



CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES 2025

Protecting a Medically Fragile Child

A severely disabled child entered foster care after suffering neglect. A volunteer attorney stepped in immediately, helping ensure the child's safety and guaranteeing that medical and therapeutic services continued uninterrupted. Thanks to pro bono advocacy, the child is now thriving in a stable, nurturing home.

Peace of Mind After Loss

A Northshore volunteer assisted a family with a small succession after the death of their loved one. What could have been a confusing and expensive process became calm, clear, and affordable. The family now has legal ownership of the home and can move forward with security and peace.

A Family Made Whole Through Adoption

A stepfather finalized the adoption of his 13-year-old stepdaughter after years of being her emotional and financial parent. With a volunteer lawyer guiding the way, the family walked out of court officially united — a moment filled with tears, laughter, and a new beginning.

A Mother Secures Her Daughter's Future

A single mother caring for her disabled teenage daughter needed legal authority to manage medical and educational decisions. With pro bono help, she obtained the tutorship she needed. She left the courthouse relieved, confident, and empowered to protect her daughter's well-being long-term.

A Grandmother's Love Legalized

A grandmother who had been caring for her college-age grandson for years finalized his adoption with help from a volunteer attorney. The legal recognition affirmed the family bond they had long shared and provided financial and emotional stability for his future.

A Fresh Start Through Immigration Relief

A young person with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status finally obtained permanent residency thanks to a dedicated volunteer attorney. After surviving instability and trauma, they are now on a path toward safety, opportunity, and a brighter future in the only country they have ever truly called home.

Stability for a Child After Tragedy

After a mother died unexpectedly, a volunteer lawyer helped the surviving parent obtain letters of tutorship. The court order ensured the child could remain enrolled in school, receive medical care, and continue counseling — providing essential stability during an unimaginably difficult time.

Breaking a Multigenerational Cycle

A child with an extensive family history of DCFS involvement finally found a safe home with a non-relative caregiver who had stepped up in a moment of crisis. A volunteer attorney secured the legal authority the caregiver needed to protect the child's health, education, and emotional well-being.

Protecting a Young Widow's Home

A woman lost her husband at just 46 years old and suddenly faced confusing questions about property rights. A volunteer attorney helped her complete a succession, ensuring she remained secure in her home. Her relief was immediate — one less burden during a time of grief.

A Grandmother Steps Up

With the child's mother deceased and the father absent, a grandmother had been raising her grandchild alone. A pro bono attorney helped her obtain tutorship so she could enroll the child in school, authorize medical care, and continue providing the love and structure the child desperately needed.

Safety for a Drug-Exposed Newborn

A newborn who tested positive for fentanyl was placed with a relative who stepped in without hesitation. A volunteer attorney helped that caregiver secure legal guardianship, ensuring the baby could receive immediate health care and long-term stability in a safe home.

Mother Secures Continuing Tutorship

A mother of a child with lifelong disabilities obtained a continuing tutorship with the help of a pro bono attorney. The court order ensures she can continue protecting her child into adulthood — a life-changing legal safeguard for families with special-needs children.

Helping a Young Adult After Losing His Father

A nineteen-year-old lost his father and found himself navigating legal issues beyond his years. A volunteer attorney helped with the necessary estate matters, giving him clarity, closure, and the ability to manage his father's affairs responsibly.

A Path to Safety for a Vulnerable Child

A state court found that a minor could not safely return to their home country, allowing the child to obtain the predicate order needed for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. A pro bono attorney guided the child through the process, ensuring protection from harm and a chance to build a new life.

Only Family Left — But Not Alone

After a father passed away, his child — the only surviving family member — faced legal matters alone. A volunteer attorney stepped in, helping secure stability during a painful transition and ensuring the young person was not left to navigate complicated paperwork and court requirements by themselves.

Safety and Independence After Abuse

PBP assisted a mother seeking safety and closure after her husband was incarcerated for assaulting her 11-year-old autistic daughter. A volunteer attorney guided her through the divorce process, and her judgment was finalized on November 12th. This resolution provided stability and legal protection for both her and her child.

Securing a Family's Future Through Estate Planning

A volunteer attorney helped an elderly client complete a will and power of attorney, ensuring that her son can manage her affairs if she becomes incapacitated and inherit her assets without complication. This simple but powerful planning step provided tremendous peace of mind.

Building Generational Wealth in the West 30s Community

In partnership with the West 30s Redemption Company, volunteer attorneys helped 10 clients execute Last Will and Testaments, with three clients also completing Powers of Attorney. Each client was preparing to close on an affordable home built by the West 30s team, and their newly drafted wills represent a critical step toward preserving assets and strengthening generational stability for their families.

Completing a Succession After Unexpected Loss

A client's succession stalled when her hired attorney passed away, leaving her without resources to begin again. PBP stepped in and quickly helped her and her brothers complete an Affidavit of Small Succession, allowing them to be placed into legal possession of their mother's home and avoid further financial strain.

Urgent Planning During a Health Crisis

After receiving a cancer diagnosis, a client sought to ensure her affairs were in order and that her disabled son would be cared for in the future. PBP matched her with a volunteer attorney who drafted and executed a power of attorney and provided guidance on establishing a special needs trust—critical tools to protect her family's long-term stability.

Protecting a Child With Special Needs Into Adulthood

A mother facing a narrow window to file for a continuing tutorship before her intellectually disabled son's 18th birthday turned to PBP for help. An experienced volunteer attorney secured the tutorship, ensuring she retains the legal authority needed to manage his medical, educational, and financial decisions as he enters adulthood.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

“The Pro Bono Project helped me with bankruptcy services at a time when I was overwhelmed with debt. Because of their support, I was able to graduate in May, and I am now enrolled in the Master of Religion Education program. I am forever grateful for the fresh start they made possible.” – Ms. V., Client from Jefferson Parish, 8/27/2025

“My daughter died in December of 2022 of a drug overdose and left me with six kids. They were all in school at the time. 20, 17, 15, 13, 11. I couldn’t do it all. I contacted The Pro Bono Project to help with legal assistance. They connected me with a volunteer attorney and they won my custody case. They also helped me with two of my grandkids in school and helped them get IEPs. They took me under their wing and I am so grateful to each and every staff that helped me in my time of need. I appreciate y’all more than you know.” – Ms. Y., Grandmother from Orleans Parish, 9/2/2025

“I’ve wanted to adopt my son since he was a baby but we were beginning to lose hope because we couldn’t find any help. That was until we found y’all and I believe that y’all inspire people not to give up, no matter what. My son’s life has changed drastically since being officially adopted and so has ours. Our hearts are filled to the brim with appreciation.” – Ms. A., 9/3/2025

“Losing my mother has been the most difficult time in my life. My mother was a light in this world - my light. Fortunately, she was also a planner so when her time came mostly everything was taken care of. Inevitably there were things that I still had to manage such as carrying out her wishes as her will set forth, particularly as it pertains to her estate. Thankfully, I was connected with The Pro Bono Project who has not only helped me traverse the legalities, but has also shown a tremendous amount of compassion and shared their knowledge with me. I am beyond appreciative for the assistance I have received from everyone and am thankful that this resource is available for myself and my community.” – Ms. W., 9/4/2025

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

“While volunteering with The Pro Bono Project, I worked with a client seeking a divorce after years in an unstable marriage. She was **overwhelmed** and **unsure of her rights**, but through steady support and legal guidance, we helped her secure a divorce and a fresh start. Watching her confidence grow throughout the process was incredibly rewarding. **It was a powerful reminder of how access to legal help can empower someone to reclaim their life.**” – **RYAN EARLY**

“A woman came into SHRC with her daughter, looking for the civil court. She **didn't speak English** well, and **no one had explained to her the process** of serving someone outside the country. In conjunction with our incredible Spanish language associate, Justin, we were able to communicate this with her and make a plan... **She came back about a month later, having come from her hearing upstairs to let us know that the judge had ruled in her favor.**” – **AUBIN AHMAD**

“...I met a woman seeking custody of her child. While the legal paperwork was necessary for her to continue with the custody process, it was obvious **she needed someone to hear her story and care about her enough to take the time to help**. It was heartbreakingly to see the difficulties those in our community regularly face but **knowing resources like the Pro Bono Project are available help bridge the gap between those needing help and those with the means of helping reminds me of the reason I became an attorney.**” – **JAKOB JACKSON**

“Volunteering with The Pro Bono Project has shown me how meaningful even small acts of help can be. I enjoyed seeing how **every person that walked through the door was able to receive some form of assistance**, whether it was a referral, guidance on a modification, or guidance with filling out important forms. It was **inspiring** to witness how these efforts, big or small, **truly make a difference in people's lives...**” – **SOFIA GARRAZA**

“Working with the Pro Bono Project is life changing. I have never been part of a team where genuinely everyone is considerate, kind and actively working towards making our community a better place. I will continue to volunteer with the Pro Bono project long past my internship because I believe [in] the work they're doing. **This is why I wanted to become a lawyer - hard but rewarding work that makes a difference in people's lives.**” – **Adele (Summer 2025 Intern)**

Suit was filed in 2018 in CDC as a result of a breach of contract to repair a house damaged by 3 tornadoes in 2017. The suit was tried for 2 ½ days in September of 2022 in CDC which resulted in an \$83,975 judgment in favor of Pro Bono Project Client, Ms. T. The case was subsequently briefed and

argued to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal which affirmed the trial court's judgment. The Louisiana Supreme Court granted writ of certiorari and, after briefing and argument, affirmed the \$83,975 judgment. Ms. T was finally paid in 2025. This case spanned 7 years and 504 attorney hours. Adams & Reese counsel Phil Franco, Past Board President of the Pro Bono Project, was lead counsel and was assisted by Jeff Richardson and Ray Ward on appeal." - **GREGG BARRIOS**