

2017 REPORT ON THE LAW FIRM PRO BONO CHALLENGE®

Overall Performance

One hundred twenty-nine firms reported performing an aggregated total of 4,988,525 hours of pro bono work in 2017, an increase in total pro bono hours over 2016. Viewed as a percentage of total paying client billable hours, pro bono hours increased to 3.9% in 2017 from 3.6% in 2016.

Participation

The percentage of attorneys engaged in pro bono increased slightly in 2017. The percentage of partners participating in pro bono increased to 68.1% compared to 66.5% in 2016, while the percentage of associates participating in pro bono increased to 85.6% from 84.4%. The combined participation rate was 76.9% of attorneys in 2017, compared to 74.9% in 2016.

Pro Bono for Those of Limited Means

In 2017, firms reported performing more than 3.4 million pro bono hours for those of limited means and organizations serving them, up from 3.2 million hours in 2016. Sixty-eight percent of all pro bono time was devoted to those of limited means and organizations serving them.

Notable Progress

In 2017, 31 of 129 firms (24.0%) reported significant expansion (in excess of 20% over 2016), demonstrating major growth in law firm pro bono is feasible.

LAW FIRM PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

