



# OATH's Pro Bono Attorney Program

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS & HEARINGS

**The NYC Office of Administrative Trials & Hearings (OATH)** is the city's independent administrative tribunal. OATH's Pro Bono Attorney Program connects volunteer attorneys with nonprofit legal assistance organizations in order to provide free legal representation to low-income residents who appear before OATH to contest summonses issued by city agencies.

## The Service

Under the guidance and supervision of legal assistance organizations, pro bono attorneys help indigent clients who are fighting summonses issued by the NYC Department of Buildings and the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission. Attorneys appear remotely before OATH hearing officers and handle cases covering all five boroughs. OATH hearings are quick and efficient. Cases may settle prior to a hearing or may proceed to a hearing before an OATH hearing officer (typically one day) who will then issue a written legal decision within a week. Pro bono attorneys have often achieved reductions or dismissals of significant penalties.

In addition to providing a valuable service to the respondent, this pro bono experience helps attorneys develop written and oral advocacy skills, legal research skills, and client counseling skills. The legal assistance organization will train pro bono attorneys and CLE credits may be available.

## About OATH

OATH is the City's central, independent administrative law court. OATH has three divisions that are responsible for adjudicating City matters: the OATH Trials Division, the OATH Hearings Division, and the new Special Education Hearings Division. The range and volume of matters that come before OATH make it one of the busiest tribunals in the country. Learn more at OATH's [website](#).

## For More Information

All attorneys wishing to join or explore these programs should contact Vincent Gentile, Esq., Special Counsel to the OATH Commissioner at 212-436-0547 or [vgentile@oath.nyc.gov](mailto:vgentile@oath.nyc.gov).