

NO.	COUNTRY	LEGAL AID PROVIDERS
1.	Lithuania	<p>Primary legal aid is provided by staff (jurists) of the municipality administration or lawyers (lawyers' assistances) or public agencies contracted by municipalities.</p> <p>Secondary legal aid is provided based on the decision of SGLAS or the decision of pre-trial investigation officer prosecutor or court. It is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By lawyers continuously providing legal aid; • By lawyers providing legal aid in case of necessity (in particular case to lawyer's assistant who is under his/her supervision). • By lawyers providing legal aid on <i>ad hoc</i> basis. <p>For the provision of secondary legal aid SGLAS concludes services' agreements with the lawyers providing secondary legal aid continuously, in case of necessity or on <i>ad hoc</i> basis.</p> <p>The requirements to become a lawyer are set in the Law on the Bar (Art. 7). A natural person can be recognized as a lawyer, if he/she fulfils the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is citizen of the Republic of Lithuania or the EU Member State; • holds a university degree in law: Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees or the professional qualification degree (one-stage university degree); • has at least five years of work experience in the field of law, or not less than two years' experience working as an assistant of the lawyer. The work experience in the field of law is considered according the Regulation of the Lithuanian Government, approving list of legal positions. The work experience in the field of law is counted from the date when a person has obtained a Bachelor or Master of Laws, or the professional qualification degree (one-stage university degree) and started to work in a field of law; • has good reputation; • knows the national language; • has passed the qualification exam for lawyers and the exam on the organization of the lawyer's profession (Bar exam); If a person has at least a seven-years of experience working as a judge; ten years of experience working as a prosecutor, or holds doctoral degree in law field (PhD), she/he is released from the qualification exam for lawyers and only need to pass the exam on the organization of the lawyer's profession; • has no health problems, which might prevent him/her from working as a lawyer (mental diseases). <p>Lawyers can be included into the list of lawyers providing legal aid in case of necessity or providing legal aid continuously if they fulfil these criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are lawyers practicing the legal profession, with a Practicing Lawyers License and recorded in the Practicing Lawyer's

		<p>List;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are lawyers for which Bar Association issued a positive opinion on the eligibility for provision of state-guaranteed legal aid • a contract of the lawyers who had been contracted for secondary legal aid had not been terminated for not fulfilment of contractual obligations during the last 5 years. <p>If the lawyer seeks inclusion into the list of lawyers who provide legal aid continuously, they have to pass a special selection exam.</p>
2.	Poland	<p>Legal assistance at pre-court stage can provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lawyers, lawyers' assistances, • legal advisors • local government units (county authorities and municipalities), • NGOs. <p>A non-governmental organizations (NGO) as legal assistant - The County has to ensure allocation of 50% of the free legal assistance offices to NGOs. A NGO may apply for granting a place of free legal assistance if it meets all following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have at least two years of experience in carrying out tasks related to the provision of legal advice or legal information; • will present an agreement or preliminary agreement with a lawyer, a legal advisor, a tax advisor or a person defined in the Art. 11(3); • provides a guarantee of proper performance of the task, in particular by submitting a written commitment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure confidentiality in connection with the provision of free legal aid and its documentation, b) provide professional and reliable legal aid, especially when there is a conflict of interest. <p>Requirements for quality of legal assistance providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyers, lawyers' assistances, • legal advisors • tax advisors - in the field of tax law, excluding tax matters connected with conducting business activity; • persons who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) has completed law studies and has obtained a master's degree or a foreign law degree recognized in the Republic of Poland, b) has at least three years of experience in executing the required legal knowledge activities directly related to the provision of legal assistance, c) enjoys full public rights and has full legal capacity,

		<p>d) has not been convicted of a wilful offense or a fiscal offense. Providers are selected in an open tender.</p> <p>Local government units The County, in carrying out the task, may conclude agreements with municipalities in the area of this county, specifying in particular):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipal or county offices where free legal aid offices will be located; • a timetable indicating the days and times when free legal assistance will be provided; • co-operation conditions for providing premises to lawyers and legal advisers who actually provide free legal assistance <p>Lawyer and legal adviser as legal assistant 2 legal professions are dealing with legal assistance, representation of individuals, private and public bodies and legal advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyers (have full right to defend clients in criminal proceeding (Art.82) and represent clients in civil proceedings). • Legal advisors (are allowed to represent clients in civil cases in criminal cases can represent the clients' interests regarding pecuniary claims and can represent business persons. Generally, they can only represent a victim of crime (civil party), or other party to the proceedings not being the defendant). <p>The County authorities annually conclude an agreement with the County Bar Council and Council of the Legal Advisors on number of places for providing legal assistance in the area of Particular County.</p>
3.	Germany	<p>Legal advice and assistance out of court can provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyers • Tax advisors and tax agents, • Auditors and sworn accountants, • Pension Advisers <p>The Applicant for legal aid can chose who consult and assist him. The consultants are obliged to provide legal advice and/or assistance.</p> <p>The representative and the defender at courts can be only the lawyer. A Lawyer has a duty to be the representative or defender of a party in court proceedings or to be the adviser if he was appointed by the court.</p> <p>Requirements to become a lawyer: A person can perform the activity as a court appointed counsel when he or she is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entitled to practice before a court; • who is qualified to sit as a judge under the German Judge Act or • who has met the conditions for admission to the legal profession under the Act regulating the activity of European Lawyers in Germany or who has passed the aptitude test under the present Act.

		<p>This requires the same formal qualification as becoming a judge, including the passing of two state examinations, one after university studies and one at the end of a two-year practical training/clerkship period. The first exam covers university areas of specialisation and a state exam cover compulsory subjects. The university studies and preparatory training have been harmonised in content.</p> <p>Preparatory training: The period of preparatory training lasts for two years. Training can be given at the following compulsory agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at a court of ordinary jurisdiction in civil matters, • at a public prosecutor's office or at a court with jurisdiction in criminal matters, • at an administrative authority, • with lawyer; • and at one or more optional agencies where proper training is guaranteed. <p>The duration of training in one institution task to be not less than 3 month and with lawyer not less than 9 month. Studies at universities of every Land as well as preparatory trainings performed are recognized in any Land of Germany making assessment about person's eligibility to take an exam or practice legal professions). Every full professor of law at a university within the area of legal representation is qualified to be a lawyer. The admission to be a lawyer is granted on application. A certificate proving the applicant's admittance to the legal profession (including profession of lawyer) is issued by the Land Administration of Justice.</p>
4.	Spain	<p>To be a legal aid provider it's necessary to be a fully qualified lawyer. To access to the profession of Lawyer in Spain, it is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to be a Spanish citizen • to be a holder of a Law degree • plus a Master to access to the profession of lawyer (organized jointly by Bar associations and Law faculties) of 90 ECTS length: 60 out of these focused in theoretical -practical lessons and 30 ECTS placed as an internship in a Law Firm, Court, NGO's, etc. • To submit the application to be admitted to the State exam. • Pass the exam entitles the applicant to be a fully qualified lawyer. • to practice as a lawyer, to be member of a Bar Association of the place main practice is going to be carried out. • to have a three year proved experience as a lawyer in the field the lawyer will render his/her professional services (eg. Criminal law, administrative law, etc). • trainings provided by the Bar is required. In addition, legal training is needed specially focused, not only in substantive law but also in professional skills. It is mandatory to undertake special training to defend minors; women victims of

		<p>gender violence (also the aggressor) refugees or migrants.</p> <p><u>3 years like a lawyer, 5 years with a specialization (no more than two fields), 2 years more and can go to High court. In you have 10 years experience, you can represent fully.</u></p> <p><u>Procedure of appointment of a legal aid provider</u></p> <p>All practicing lawyers' members of a Bar are obliged to be legal aid lawyer hence to render legal aid services. There are several legal aid lists, depending on the field of law lawyer has its professional preferences. Thus, the most common are the ones related to Criminal; Civil; Family and administrative Law. There are also common specific areas as minors; victims of gender violence, etc. Each Bar Association's entitles to decide whether a lawyers can render their services in all the fields of the Law or just restricted it even to one.</p> <p>The system to assign a legal aid lawyer to the applicant is carried out by a software with some algorithms introduced taking into account the cases already assigned in the period; the expertise degree, and some others related to knowledge and quality. It is assigned randomly.</p> <p>Once appointed a lawyer and assigned to the applicant, the pending petition of legal aid is processed by the Bar.</p>
7.	France	<p><i>To become an attorney it is necessary:</i></p> <p>To enter a law program to pursue a three-year licence (the Bachelor's French equivalent) and a two-year master's degree during which students usually specialize in a specific branch of law. At least a first year master's degree is required to take the bar. The French legal education does not involve any specific pro bono specific rules or requirements.</p> <p><i>Licensure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>French Law Students:</u> Bar exam (minimum master 1) followed by the French Bar Admission Course lasting 18 months, out of which two semesters are dedicated to professional experience. French legal education is finally attested by the Professional Lawyer's Certificate • <u>Procedure for EU Attorneys:</u> Foreign attorneys who are EU nationals are given a choice: they can either take the French law exam dedicated to foreign attorneys willing to have their professional title recognized in France, or be exempted from taking such exam and instead take the same Professional Lawyer's Certificate exam, as any French law student. Two conditions must be satisfied: being an attorney in one's home country and the reciprocity of the procedure for French attorneys in such home country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence <p>Legal aid providers belong to independent professions such as lawyers, notaries or bailiffs.</p> <p>The appointed court lawyers can't refuse the mission of legal aid without the authorization of the president of the bar.</p>

		<p>However, they're not obliged to accept legal aid cases if they didn't volunteer to be on a list on a voluntary basis or by signing a letter of acceptance of the legal aid matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure of appointment of a legal aid provider <p>After the legal aid board grants you legal aid totally or partially, it sends the information to the president of the local Bar who designate a lawyer. One may also request a specific lawyer if he does agree to take the case under legal aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training <p>For lawyers, continuous training is mandatory: 20 hours annually. There is a web page which identifies all the trainings given by the 16 national schools for lawyers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 hours annually • 40 hours/2 years period • During the first two years of his or her professional practice, a lawyer must follow a min. of 10 hours of courses on professional ethics • Lawyers holding a certificate of specialization must spend 1/2 of their training in their areas of specialization. If they hold two certificates of specialization, they must perform at least ten hours of training per area of specialization, i.e. twenty hours in a year and forty hours during two consecutive years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialization <p>There is an obligation regarding specialization training. Specialised lawyers dedicate half of their continuous training time to their specialisation field. Every year, the National Council of the French Bars publishes a national list of lawyers having acquired one or two specialisations.</p>
8.	Belgium	<p>Requirements to become a Lawyer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to be national or a national of a Member State of the European Union, • have a degree of doctor or licentiate of law, to take the required oath, and • being registered as a member of the Bar Association or as a trainee Lawyer. • to complete a three-year apprenticeship under the supervision of a senior qualified lawyer before being qualified to practice independently even though aspirant lawyers hold law degrees, they are still required • A certificate is required proving that the candidate has never been bankrupt or performed acts that may result in the suspension or prohibition to practise as a lawyer, such as serious professional misconduct committed while practising as a lawyer, or a criminal offence; <p>The candidates who satisfy the above conditions shall be authorized to take the oath of lawyer. They shall be exempt from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the traineeship obligations that are imposed by Belgian law and may ask to be registered as a member of the Bar

Association on condition that they have completed a traineeship in a Member State of the European Union that entitles them to be registered with a Bar in that State.

- the traineeship obligations if the law of the State where the degree was obtained or the State of which the candidate is a national does not impose such obligations. In the other cases, the candidates who satisfy the above-mentioned conditions shall be entitled to take the oath of lawyer and to request registration.

The profession of lawyer is incompatible with:

- The profession of active judicial officer, clerk of the court and public servant;
- The office of notary public and bailiff;
- Engaging in trade or industry;
- All salaried occupations or activities in the public or private sector, unless they do not prejudice the independence of the lawyer or the dignity of the Bar.

Requirements to become a Legal Aid Lawyer

The Legal Aid Bureau (BAJ) within each Bar Association keeps the lists of volunteers in general matters or by the subjects chosen by the Lawyers. The local Bar organizes the Lawyers registration. However, the conditions for the enrolment can vary from bar to bar.

Council of the local Bar requires:

- prove a qualification acquired in a certain field indicating the number of hours of professional training and skills in one or more preference matters, or if he/she will only be listed on the indicated specialised jurisdiction.
- as part of their three-year apprenticeship post-educational qualification, “aspirant lawyers not only have to obtain a declaration of professional aptitude, rewarded after having passed bar exams in the first year of the apprenticeship, but are also enrolled in what is called “pro deo” assistance, legal assistance to indigent people that could not afford the services of a lawyer.

The Legal Aid bureau appoints a lawyer from a list, which is made up of lawyer-trainees who are obliged to provide legal aid during their three-year traineeship, and qualified lawyers who choose to add their names to the list.

Even though each lawyer is required to be a member of the Bar of the judicial district where his/her services are primarily rendered, that does not prohibit the lawyer from appearing in courts located in other judicial districts.

Other Legal Aid providers:

- NGOs existing for at least three years and whose purpose is to defend human rights and to struggle against discriminations;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trade unions - the representative and professional organisations; • public service institutions. • Institute for Equality between Women and Men
9.	Italy	<p>Requirements to become a Lawyer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a full degree in law, which requires five years of study. • the future <i>avvocato</i> must look for a lawyer willing to become his mentor to start the training period (the <i>tirocinio</i>). • The <i>tirocinio</i> requires two years of practical and theoretical training, assisting the practitioner in the office and in court. During the training period, the trainee must assist his mentor in at least 20 hearings each semester (80 hearings in two years). • the lawyer sits a state examination comprising written and oral tests after completing the training period and receiving the professional body's approval. Success in the examination gives admittance to the profession. <p>Requirements to become a Legal Aid Lawyer</p> <p>There is no special qualification required to become a legal aid lawyer besides to submit an application to the Bar Association to which the lawyer belongs and, admitted, to be member of the Legal Aid list ready to be appointed. Lawyers providing legal aid cannot refuse any appointment. <i>A fully qualified lawyer with 2 experience years can submit his application to be part of the Legal Aid list.</i></p> <p><i>Appointment procedure</i></p> <p>Once granted legal aid, the beneficiary can appoint the attorney of his or her choice, with one constraint: The attorney must have been registered for legal aid purposes at the Bar Association in the district in which the Court hearing the case is located. Registration is conditional upon meeting certain requirements including membership of the bar for at least two years. The lawyer needs to lodge an application and might then be appointed and the Local Bar Council will check the occurrence of the law requirements. The citizen granted with legal aid will choose the lawyer, with no further requirements.</p>
10.	Sweden	<p>Requirements to become a Lawyer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law School degree : have a Master of Laws • 3 years qualified legal practise including minimum 2 years at law firm or giving advice to the public on your own, • have passed the Bar examination, • have acquired reputation of honesty and integrity and via professional reference, proved suitable for the legal profession as an advocate. <p>A practicing lawyer shall every year, with effect from the year after he or she was granted admission to the Bar Association, participate in minimum 18 hours of structured <i>professional training</i>, of which a maximum of 6 hours may constitute e-learning. A lawyer has an obligation to maintain and to develop his or her professional competence by monitoring the development of the law in the fields in which the lawyer is active and to submit to the necessary continued training.</p>

		<p>All advocates and associate lawyers at law firms are independent. Decisions on legal aid are made upon application by the client and appointment by the court or the Swedish legal Aid Authority. The client has as a principle a right to choose who he wants to represent him.</p> <p><i>If you are granted on legal aid, a legal aid counsel will be appointed at the same time. If people have proposed a suitable person themselves, he or she can be appointed if it will not significantly increase the cost of the case or if there is no other particular reason for not doing so.</i></p>
11.	Denmark	<p>Free legal aid providers: Free legal aid <i>in-court proceedings</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the legal aid institutions (legal aid offices, which consist in lawyers who on a voluntary basis have established local offices for aid and assistance in legal matters. Legal aid at the legal aid offices is not only provided by lawyers. • means of lawyers (you do not need to be a lawyer to provide legal assistance out-of-court, lawyers have a monopoly when it comes to representing a client in the courts). Lawyers from other EU Member States may practice in Denmark using their homeland title. Representing a client in court, however, requires that you appear together with a Danish lawyer. Lawyers from other countries may provide legal advice out-of-court. • free legal advisory clinics, established by the Danish Legal Aid Society, which are open to all people and are not subject to any income limitations. In these clinics, volunteer lawyers make themselves available to offer free, anonymous legal advice on everyday legal issues. <p>Requirements for lawyers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the educational requirements (a Danish Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Law), • complete the practical requirements (three years of practical legal work experience) • pass the state sponsored exam. • trainee lawyers may count a proportion of their hours working for legal aid clinics towards their mandatory advocate training commitments. <p>Requirements for appointment as advocate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the completion of an educational programme, managed by the Danish Bar. It is a condition for admission to practise law that the person concerned has completed <i>theoretical</i> basic education for lawyers, has passed an examination in matters of special importance to the profession of lawyers (the theoretical examination) and passed a <i>practical</i> test in litigation. • After meeting these requirements and submitting to a hearing with the Danish Bar and Law Society, an individual may then apply to the Minister of Justice for admission to practice law and gain the title “advokat.”

		<p>Lawyers in Denmark may practice either as sole practitioners, in house lawyers or in groupings of lawyers, usually in established law firms.</p> <p>Procedure of appointment of a legal aid provider The great majority of lawyers provide free legal aid directly. The Web sites of the local district court have a list of lawyers who provide this service. People can make an appointment with the lawyer they select, and the lawyer will typically meet with people at his or her office to advise them.</p> <p>Training Compulsory training obligations as decided by state law. All assistant attorneys, are obliged to participate in ongoing continuing education relevant to the profession of lawyers. To satisfy the requirement of ongoing continuing education, the lawyer concerned must within a period of three years have participated in at least 54 lessons of continuing education. Each lesson shall have lasted at least 45 minutes. The education may consist of attendance of courses, teaching or academic writing.</p>
12.	Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public legal aid attorney: A lawyer working at a state legal aid office. The activities of public legal aid attorneys are supervised in the same manner as those of advocates. • Advocate: A lawyer who is a member of the Finnish Bar Association and whose activities are supervised by the Bar Association and the Chancellor of Justice. • A licensed attorney: A lawyer who has been granted permit by the Licensed Attorneys Board to act as an attorney. The activities of the licensed attorneys are monitored in a similar manner as the activities of advocates. <p>Public Legal Aid Attorneys Public Legal Aid Attorneys are lawyers employed by Public Legal Aid Offices.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master’s degree in law. • Judicial traineeship at a District Court and obtained a judicial qualification. • Competence in legal matters and good interpersonal and negotiation skills and they must be able to express clearly both in writing and in spoken word • Ability to withstand stress <p><i>Appointment</i> The Public Legal Aid Attorneys are appointed by the Leading Public Legal Aid Attorney. The Leading Public Legal Aid Attorneys are appointed by the Minister of Justice. Most Public Legal Aid Attorneys hold the title of “varatuomari”, which means that they have completed a judicial traineeship at a District Court and obtained a judicial qualification. Public Legal Aid Attorneys are engaged in advocacy before courts of law; they are under the obligation to observe proper advocacy conduct in their activities.</p>

		<p>In this respect, they are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Finnish Bar Association. <i>Public Legal Attorneys</i> are employed by the State. Disciplinary Board supervised that public legal attorneys fulfil their obligations as in the Court as in the different activities. Their requirements are: loyalty , independence, avoidance of conflict of interest, confidentiality and integrity</p> <p>Lawyer (advocate) <i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be at least 25 years old; • Have completed a Master of Laws degree in Finland, other than a master of international and comparative law degree. • Have acquired the skills and practical experience necessary for the profession of advocate by practising for at least four years. • Have experience for at least two years as an advocate’s assistant, public legal aid counsel or independent legal practitioner resulting in comparable experience in advocacy. • Have passed an examination in professional ethics and in the special regulations relating to advocates (Advocate's Examination); • Be known to be honest and, in respect of his/her other characteristics and way of life, suitable for the profession of advocate; <p>There is no monopoly in marketing legal services or assisting in court proceedings. Lawyers who advise on and assist in legal matters can be divided into two categories: members of the Finnish Bar Association (attorneys-at-law) and non-members of the Bar (jurists). In addition to this, lawyers who represent clients in the Finnish courts must have a license issued by an independent Board of Licensed Counsels. <i>Lawyers</i> are members of the Finnish Bar Association</p> <p>Register for legal aid providers There is not one official register of all providers, however all legal providers are register by the own organization, as well are automatically listed in the register in order to be appointment when it be necessary. The procedural to be appointed is developed in each organization.</p>
13.	Hungary	<p>Legal providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyers • Law firms • NGO’s: civil organisations having commissioned lawyers • European Community Jurists, university law clinics <p>- Legal Aid Lawyers <i>Qualification of the Legal Aid Lawyers</i> All of them must have a lawyer degree, and they need to be a membership with a National/Local Bar Association.</p>

		<p>The legal aid providers are registered in the Justice Ministry’s Legal Aid Service (Central Justice Office).An application form needs to be addressed to those services to take part as legal providers. There is not a special procedure to be appointed. To be admitted to the Hungarian Bar, an applicant must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship in a member state of the European Economic Area. • No criminal record. • University degree. • Passing the Hungarian professional examination in law. • Engaged in legal practice for at least three years as an attorney, articled clerk or assistant attorney. • Having liability insurance and suitable office space. <p>Currently there is no continuing legal education requirements for qualified lawyers.Lawyers are independent. The independence of the LA providers is guaranteed by the supply contract, which is a must to be admitted in the register. The term of the supply contract is for 3 years, which has to be prolonged if there are no grounds for exclusion. Bar Associations for lawyers carry out professional supervisory for lawyers, but they don’t provide legal aid.</p>
14.	England and Wales (UK)	<p>Lawyers</p> <p>The legal profession is divided between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>solicitors</i> - is a qualified legal professional who provides expert legal advice and support to clients. Most Solicitors in the UK are primarily litigators, although many Solicitors specialise in specific areas of law and some do their own advocacy cases. Solicitors work directly with clients. Solicitors deal with all the paperwork and communication involved with their clients' cases, such as writing documents, letters and contracts tailored to their client’s needs; • <i>barristers</i> generally provides specialist legal advice and represents individual people and organisations in Courts and tribunals and through written legal advice. They usually specialise in particular areas of law such as criminal law, chancery law (estates and trusts), and commercial law. <p>Legal aid Lawyers. Qualifications.</p> <p>Lawyers need to be Membership with a Nacional /Local Bar Association and successful professional examination. The Lawyers are register in the Legal Aid Agency in which web page we can find they.</p> <p>Legal Aid Agency is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. Solicitor firms can apply for a contract with the Legal Aid Agency in order to be entitled to give legal advice and representation, paid for by legal aid. There are different contracts with the Legal Aid Agency, depending on whether it is for criminal, family, or civil legal aid work.</p> <p>Many lawyers working in legal aid – both civil and criminal – say that this is a turning point and that the system could soon become almost entirely unsustainable. The cuts ongoing will put a large number of lawyers in a position where it’s simply</p>

		<p>uneconomic to go to work. Many barristers will not take on cases like burglaries, thefts, minor assault offences, because they cannot cover their costs. That could put small, local firms out of business. There will be the double impact of people not being entitled to legal aid but also law centres being unable to survive and closing down.</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Scotland (UK)</p>	<p>Legal assistance is available from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private practice solicitors (they are paid on a case by case basis from public money); • law centers; • solicitors employed by SLAB in the Public Defence Solicitors' Office for criminal cases and in the Civil Legal Assistance Offices for civil cases (Employed solicitors are paid a salary as employees of SLAB). <p>The legal profession in Scotland is divided into two branches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solicitors • advocates. <p>Education</p> <p>The vast majority of people that qualify as a Scottish solicitor or advocate will have completed three distinct stages of education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a four-year LLB (Legum Baccalaureus – Bachelor of Laws) degree in Scots law; • a one-year Diploma in Professional Legal Practice • a traineeship, which is a two-year period of paid, in-office training in a firm of solicitors. <p>To become an advocate, the Faculty of Advocates (the “Faculty”) requires additional exams and a period of pupillage known as “devilling”, which is similar to an apprenticeship.</p> <p>The Role of Solicitors</p> <p>Solicitors are regulated and represented by the Law Society of Scotland (the “Society”) and <i>provide advice on all legal matters</i>. Solicitors are instructed by members of the public and have rights of audience in the lower courts and tribunals. Solicitors carry out more general legal practice. Additionally, there are solicitor advocates who have extended rights of audience and can appear before the Court of Session and the High Court of Justiciary.</p> <p>The Role of Advocates</p> <p>Advocates are equivalent to barristers in England & Wales. They are primarily instructed directly by solicitors, rather than by members of the public, although they may be instructed directly by members of the public in limited circumstances. Advocates, who are regulated by the Faculty, are able to provide advice on all legal matters and have rights of audience in the Court of Session and the High Court of Justiciary.</p>

		<p>The Role of Foreign Lawyers</p> <p>There is no bar to lawyers qualified in another jurisdiction working in Scotland provided they do not describe themselves as “solicitors” and do not undertake certain kinds of work reserved by statute for Scottish-qualified solicitors. These reserved areas are broadly conveyancing of land and/or buildings, litigation (civil or criminal) and obtaining confirmation in favor of executors. It is a requirement of the Solicitors that foreign lawyers must be registered with the Society before they can enter into multi-national practices with Scottish solicitors or incorporated practices. A person who wishes to become a registered foreign lawyer must apply in writing to the Society for registration, submit an application and pay any application fee(s).</p> <p>The Role of In-House Counsel</p> <p>In-house lawyers are a large and growing part of the Scottish legal profession, with over a quarter of practicing solicitors working in-house.</p>
16.	Northern Ireland (UK)	<p>The requirements for the legal aid lawyer are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law School Degree. • Degree in other relevant scientific subject • Successful professional examination. • Apprenticeship or internship with a Lawyers. <p>In FLAC, the service provider must hold a current practising certificate from the Law Society of Ireland. All barristers are freelance professionals.</p> <p>In civil cases, <i>solicitors providing legal aid</i> may either be <i>employees of the Legal Aid Board</i> practicing out of law centres, or in certain cases may be <i>partners (owners) or associates (employees) in a law firm</i>. In the Free Legal Aid Center, solicitors working with the Legal Aid Board are civil servants. The Board also operates a Private Practitioner Service, which involves the use of solicitors in private practice providing services on behalf of the Board on a fee-per-case basis.</p> <p>If the person is being provided services by <i>a law centre</i>, the manager of the law centre will decide which solicitor will represent the person. If the person is being represented by a private solicitor they may choose, from the names of solicitors who have been entered into the panel and have agreed to provide services in the court jurisdiction concerned, which solicitor they would like to represent them.</p> <p>REGISTER</p> <p>In civil cases, there is <i>a panel of barristers</i> and a number of <i>panels of solicitors</i>. <i>Barristers</i> will be accepted into the barristers’ panel on acceptance of the terms and conditions (including the fee structure) for membership and there are no further requirements to be met.</p> <p>In relation to <i>the solicitors’ panels</i> there are five panels in place:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• for private family law applications involving children,• for matrimonial matters,• for asylum and subsidiary protection cases,• for certain personal insolvency / home repossession cases.• operational on a pilot basis for public law child care cases.
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