys may report their pro bono hours on the Alabama Law Foundation website. ³
Alaska	Neither	No rule	
Arizona	Voluntary	No rule	The State Bar of Arizona, in the Membership Fees Statement asks attorneys to enter any information regarding their pro bono legal services during the prior year. Providing this information is strictly voluntary and used only in the aggregate. ⁴
Arkansas	Voluntary	No rule	The Arkansas Access to Justice Commission gathers information about attorneys' pro bono activities, such as their hours, for the purpose of assessing the provision of pro bono legal services in Arkansas. ⁵
California	Mandatory	Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6073.2	Beginning with the 2026 licensing fee cycle, attorneys are required to report their pro bono and reduced fee legal services hours in the licensee's My State Bar Profile.
Colorado	Voluntary	No rule	The Colorado Supreme Court, implementing RPC 6.1, recognizes those lawyers, law firms, and in-house counsel or government groups that have committed to the annual goal of providing 50 hours of pro bono legal services. Attorneys may report their hours by emailing the Access to Justice Coordinator. ⁶
Connecticut	Voluntary	No rule	Connecticut's Free Legal Answers program invites attorneys to self-report their pro bono

³ Alabama Law Foundation, "Alabama Access to Justice Commission Pro Bono Public Service Recognition Program," <https://www.alabamalawfoundation.org/reports-news/pro-bono-recognition-program/>.

⁴ State Bar of Arizona, "Membership Fee Statement Filing Instructions," <https://www.azbar.org/licensing-compliance/membership-fees/membership-fee-statement-filing-instructions/>; "Frequently Asked Questions About Membership Fees," <https://www.azbar.org/licensing-compliance/membership-fees/membership-fees-faqs/>.

⁵ Arkansas Judiciary, "Pro Bono Reporting Form," https://attorneyinfo.aoc.arkansas.gov/info/Pro_Bono_Information.aspx.

⁶ Colorado Judicial Branch, "Recognition for Pro Bono Services," <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/recognition-pro-bono-services>. In 2022 the Colorado Access to Justice Commission proposed an amendment to Col. R. Civ. Proc. 227(A)(1)(b)(2)(a)(4) to require attorneys to annually report their pro bono hours in a confidential manner as part of their attorney registration information. See Colorado Access to Justice Commission, "2022 Access to Justice Commission Pro Bono Report," https://www.coloradoaccessjustice.org/_files/ugd/c659b2_ec0faebe44f04021a9137e58f9bf9151.pdf. However, this proposal has not been adopted.

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
			hours, including for consideration for state and national Pro Bono Recognition Awards. ⁷
Delaware	Neither	No rule	
District of Columbia	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys may submit a declaration indicating that they provided 50 hours or more of pro bono work to be recognized on the Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, or 100 hours or more to qualify for the High Honor Roll. ⁸
Florida	Mandatory	Fla. R. Prof'l Conduct 4-6.1(d)	Attorneys must report their pro bono hours on their annual membership fees statement as developed by the Florida Bar.
Georgia	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys who have provided at least 50 pro bono service are requested to share their pro bono service hours with the State Bar of Georgia during each annual reporting period and will appear on the state's Pro Bono Honor Roll. ⁹
Hawaii	Mandatory	Haw. Sup. Ct. R. 17(d)(1)(B)	Attorneys shall file an attorney registration statement and provide required information to the Board of Directors, including hours of pro bono service, which will remain confidential and only reported in the aggregate.
Idaho	Neither	No rule	
Illinois	Mandatory	Ill. Sup. Ct. R. 756(f)	Attorneys shall report the approximate amount of pro bono legal service done during the preceding 12 months on the annual Illinois attorney annual registration fee statement.
Indiana	Mandatory	Ind. R. Prof'l Conduct 6.7	Attorneys must report as part of their annual registration their hours of pro bono legal service and hours of services given for substantially reduced compensation during the prior calendar year. The information collected is confidential and will not be publicly disclosed.
Iowa	Voluntary	No rule	Each year lawyers have the opportunity to report on their annual report the number of hours of pro bono legal services they provide.

⁷ Connecticut Free Legal Answers, "Frequently Asked Questions from Volunteer Attorneys," <https://ct.freelegalanswers.org/AttorneyFAQ>. The Connecticut Public Service and Trust Commission Pro Bono Committee's 2014 report says, "as part of the annual electronic attorney registration process, the Pro Bono Committee once asked again registering Connecticut attorneys to voluntarily report their pro bono activities during the prior year." See State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Public Service and Trust Commission Pro Bono Committee, "Annual Report," <https://www.jud.ct.gov/committees/pst/probono/ProBonoAnnualReport2014.pdf>. More recent information was not available online.

⁸ D.C. Access to Justice Commission, "Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll," <https://dcaccesstojustice.org/pro-bono-honor-roll/>.

⁹ State Bar of Georgia, "Pro Bono Awards and Recognitions," <https://www.gabar.org/programs/pro-bono-resource-center/pro-bono-awards-and-recognition>.

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
			The hours can be devoted to a charitable organization or directly to persons of limited means. ¹⁰
Kansas	Voluntary	No rule	The Kansas Bar Association (KBA) invites members to record their pro bono hours in their KBA member profile, in an effort to learn more about the number of pro bono hours KBA members contribute each year. ¹¹
Kentucky	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys may report their pro bono hours on their annual dues statement furnished by the Kentucky Bar Association. ¹²
Louisiana	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys may submit their pro bono hours from the prior 12 months online to the Louisiana State Bar Association via a Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting Form or in their online member account. ¹³
Maine	Voluntary	No rule	The State of Maine Judicial Branch established the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, to establish an annual process for recognizing and honoring the pro bono work of Maine's lawyers. Attorneys voluntarily report their pro bono hours and certify they have met the minimum 50-hour goal. ¹⁴
Maryland	Mandatory	Md. R. Prof'l Conduct 19-503	Attorneys must submit a Pro Bono Legal Service Report via the Attorney Information System with their pro bono hours during the preceding fiscal year. The information collected is confidential.
Massachusetts	Voluntary	No rule	Administered by the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, the Pro Bono Honor Roll each year recognizes attorneys who do a minimum of 50 hours of pro bono during the prior year. Eligible attorneys or legal organizations may submit a Certification Form to verify their pro bono hours. ¹⁵

¹⁰ Iowa Judicial branch, "Pro Bono Practice," <https://www.iowacourts.gov/opr/attorneys/attorney-practice/practice-information/pro-bono-practice>.

¹¹ Kansas Bar Association, "Pro Bono Opportunities," <https://ksbar.org/?pg=probono>.

¹² Case Text, "Rule SCR 3.130(6.1) - Donated legal services," <https://govt.westlaw.com/kyrules/Document/N3DF7B2C0A91D11DA8F5EE32367A250AE?bhcp=1&contextData=%28sc.Default%29&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=StatuteNavigator&viewType=FullText&>

¹³ Louisiana State Bar Association, "Pro Bono Voluntary Reporting," <https://www.lsb.org/ProBono/ProBonoVoluntaryReporting.aspx>.

¹⁴ State of Maine Judicial Branch, "Katahdin Counsel Frequently Asked Questions," <https://www.courts.maine.gov/katahdin/faqs.html>.

¹⁵ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, "About the Pro Bono Honor Roll," <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-the-pro-bono-honor-roll>.

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
Michigan	Voluntary	No rule	Individual attorneys may submit a Pro Bono Honor Roll application to confirm they provided 30, 50, or 100+ hours of qualifying pro bono legal services in the prior calendar year. ¹⁶
Minnesota	Mandatory	Minn. Sup. Ct. Lawyer Registration R. 25	Attorneys must report their approximate pro bono hours for the preceding calendar year in their annual Lawyer Registration Statement.
Mississippi	Mandatory	Miss. R. Prof'l Conduct 6.1(e)	Attorneys must annually certify if they have met their professional responsibility to provide pro bono legal services on a form that is made part of the annual membership fees statement. Attorneys are required to disclose: (1) the number of hours devoted to pro bono legal services, (2) whether the attorney satisfied the obligation through a collective plan and, if so, the name or nature of the plan, and (3) if the attorney satisfied the obligation through a monetary contribution, the amount contributed.
Missouri	Voluntary	No rule	The Missouri State Bar invites attorneys to voluntarily disclose their pro bono hours through the state bar website. Lawyers who complete 40 or more hours of pro bono work in a year are recognized on The Missouri Bar's Pro Bono Wall of Fame. ¹⁷
Montana	Voluntary	No rule	The State Bar of Montana and the Montana Supreme Court Office of the Court Administrator jointly manage the pro bono reporting process. Attorneys may voluntarily report their pro bono hours when they file their mandatory annual Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) certification. ¹⁸
Nebraska	Neither	No rule	
Nevada	Mandatory	Nev. R. Prof'l Conduct 6.1(b)	Attorneys must complete an Annual Pro Bono Reporting Form, which is provided to the Nevada State Bar on a form along with the member's fees statement.
New Hampshire	Neither	No rule	
New Jersey	Mandatory ¹⁹	N.J. Ct. R. 1:21-12	Members of the New Jersey bar perform pro bono work for indigent litigants in cases where

¹⁶ State Bar of Michigan, "2026 A Lawyer Helps Pro Bono Honor Roll," <https://www.michbar.org/alawyerhelps/honorroll>.

¹⁷ The Missouri Bar, "Celebrate Pro Bono with the Missouri Bar," <https://news.mobar.org/celebrate-pro-bono-with-the-missouri-bar/>; see also Missouri Free Legal Answers, "Attorney FAQ," <https://missouri.freelegalanswers.org/attorneyfaq>.

¹⁸ Montana Judicial Branch, "Pro Bono Reports," <https://courts.mt.gov/ProBono/about/Reports>.

¹⁹ Note that the ABA Standing Committee does not consider New Jersey's requirement that attorneys complete an assigned pro bono case unless they have reported a minimum of 25 hours of qualifying pro bono services as fitting

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
			the legislature has made no provision for a public defender, as affirmed in <u>Madden v. Delran</u> , 126 NJ 591 (1992). Attorneys who certify they performed at least 25 hours of voluntary pro bono work in the prior calendar year are exempt from taking court-appointed pro bono cases under <i>Madden</i> in the following year. Attorneys must report their compliance with pro bono requirements during the annual online registration process. ²⁰
New Mexico	Mandatory	N.M. R. Prof'l Conduct 24-108	Attorneys shall annually certify whether they satisfied their professional responsibility to provide pro bono services to the poor, including by reporting their pro bono hours, on a form that is a part of the lawyer's annual membership fees statement.
New York	Mandatory	22 NYCRR § 118.1(e)(14)	Attorneys must file a report of their pro bono services and contributions in the prior two calendar years along with their biennial attorney registration statements, filed with the Chief Administrator of the Courts.
North Carolina	Voluntary	No rule	In 2026, the North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center partnered with the North Carolina State Bar to offer attorneys a voluntary pro bono reporting option as part of the State Bar's annual membership fee process. Attorneys may report their pro bono service through the State Bar's member portal during the membership-fee/reporting period. Attorneys who report more than 50 hours of pro bono work will be inducted in the North Carolina Attorney Pro Bono Honor Society. ²¹
North Dakota	Voluntary	No rule	The State Bar Association of North Dakota permits attorneys to voluntarily record their pro bono hours either on the state bar website or by submitting a Justice for All Lawyer Program Verification Form. Attorneys certify if they completed at least 50 hours of pro bono work. ²²
Ohio	Voluntary	No rule	The Supreme Court of Ohio & The Ohio Judicial System, along with the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, encourages attorneys to

its definition of mandatory pro bono reporting. See The American Bar Association, "Pro Bono Reporting," https://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service/policy/arguments/

²⁰ New Jersey Courts, "Pro Bono," <https://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/pro-bono#262301>.

²¹ North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, "North Carolina Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting," <https://ncprobono.org/report/>.

²² North Dakota State Bar Association, "Pro Bono," <https://www.sband.org/page/probono>; Justice for All Lawyer Program Reporting Form: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.sband.org/resource/resmgr/docs/resources/justice_for_all_verification.pdf.

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
			complete a survey about their pro bono hours in the prior year. ²³
Oklahoma	Neither	No rule	
Oregon	Voluntary	No rule	Oregon attorneys may log into their online member portal to report their pro bono hours. The Pro Bono Honor Roll annually recognizes Oregon lawyers who provided at least 40 hours of direct pro bono legal services in the preceding year. ²⁴
Pennsylvania	Neither	No rule	
Rhode Island	Neither	No rule	
South Carolina	Voluntary	No rule	The South Carolina Bar provides an online form on their website for attorneys to submit their pro bono hours. Lawyers who self-report at least 50 hours are recognized on the Supreme Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll. ²⁵
South Dakota	Neither	No rule	
Tennessee	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys may report their pro bono hours for the prior calendar year when renewing their legal license with the Board of Professional Responsibility. Attorneys meeting the Court's minimum goal of 50 pro bono hours annually will be named "Attorneys for Justice" by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Attorneys may also file a form to request recognition for their pro bono hours. ²⁶
Texas	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys are encouraged to report their pro bono hours on the Texas State Bar website, and those who report over 75 hours will be invited to join the State Bar's Pro Bono College. ²⁷
Utah	Voluntary	Utah R. Prof. Cond. 6.1.	Each lawyer is urged to report annually to the Utah State Bar whether the lawyer has satisfied the lawyer's professional responsibility to provide pro bono legal services. Each lawyer may report this information through a

²³ The Supreme Court of Ohio & The Ohio Judicial System, "Pro Bono Survey,"

<https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/attorneys/pro-bono-survey/>.

²⁴ Oregon State Bar, "Pro Bono Reporting – The Pro Bono Roll Call," <https://www.osbar.org/probono/reporting.html>.

²⁵ South Carolina Bar, "Report Pro Bono/Public Service Hours," <https://www.scbar.org/lawyers/bar-programs/pro-bono-program/>.

²⁶ Tennessee State Courts, "Supreme Court Pro Bono Recognition Program," <https://www.tncourts.gov/ProBonoRecognition>.

²⁷ State Bar of Texas, Report Your Pro Bono Hours, <https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/LawyersGivingBack/LegalAccessDivision/ReportHours.htm>; see also State Bar of Texas, "Pro Bono College," https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Access_To_Justice&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=29992.

State	Mandatory or Voluntary Reporting	Rule	Rule or Policy Highlights
			simplified reporting form that is a part of the Bar's annual dues statement.
Vermont	Neither	No rule	
Virginia	Voluntary	Va. Sup. Ct. R. 22	Attorneys may voluntarily report their approximate pro bono hours as part of their annual license renewal application.
Washington	Voluntary	Wash. R. Prof'l Conduct 6.1	The Washington State Bar Association allows attorneys to report their pro bono service via the state bar website during the online license renewal process and gives a commendation to any attorney who completes at least 50 hours.
West Virginia	Neither	No rule	
Wisconsin	Voluntary	No rule	Attorneys may file a certification form available on the Wisconsin State Bar website to report their pro bono hours in the prior calendar year. Attorneys who do at least 50 hours of service annually join The Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society. ²⁸
Wyoming	Neither	No rule	

²⁸ State Bar of Wisconsin, "Pro Bono Honor Society," <https://www.wisbar.org/formembers/probono/pages/pro-bono-honor-society.aspx>.