

# HOW ATTORNEYS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2022 ● NANJIBAH KHAN ● LEGAL WATCH



If you've watched shows like *Suits*, it's easy to see attorneys as greedy, power-hungry corporate sharks. This can be true in some cases. However, one resounding theme I've recognized when people express their interest in law is that they want to help others in some form. My peers often express that they don't want to end up being an attorney that only caters to the needs of commercial clients and doesn't help to better society in any way. One thing to know about becoming an attorney, though, is that it comes with a lot of power. Having access to a bank of legal knowledge that the rest of the community lacks opens up a pool of possibilities when it comes to making a difference. A lawyer can benefit society in a variety of ways, and it doesn't always have to mean taking the route of public interest law.

A lawyer should always strive to be an advocate for society. Whether it is a social issue or an instance in which an organization or the government needs to be held accountable, someone who is educated in the law needs to be at the forefront. Individuals lacking legal education will often find that their opinions are not given significance. This is where a lawyer comes in, as the role of an attorney is to be a voice for their clients. Giving support as an established lawyer to a worthy cause will further it more than one might realize. Whether it be through contacting the right people, lobbying, or providing a source of guidance to those affected, these little things can prove to be crucial when it comes to large issues.

Many attorneys choose to engage in pro bono or legal volunteer work. There are a plethora of marginalized communities filled with people who need legal services but cannot afford them. An example would be the American Bar Association, which has opportunities for volunteer lawyers to be matched with low-income clients. Depending on what area of law one might choose to specialize in, there are a multitude of routes to take.



For instance, there are thousands of struggling writers in the U.S. who are facing distinctive legal challenges, including copyright questions and rights management. By partnering with organizations like The Authors Guild, a lawyer could assist with issues such as those. Doing some research into one's specialty and finding specific organizations can open lots of doors filled with people requiring legal counsel.

Being an attorney also means recognizing the difficulty of law school and the hardships a person might face when first entering a legal field. One option is to be a mentor to either law school students or young attorneys. What better way to give back to the community than to assist those who are being confronted with the same tribulations that once affected you? Through aiding law students in traversing legal opportunities or aceing their classes, an attorney could contribute to those students' increased knowledge and readiness that will cause them to become an exceptional lawyer. In the same way, leading brand-new associates through the first steps of their careers could play a part in ensuring their success at the firm.

Being a lawyer comes with a sense of leadership within a community. Lawyers are often respected and their legal advice is held in high regard. Every attorney should consider it their social responsibility to use that power for good, which can be done in an assortment of small-scale ways. These slight actions have the ability to eventually usher in a notable outcome.