

2016 PRO BONO INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 23-25, 2016
CAPITAL HILTON
Washington, DC

Helping you fulfill the promise of pro bono

Mingle and Munch at the Pro Bono Expo on Thursday, March 24, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Pro Bono Expo Table Descriptions

Alameda County Bar Association

Legal Incubators: Mobilizing Pro Bono Energy and Exploring New Delivery Models

Join us to learn about the phenomenon of legal incubators, which give new lawyers opportunities for mentorship and skill development as they provide legal services, oftentimes pro bono, to those of limited means.

Host: Tiela Chalmers

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Winning the Case Against Animal Cruelty

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) has blazed the trail for stronger enforcement of anti-cruelty laws and more humane treatment of animals. ALDF's groundbreaking efforts to push the U.S. legal system to end the suffering of abused animals are supported by thousands of dedicated volunteer attorneys. Join us to learn about the rapidly growing field of animal law and related pro bono opportunities.

Host: Tom Linney

Appleseed

Pro Bono to Create Systemic Change

Appleseed is a network of public interest justice centers across the U.S. and Mexico whose organizational model involves engaging pro bono professionals to advance local solutions to chronic poverty and injustice. Project areas include education, health care, economic opportunity, hunger, juvenile justice, housing and homelessness, justice for immigrants, fair courts, and accountable government. Join us to talk about effective models for achieving systemic change and how pro bono lawyers can get involved.

Host: Bert Brandenburg

Brooklyn Defender Services

Pro Bono and Public Defense

In the U.S., the criminal justice system casts a wider net than in any other developed nation, and current events have shined a spotlight on the experience of poor people and people of color accused of crimes. To meet the critical need for more resources for public defense and system-wide reform, we are expanding pro bono opportunities in both individual client representation and impact litigation. Join us to discuss these opportunities, as well as innovative models for engaging firms and legal departments in law reform efforts.

Host: Molly Meltzer

Center for Reproductive Rights

Reproductive Freedom as a Global Fundamental Human Right

The Center for Reproductive rights is dedicated to using the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right and to transforming the landscape of reproductive health and rights worldwide. The Center has worked in more than 50 countries on cases, fact-finding reports, legal publications, and law reform efforts and has spearheaded the use of international litigation on reproductive health issues. Join us to discuss the expansion of our pro bono program with opportunities for advocacy and litigation before the U.N.

Host: Marlene Halpern

City Bar Justice Center

Breaking New Ground: Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Project

The Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Project is a new program developed by the City Bar Justice Center in collaboration with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Join us to discuss the Project, which provides information, advice, and limited-scope legal assistance to pro se litigants in a variety of federal civil cases from an office onsite at the courthouse.

Host: Carol Bockner

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

Serving Veterans

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center provides legal services to low-income veterans who are recovering from homelessness and mental illness, and the scope of our impact is made possible through the hard work of pro bono attorneys. Join us to discuss how your attorneys and staff can help veterans achieve critical outcomes in removing barriers to health, housing, and income.

Host: Millie VandenBroek

Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco

Mobilizing Law Firm and In-House Attorneys for Family Law

The Justice & Diversity Center's new pilot effort aims to mobilize pro bono attorneys, including in-house counsel, to help low-income litigants in family court. Join us to discuss how you can get involved in family law pro bono.

Host: Gloria Chun

Justice at Stake

Advocating for Fair and Impartial Courts

Justice at Stake anchors the fair courts field, works to advance merit selection of judges and diversity on the bench, fights off political attacks on state courts, and more. Join us to learn about available pro bono opportunities, including (1) engaging in research related to reforming state judicial selection systems; (2) deepening the relevancy of fair courts issues to impacted constituencies; and (3) authoring amicus briefs.

Host: Susan Liss

KIND (Kids in Need of Defense)

Representing Immigrant and Refugee Children

KIND works with law firms and legal departments to ensure that unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children are provided representation in their immigration proceedings. KIND also seeks to protect unaccompanied children in Central America and Mexico by assisting those returning to their countries of origin and providing guidance to children applying for resettlement to the U.S. Join us to discuss how you can get involved.

Host: Alice Fitzgerald

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Pro Bono Training Institute

The Pro Bono Training Institute (PBTI) is an innovative project in California aimed at developing a more efficient system for legal aid networks to produce universal and effective online pro bono trainings. PBTI's goals are to (1) have a centralized statewide pro bono training program that all pro bono advocates can access; and (2) expand overall pro bono in the state by increasing access to trainings, reducing the creation of duplicative trainings, and facilitating easier recruitment and support of pro bono attorneys by providing an online portal to connect them to legal services organizations. Join us to learn more about this new project.

Host: Phong Wong

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Holistic Service and Trauma-Informed Legal Advocacy

The Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice advocates on behalf of low-income immigrant and Latino populations and pairs legal services with supportive services offered by our Community Care Advocates, who offer a wide range of human services interventions to clients, including education, court accompaniment, and community referrals. Join us to discuss holistic service models and tips for how pro bono attorneys can apply trauma-informed principles when working with survivors of domestic violence.

Host: Jenny Farrell

National Juvenile Defender Center

Ensuring Access to Justice for Children in Juvenile Delinquency Court

The National Juvenile Defender Center serves as a national resource center on juvenile indigent defense, builds the capacity of the juvenile defense bar, and improves access to counsel and quality of representation for children in the juvenile justice system through state assessments and policy advocacy. Learn how pro bono attorneys can help ensure youth access to justice through civil litigation, legal research for national policy advocacy, and helping remove legal barriers for young people reentering their communities after involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Host: Kim Dvorchak

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Housing Not Handcuffs: Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness

Laws that treat the life-sustaining activities of homeless people as criminal acts have skyrocketed in recent years. These laws, however, are ineffective, expensive to taxpayers, and often violate the constitutional rights of homeless people. Join us for a discussion of constructive alternatives to criminalization policies that have successfully benefited homeless veterans and others.

Host: Tristia Bauman

National Women's Law Center

Expanding the Possibilities for Women and Girls

Explore opportunities for short-term projects and long-term pro bono opportunities with the National Women's Law Center. Learn how you can work to expand education and employment opportunities for women and girls, promote women's health and reproductive rights, and enhance family economic security and women's advancement.

Host: Neena Chaudhry

Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem

Restoration of Rights: Employment and Education Access for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

The proliferation of and access to background checks utilized for everything from employment to education has heightened the need for individuals with criminal convictions to be afforded some form of relief. Without pro bono assistance, most individuals are left fighting private background companies and government agencies on their own to ensure that their rights are protected. Learn about opportunities available to pro bono attorneys to restore the rights of the formerly incarcerated through administrative representation, state court advocacy, and affirmative litigation, all through the lens of our innovative client-centered representation.

Host: Vichal Kumar

Pro Bono Net

Virtual and Remote Lawyering: Pro Bono Anywhere, Anytime

Through innovative technology solutions and expertise in building and mobilizing justice networks, Pro Bono Net transforms the way legal help reaches those in need. Join us as we share some of our newest technology initiatives that focus on remote service delivery, including Citizenship Works, Closing the Gap, and LHI Connect, and learn how we're working with the legal services community to maximize the impact of pro bono attorneys.

Hosts: Niki DeMel and Mark O'Brien

Southern Center for Human Rights

Reimagining Equal Justice: Pro Bono Efforts to Transform Criminal Justice

The Southern Center for Human Rights is working to transform the criminal justice system, by tackling the archaic practice of debtors' prisons, upholding the humanity of incarcerated people, litigating to ensure the right to counsel, and fighting for the lives of people facing the death penalty in Alabama and Georgia. Join us to find out how you can get involved in criminal justice-related pro bono work.

Host: Sara Totonchi

Start Small Think Big

Providing Limited-Scope Transactional Pro Bono Legal Assistance to Low-Income Entrepreneurs

Join Start Small Think Big to discuss how pro bono attorneys can provide valuable transactional assistance in areas such as entity selection, corporate governance, contract review/drafting, employment, tax, and intellectual property, all of which are critical to helping eligible entrepreneurs mitigate the risks associated with starting a business and building a stable foundation upon which to grow.

Host: Jennifer DaSilva

Swords to Plowshares

Preventing and Ending Homelessness and Poverty Among Veterans

Swords to Plowshares works with hundreds of pro bono attorneys each year to provide legal advocacy to some of the Bay Area's most vulnerable veterans. Join us to discuss how pro bono volunteers can provide valuable representation to veterans before the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense discharge review boards to obtain the care veterans need and deserve.

Hosts: Kate Richardson and Maureen Siedor

The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center

Pro Bono Representation of Trafficking Survivors

Survivors of sex and labor trafficking in the U.S. desperately need legal representation. Some require pro bono representation as they serve as witnesses in federal criminal cases against their traffickers. Others may face criminal convictions for crimes their traffickers forced them to commit. Still others need advocates to file civil suits for damages. The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center provides training, referrals, and technical assistance to pro bono attorneys representing individuals who have been trafficked. Join us to learn more about this cutting-edge area of pro bono representation.

Host: Martina Vandenberg

The Innocence Network

Pro Bono Opportunities in Litigation and General Counsel Roles

The Innocence Network is an affiliation of independent organizations dedicated to providing pro bono legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove their innocence of crimes for which they have been convicted, working to redress the causes of wrongful convictions, and supporting the exonerated after they are freed. Join us to learn about pro bono opportunities at innocence organizations around the country, in both case work and general counsel capacities.

Hosts: Shawn Armbrust and Meredith Kennedy

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

Gain Appellate Experience by Representing Veterans and Their Families

Veterans and their loved ones or survivors may appeal Department of Veterans Affairs' decisions to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). For more than 23 years, The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program has diligently screened their cases, trained pro bono attorneys in the CAVC's procedures, carefully matched volunteers with qualifying clients, and sustained a world-class cadre of experienced mentor attorneys to advise and assist volunteers in winning more than 3,500 cases for deserving veterans. They fought for us – join us to learn how you can help fight for them.

Host: Edmund Glabus

Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund

The Name Change Project

The Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund's Name Change Project provides legal name changes to transgender community members in various cities by matching them with trained pro bono lawyers from law firms and legal departments who represent them during the name change process. Without a legal name change, transgender people face tremendous obstacles to full participation in society. Join the discussion and learn more about how The Name Change Project helps transgender people negotiate the name change process and live authentic and equal lives.

Host: Michael Silverman

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Legal Services for the Uprooted

The Immigrant Children's Legal Program at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants offers mentorship to pro bono attorneys handling immigration cases for unaccompanied immigrant children. Without adequate legal representation, many of these children are unable to make effective claims for asylum, trafficking protection, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or other immigration benefits for which they may be eligible. Join us to discuss how we can ensure that these children receive the proper legal services they deserve.

Host: Clarissa Arevalo

Volunteers of Legal Service

Transactional Legal Services for Low-Income Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners

Volunteers of Legal Service's Microenterprise Project connects pro bono attorneys with low-income entrepreneurs and business owners to provide valuable transactional and business law services. Join us to discuss how to engage attorneys in transactional pro bono and support economic development in low-income communities.

Host: Kelsey Ripper