



State Bar
of Georgia

Lawyers Serving the Public and the Justice System

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Bar of Georgia Launches Statewide Pro Bono Portal to Connect Volunteer Lawyers with Their Communities

The Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia has announced the launch of an innovative technology platform to better match Georgia lawyers with pro bono opportunities, and to increase access to justice for Georgians and nonprofit organizations in need of legal assistance across the state. The State Bar committee has been working with justice technology company Paladin to develop the statewide pro bono portal.

The cutting-edge software solution, which launched April 20, makes it easier for attorneys to find pro bono opportunities that are a good fit for their legal skills, interests and availability. The tool will enable legal services programs to reach a much larger audience of potential volunteers and place critical legal needs faster.

The State Bar of Georgia has a membership of more than 49,000 lawyers, nearly 70% of whom are located in metro Atlanta. However, about 70% of Georgia's low-income households are located outside the metro area. As lawyers, the courts and legal services organizations have become more comfortable with virtual legal services over the past few years, the Paladin platform extends pro bono into remote areas of the state where lawyers are hard to find. "Legal services organizations serving very rural areas of the state like Georgia Legal Services Program are reaching out to potential volunteer lawyers in Atlanta, hoping to connect those volunteers with Georgians who cannot afford a lawyer," said Mike Monahan, director of the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center.

"The Access to Justice Committee is very pleased to lead the pro bono services charge," said Committee Chair Catherine Salinas. "Most lawyers in Georgia do some kind of pro bono, but they don't really know how to find it, manage it and be efficient at it. Connecting with a structured pro bono program helps a volunteer with all that, so Paladin is our matchmaking service."

"The Georgia Access to Justice Committee is such a champion for low-income Georgians," said Kristen Sunday, Paladin's co-founder and CEO. "We're pleased to partner with them to launch the new portal and streamline connections between volunteers and people who need legal help."

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About Paladin: Our vision is to increase access to justice globally by empowering legal teams to do more pro bono, more efficiently. Our technology is a pro bono ecosystem-wide infrastructure that helps legal services organizations (LSOs) maximize volunteer reach and law firm and in-house legal teams streamline and grow their pro bono programs. Our tools empower pro bono professionals to centralize their work, recruit volunteers more efficiently, and report out on business and community impact. To date, we've connected volunteers with tens of thousands of individuals and organizations in need across civil and criminal areas.