

A Summary of Pro Bono Requirements in 86 Jurisdictions

Country	Is there a minimum pro bono hours requirement for lawyers (or aspiring lawyers)?	Are lawyers required to have a specific pro bono license?	May foreign lawyers practice pro bono in the country?	Are there any requirements for having professional indemnity insurance for pro bono legal services?	Are there any rules prohibiting advertising pro bono?	Do lawyers receive “Continuing Legal Education” for pro bono legal services?
Angola	No – but aspiring lawyers are often required to provide legal aid when appointed by the Angolan Bar Association	No	Must complete apprenticeship and be admitted to the Angolan Bar Association	Yes – with respect to law firms No – with respect to sole practitioners	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Argentina	No – certain private law firms have committed to an average of no less than 20 hours of annual pro bono work per practicing attorney	No	Foreign diploma must be recognized by an Argentine university; must register with the Argentine Bar Association	No	No	No
Australia	No	No – but lawyers may be entitled to a “nil fee” practicing certificate	May practice foreign law or must be admitted as an Australian lawyer	Yes – certain to specific exemptions A community legal service must have an approved insurance policy; in-house corporate and government lawyers must have insurance coverage for pro bono services provided outside of a community legal service	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No

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Austria	No – but required to provide legal aid when assigned by the local bar association	No	Must be admitted to the local bar; exceptions for European qualified lawyer to be able to give legal advice and represent client before authorities and courts	Yes – indemnity insurance is required to qualify and register for the Austrian bar	No	No
Azerbaijan	No	Must be a member of the Bar Association of Azerbaijan and pass an exam to represent a client in court proceedings, but not required to practice law	Limited exclusively to advice and opinions related to respective foreign law or international law; may only practice where permitted by an international treaty	No – but lawyers must create safety bank accounts with 2% of monthly income	No	No
Bahrain	No	No	N/A – only Bahraini nationals may practice law	No	No	No
The Republic of Belarus	No	No	N/A – foreign lawyers and foreign law firms may not practice law	No	No	No
Belgium	No – but aspiring lawyers must attend meetings at a Legal Assistance Bureau and take on state-subsidized pro deo cases	No	No additional license needed, but may only represent and defend clients in association with a Belgian lawyer; foreign non-EU lawyers cannot plead in court	No	Yes – by the French-speaking Bar of Brussels No – by the Orde van Vlaamse Balies	No

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Bolivia	No	No	No	No	No	No
Brazil	No	No	Must be authorized by the national bar association and register with the applicable state bar association	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	Generally no – but state bar associations have differing regimes
Bulgaria	No	No – but certain legal services may only be provided by attorneys-at-law (e.g., court representation) rather than lawyers	No – with respect to lawyers Yes – attorneys-at-law must follow certain formalities to practice	No – with respect to lawyers Yes – with respect to attorneys-at-law	Yes	No
Cameroon	No	No	No additional license(s) to provide pro bono legal services ¹	No	No	No
Canada	No	No	Must be appropriately licensed in the relevant province/territory	Yes	No	Generally no – but varies by provincial/territorial law societies
Chile	No – but aspiring lawyers must complete a six-month practice period in a Legal Assistance Corporation	No	Must validate their law degree in Chile	No	No	No

¹ **Note to Draft:** Chapter is not clear whether foreign lawyers are permitted to practice law in Cameroon or if there are certain requirements for them to do so, but must be of Cameroonian nationality to become a lawyer.

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China	No	No	Non-citizen lawyers (with a few exceptions) are not allowed to sit for the Chinese Bar exam Foreign non-lawyers can work for a foreign firm’s Chinese office, but cannot practice or interpret Chinese law	No	No	No
Colombia	No – but aspiring lawyers are required to provide free legal services in a legal clinic during their final year of study	No	Foreign law degree must be equivalent to a Colombian degree and must pass the State Exam	No	No	No
Costa Rica	No	No	Foreign law degree must be equivalent to a Costa Rican degree, must pass legal ethics exam and register with the Bar Association	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	N/A – no continuing legal education requirements in Costa Rica
The Czech Republic	No	No	Must apply to the Czech Bar Association after passing a recognition exam; may only practice law relating to their country of admission and international law	Yes – with certain exceptions for in-house lawyers	No	No



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Denmark	No – but can count towards practical legal work requirement for aspiring lawyers	No	Certain European lawyers may practice following a trial period which demonstrates sufficient understanding of Danish procedural law and mastery of the Danish language	Yes	No	No
The Dominican Republic	No	No	Must meet requirements and become a member of the Dominican Republic Bar Association	No	No	No
Ecuador	No – certain private law firms have committed to an average of no less than 20 hours of annual pro bono work per practicing attorney	No – but organizations providing free legal clinics must be accredited by the Public Defenders’ Office	Must be admitted to practice law in Ecuador	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Egypt	No	No	May be licensed for a particular case or topic if reciprocal arrangement exists in foreign lawyer’s home jurisdiction	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
El Salvador	No – but aspiring lawyers must participate in at least six pro bono legal cases	No	Must be authorized by the Supreme Court of El Salvador	No	No	No



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England and Wales	No	No	Must qualify as a solicitor of England and Wales or apply to the Bar Standards Board	Yes – except for in-house lawyers providing pro bono services in a personal capacity	No – but may not charge client a fee for work publicized as pro bono	No
Finland	No	No	Yes – but further requirements must be fulfilled if the services require representation in judicial proceedings	Yes – required for members of the Finnish Bar Association	No	No
France	No	No	Yes – must satisfy requirements to practice law in France	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Georgia	No	No – but representations before a court may require an “advocate” license	Must be admitted to the Georgian Bar Association	No	No	No
Germany	No	No	Must meet requirements to practice law in Germany	Yes – required to practice law in Germany	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Ghana	No	No	Required to take a “Post-Call” Law Course in order to practice law in Ghana	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Greece	No	No	Must be entitled to practice law in Greece	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	N/A – no continuing legal education requirements in Greece

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Guatemala	No – certain legal organizations have committed to an average of no less than 20 hours of annual pro bono work per practicing attorney	No	Must be permitted to practice law in Guatemala	No	Yes – but universities and non-profit institutions may be allowed to promote the pro bono legal services they provide	No
Haiti	No	No	N/A – only citizens may be qualified to practice law in Haiti	No	Yes – generally advertising legal services is generally prohibited by the Deontology Code	No
Hong Kong	No	No	Registered foreign lawyers may provide pro bono legal services which do not relate to Hong Kong law	Yes – but lawyers should obtain approval from their firm to ensure their pro bono legal services are covered	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No – but NGO training courses may be accredited by the Law Society
Hungary	No	No	Must be qualified to practice in Hungary	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
India	No	No	Must be fulfill certain conditions, be admitted to the rolls of advocates of any State Bar Council and not provide legal services in India on a permanent basis	No	Yes	N/A – no continuing legal education requirements in India



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Indonesia	Yes – must provide at least 50 hours of pro bono legal assistance each year to obtain or renew advocate identity card	No	Must have practicing license and provide 10 hours of pro bono legal services per month in Indonesia; not permitted to appear in court or advise on domestic matters (e.g., family law) under Indonesian law	No	No	No
Israel	No	No	May become a member of the Israel Bar Association or practice law of the jurisdiction in which they are qualified	No – but foreign lawyers must provide collateral to the Bar Association in order to practice law of the jurisdiction in which they are qualified	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Italy	No	No	Must be fully licensed to practice law in Italy	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Japan	Certain local bar associations require members to perform some public interest activities	No	Must register with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and may only practice subject to certain limitations	No	No	No
Kenya	No	No	Must be admitted to practice in Kenya	Yes – in-house lawyers should confirm that they are appropriately insured through a pro bono provider when providing pro bono legal services	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	Generally no – but legal work for the Legal Aid Program may qualify

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Kuwait	No	No	Only if they practice in-house or with a recognized Kuwaiti law firm	No	Yes	No
Latvia	No	No – but subject to certain requirements whether it is a criminal or civil matter	Yes – if an advocate in an EU Member State or in accordance with international agreements; need to register with the Council for criminal matters	No	No	No
Liechtenstein	No	No	Right to practice law must be confirmed by the Chamber of Lawyers	No	Yes – may only “inform” potential clients about legal services they offer	No
Lithuania	No	No	Yes – attorneys from EU Member States if they follow procedures for representation of a client in court	Yes – must be insured for loss that exceeds €290 and must have minimum insurance coverage of €29,000 per insured event	Yes – general prohibition against advertising legal services, but may provide details in informative and other publications, on official letterforms, business cards and representative items	No
Luxembourg	No	No	Must be admitted to one of the Luxembourgish National Bars	No – but highly recommended to have insurance coverage if providing pro bono legal advice in a personal capacity	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No

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Malaysia	No – but aspiring lawyers must serve at a legal aid center for at least 14 days during their pupillage	No	Under limited circumstances and in certain permitted areas after registering with the Bar Council	No – all lawyers are covered under a single master policy	Yes	Yes – for matter from legal aid centers
Malta	No – but aspiring lawyers serve at the legal clinic at the University of Malta	No	EEA lawyers must register with the Chamber of Advocates and work in association with a local lawyer; legislation is silent with respect to non-EEA lawyers	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Mexico	No – but aspiring lawyers must complete 6 to 24 months of social service to obtain a valid degree	No	Must be admitted to practice law in Mexico	No	No	No
Montenegro	No	No	EU citizens are permitted to practice upon completion of certain notice requirements to the Bar Association	Yes	Yes	No
Morocco	No	No	Must satisfy criteria to practice law in Morocco	No	No	No
Netherlands	No	No	Must be qualified to practice law in the Netherlands	Yes	No	No



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New Zealand	No	No	May not carry out certain legal services unless admitted to practice law in New Zealand	No	No	No
Nicaragua	No	No	Must validate university degree with local authorities and register with the Supreme Court of Justice	No	No	No
Northern Ireland	No	No	Must be a registered foreign European lawyer or licensed to practice law in Northern Ireland	Yes – with exceptions for lawyers working in-house and in the government	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Norway	No	No	Must be allowed to practice law in Norway	Yes	No	No
Pakistan	No – but lawyers may be asked to take on one case per year free of charge	No	Must be qualified and enrolled as an advocate – criteria includes Pakistani citizenship or at least one year of residency in the country	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	N/A – no continuing legal education requirements in Pakistan
Panama	No	No	Must be a citizen of Panama to practice law in the country	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Paraguay	No	No	Must be authorized to practice law in Paraguay	No	No	No



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Peru	No – certain firms have committed to an average of no less than 20 hours of annual pro bono work per practicing attorney	No	Must be a licensed attorney and be a member of the Bar Association of Lima	No	No	No
The Philippines	Yes – lawyers are required to provide 120 hours of pro bono legal services in their first 12 months of practice and to continue to provide such services to maintain their compliance certificate; aspiring lawyers may be able to waive the 120 hours requirement by providing pro bono legal services whilst a student	No	No - non-Filipino lawyers are not permitted to offer advice on Philippine law	No	Yes	Newly qualified lawyers may receive full MCLE credits for qualifying pro bono hours
Poland	No	No	Must be entered onto one of the lists of foreign lawyers kept by District Bar Councils or Councils of District Chambers of Legal Counsellors	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No

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Portugal	No	No	Must be registered with the Portuguese Bar Association	No – but lawyers duly registered with the Portuguese Bar Association automatically benefit from a professional liability insurance policy	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Qatar	No	No	Generally no – but may do so if they are members of a Qatar Financial Centre registered law firm	All professional firms are required to maintain professional indemnity insurance	No	N/A – no continuing legal education requirements in Qatar
The Republic of Ireland	No	No	Must be licensed to practice law in the Republic of Ireland	Yes	No	No – solicitors do not receive credit Yes – barristers may receive credit
Romania	No	No	Must be permitted to practice law in Romania	Must enter into a legal assistance and representation with pro bono client to be insured	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Russia	No	No – but must be a state-licensed attorney to represent pro bono clients in criminal proceedings	Must have a legal degree from a Russian university to provide pro bono legal services connected with the Russian law	No	No	No
Saudi Arabia	No	No	Must be licensed by the Ministry of Justice	No	No	No



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Scotland	No	No	May provide pro bono legal services provided that they do not describe themselves as “solicitors” (must use their home title), but cannot undertake certain types of work reserved by statute for Scottish-qualified solicitors.	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Serbia	No	No	Must be registered to practice law in Serbia and may not practice certain types of law	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Singapore	No – but aspiring lawyers are required to perform 20 hours of approved pro bono work as part of their graduation requirements	No	Must be qualified to practice law in Singapore	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	Lawyers who supervise university students on approved pro bono matters may receive a maximum of two continuing legal education-equivalent points per year
Slovakia	No	No	Must be registered to practice law in Slovakia and are subject to certain limitations	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No

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Slovenia	No	No	Must speak Slovenian and have passed an exam on the legal order in the Republic of Slovenia	No – but the Bar Association of Slovenia provides insurance coverage for lawyers	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
South Africa	Some South African law societies mandate attorneys provide 24 hours per year of free legal advice Aspiring lawyers must provide community service, which can include pro bono legal services	Yes	Must be qualified to practice law in South Africa	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
South Korea	Yes – 30 hours per year (subject to certain exceptions)	No	Must be able to practice law in South Korea; only licensed Korean lawyers may represent clients in litigation matters	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Spain	No	No	Must be admitted to the Spanish Bar Association and qualified to practice law in Spain	Yes	No	No
Sweden	No	No	Must pass an exam on Swedish law	No	No	No



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Switzerland	No	No – but type of work may be limited by a lawyer’s credentials	Must be able to practice law in Switzerland	Yes	No	N/A – no continuing legal education requirements in Switzerland
Taiwan, R.O.C.	No	No	Must be approved by the Ministry of Justice and join the local bar association	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Thailand	No	No	Must hold license from the Lawyers’ Council of Thailand; cannot represent another party in Thai court	No	No	No
Turkey	No	No	Only through their employer or in conjunction with a registered Turkish lawyer or foreign Attorney Partnership	No	Yes	No
Uganda	Advocates Regulation is not yet operational, but will require lawyers to provide at least 40 hours of pro bono legal services or make a payment in lieu	No	Must be permitted to practice law in Uganda by the Law Council	No	Yes	May earn two CLE points by working at an annual pro bono day organized by the Uganda Law Society
Ukraine	No	No	Must be licensed to practice law in Ukraine	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No

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The United Arab Emirates	No	No	Must be registered with the appropriate authority in Abu Dhabi, Dubai or Dubai International Financial Centre	No – not required in Abu Dhabi Yes – required in Dubai and Dubai International Financial Centre	No	No
Uruguay	No – but most law schools require students to participate in legal clinics	No	Must have law degree validated in Uruguay	No	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No
Venezuela	No – but law students are required to assist in non-profit legal matters and perform 120 hours of community service which can be fulfilled through the provision of pro bono legal services	No	Must have law degree validated in Venezuela and must be registered with a regional bar association and the Lawyer Social Security Institute	No	Yes	No
Vietnam	Lawyers must perform at least four hours of pro bono legal aid per year, but no pro bono requirement to become a lawyer	No	Must be qualified to practice law in Vietnam	Yes	No – but must align with general regulations for advertising legal services	No – but may be awarded for pro bono legal services by the Ministry of Justice