

LEGAL AID

<u>THE USA</u>	<u>ENGLAND AND WALES</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>
<p>* Public Defenders - Lawyers employed and salaried by the state, who are appointed to represent people who cannot afford to hire an attorney.</p> <p>The US Constitution (Amendment 6 and 14) and a landmark decision of the US Supreme Court (Gideon v. Wainwright – 1963) requires the government to provide legal counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases</p> <p>* Pro bono (for the public good) – Free Advice and representation undertaken voluntarily and without payment by attorneys and law firms in theory for those who are unable to afford them . The ABA's ethical rules recommends that lawyers contribute at least fifty hours of pro bono service per year.</p> <p>* Legal clinics – generally law school programs providing hands-on-legal experience to law school students and services to various clients. Clinics are usually directed by professors and attorneys. They do <i>pro bono</i> work in a particular area, providing free legal services to clients. Funding usually comes from charities, private donors, and some local, state or governments.</p> <p>* no win , no fees</p>	<p>* Legal aid - Generally provided by private firms of solicitors and barristers in private practices, contracted by and paid by the state under the legal aid scheme</p> <p>* Public Defenders Service – limited number of solicitors and barristers directly employed by the Legal Aid Agency (governmental body) . Created in 2001 . Provide advice in police stations and representation in magistrates and crown courts (solicitors and barristers)</p> <p>* Some pro bono advice can also be provided by solicitors or law students , in particular through LawWorks (the operating name for the Solicitors Pro Bono Group)</p> <p>* Citizen's advice (bureau) - network of 316 independent charities throughout the united Kingdom that give free, confidential information and advice, to assist people with money, legal, consumer and other problems</p>	<p>* 'Aide juridictionnelle' may cover all or a part of legal costs . Entitlement is based on income in the previous year compared to certain thresholds . Available for most types of legal disputes, whether criminal or civil.</p> <p>* Maison de la Justice – pro bono system organised by the <i>Ordre des Avocats</i> . Free legal advice . No representation</p> <p>* Some associations give free legal advice in some specific areas (ex : <i>UFC-que choisir, ADAVIP</i>) . No representation before courts</p> <p>* 'Assurance de protection juridique' - the range of cover varies between different insurers and policies. (restricted to litigation concerning the possessions or persons covered through the policy or more general cover.) Often restrictions on the maximum legal costs . Advice and representation .</p>

What options are available to people ineligible for legal aid in the USA or the UK? Many people will have to **pay privately for advice** or use **no-win, no-fee lawyers (for civil cases)** , **seek support from one of a number of charities / organisations** that offer legal help, or **represent themselves in trying to solve their disputes**.