

2016 PRO BONO INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 23-25, 2016
CAPITAL HILTON
Washington, DC

Helping you fulfill the promise of pro bono

Law Firm Schedule-at-a-Glance

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

March 22, 2016

Alston & Bird Welcome Reception (for Law Firm and In-House Attendees)

Wednesday

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

March 23, 2016

Registration

Law Firm Pro Bono 101

Break

Regional Joint Networking Exchanges (for Law Firm and In-House Attendees)

Networking Lunch (for Law Firm and In-House Attendees)

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Networking Dessert and Coffee

Concurrent Sessions

Break

Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions

Thursday

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

March 24, 2016

Registration

Networking Breakfast

Opening Plenary

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Networking Lunch

Concurrent Sessions

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Break

Pro Bono Expo

Reception

Friday

7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

March 25, 2016

Registration

Networking Breakfast

Why Do Lawyers Volunteer?

Closing Lunch

Please check back here often for newly-added sessions, updated descriptions, and revised schedules.

March 22, 2016

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Alston & Bird Welcome Reception (for Law Firm and In-House Attendees)

Are you new to the PBI Annual Conference? Returning after taking a few years off? A regular who would never miss out? Join pro bono leaders from law firms and in-house legal departments for a reception onsite at the Conference venue, the Capital Hilton, generously hosted by Alston & Bird, to kick off this year's event. This will be a great opportunity to network and get answers to questions from PBI staff so that you can maximize your Conference experience.

March 23, 2016

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Law Firm Pro Bono 101

New to law firm pro bono? This pre-Conference session is designed for leaders at law firms that have recently created or restructured a formal pro bono program and for managing partners, pro bono committee chairs, pro bono partners, counsel, directors, managers, and coordinators who are new to their positions. This program offers a comprehensive, participatory crash course on the basics of structuring, implementing, and administering successful law firm pro bono programs. Law Firm Pro Bono Project staff members will also be available to provide participants individualized tips for navigating the Conference in order to maximize the experience, and introduce attendees to the resources and support available from the Project all year round. Pre-registration is required for this interactive program. Space is limited and available on a first-come/first-serve basis, so register early.

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Regional Joint Networking Exchanges (for Law Firm and In-House Attendees)

Spend dedicated time with law firm and in-house pro bono leaders from your geographic region or global home base to share experiences, explore legal needs and opportunities for collaboration, and discuss issues of particular interest to your specific communities. If you are uncertain about which session to attend, please ask a member of the Pro Bono Institute staff for guidance.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Networking Lunch (for Law Firm and In-House Attendees)

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Doing “More” Pro Bono with “Less”

At a time when law firms are committed to cost and resource-containment, this discussion will explore how to ensure that your pro bono program remains vital and effective. Sometimes it seems that pro bono is all about the numbers: numbers of hours spent, number of clients served, number of lawyers participating, number of dollars budgeted and spent. Numbers matter, but they don't tell the whole story. How can law firms ensure that their pro bono efforts are making a difference? In this day and age, what does it mean to do “more” or “better” pro bono? Are we focused on quality and impact as well as quantity? This wide-ranging discussion will explore how law firms can strategically apply their valuable, but limited, resources to more effectively meet the goal of justice for all.

Law Firm Mergers and Pro Bono

Law firm mergers and large lateral acquisitions are booming, with new combinations being announced at a rapid rate. Mergers involve many complicated and moving pieces (compensation policies, client conflicts issues, leadership and administrative reorganization and consolidation, etc.) and can create anxiety and tension. Pro bono, however, can be an effective piece of a larger and long-term integration process. This interactive session is designed to foster candid conversation and to brainstorm best practices and lessons learned for navigating merger-related transitions.

Strengthening Your Pro Bono Program with Strategic Planning

Law firms commit to pro bono to achieve a variety of objectives. Defining those objectives and determining how success will be measured is at the heart of strategic planning. This interactive session will address your questions about how to conduct a strategic plan in spite of time and resource constraints. In the end, a strategic plan will help you overcome those constraints while maximizing the impact of your pro bono program.

Ten (or More!) Tips for Boosting Your Firm’s Pro Bono Performance

You can improve your firm’s pro bono performance! This problem-solving session will offer a variety of practical techniques for repositioning pro bono, developing a new focus for a changed workforce and business climate, re-energizing your firm’s pro bono program, and improving overall pro bono efforts and outcomes.

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Networking Dessert and Coffee

Meet with other attendees to share experiences, catch-up and make new connections, explore opportunities for collaboration, and discuss pro bono issues of particular interest.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrating Pro Bono

Properly and sensitively recognizing the pro bono efforts of your volunteers and contributions of your leadership has the power to sustain and transform your pro bono program. In addition to being meaningful for deserving individuals to be acknowledged, doing so can be educational and inspiring for the entire firm. This session will offer best practices for customizing the form of appreciation to fit the occasion, keeping events fresh and creative, and making your pro bono celebrations well-attended successes.

Charitable Giving and the Role of Law Firm Foundations

In this budget-conscious era, law firms are increasingly taking a fresh look at how their pro bono activities can be integrated with or complement their charitable contribution practices. This session will explore why firms create foundations, how they can focus charitable giving, fund pro bono efforts, capture and effectively use fee awards collected in pro bono matters, and increase overall transparency.

Making Pro Bono Successful at Mid-Size Firms

Many mid-size law firms support accomplished, nimble, and sustained pro bono programs. What does the future hold for these firms? This brainstorming session will share best practices, explore the unique challenges and features of a mid-size firm, and provocatively assess the position of these firms in today's market. This discussion is designed for firms with fewer than 500 lawyers.

Working Together: A Case Study in Collaborative Law Firm Pro Bono

While individual law firms have the potential to effectively assist underserved individuals and communities, increasingly scarce resources and vast unmet legal needs often require large-scale, multi-institutional pro bono efforts. This session will explore an ambitious multi-firm legal effort to assist Indian citizens in pursuing claims of trafficking. Emphasis will be placed on overcoming potential obstacles to collaboration, including joint ownership versus individual "credit," disagreements over strategy, maximizing institutional resources and infrastructure while streamlining administration, use of technology, the role of public interest partners, and sustaining interest. The discussion will examine how firms, which are competitors in the marketplace, came together to work collaboratively to develop a meaningful and replicable pro bono framework for success.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Networking Sessions and Discussion Groups

This opportunity to network with your peers will enable you to meet with those whose roles are most like yours in other firms, target and candidly address the issues and topics of particular interest to you, and help you make the most of your Conference experience.

Please review the following descriptions carefully and select the networking session most appropriate for your current position. If you are uncertain about which session to attend, please ask a member of the Pro Bono Institute staff for guidance.

P2P: Pro Bono Committee Chairs and Firm Management

This discussion group is for chairs of law firm pro bono committees who administer pro bono programs while maintaining a commercial practice, and those who serve other firm management roles (firm chairs, managing partners, practice group and office heads, executive committee members, etc.).

P2P: Pro Bono Committee Members

This discussion group is for members of law firm pro bono committees who also maintain a commercial practice.

P2P: Pro Bono Partners

This discussion group is for partners (equity or income) who administer pro bono programs on a full-time (or virtually full-time) basis.

P2P: Pro Bono Counsel

This discussion group is for lawyers – associates, counsel, staff attorneys, administrators, directors, coordinators, etc., – who administer pro bono programs on a full-time (or virtually full-time) basis.

P2P: Pro Bono Managers

This discussion group is for professionals – paralegals, social workers, marketing, training, diversity, HR, or CSR staff, and others – who administer or participate in the administration of pro bono programs.

March 24, 2016

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Networking Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Opening Plenary

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Addressing a Global Mass Migration Crisis (Pro Bono in Practice)

Nearly 60 million people are currently displaced from their homes by war and persecution — more than at any time since World War II. Half are children. Where are the lawyers? This “Pro Bono in Practice” session will provide an update on what’s being done to save lives and protect refugees, development, and legal migration and mobility and how pro bono lawyers can help.

Best Practices: Successful Partnering

Although interest in sustained pro bono partnerships is growing, many law firms, legal departments, and public interest organizations struggle to create and maintain successful partnerships. This session will highlight the key elements needed to build and support strong pro bono partnerships.

Ethics: Introductory Overview of Ethical Issues in Pro Bono Representation

This session, which will explore common ethics issues in pro bono representations, is designed for first-time attendees, those new to their positions, and attendees looking for a brief refresher. Through the use of hypotheticals and real world examples, we will examine current ethical rules and select issues, such as competency, engagement letters, supervision, positional conflicts, and risks associated with incoming and departing lawyers. Electronic materials will be made available.

Reflections from the Bench

What is it like to have been the chief judge of the New York State Court system, while championing a broad range of innovative pro bono efforts and identifying permanent funding streams for civil legal services? How has the justice system changed? Join us for a lively discussion and help orient a legal pioneer as he transitions to the law firm world, where he will continue to focus on pro bono and access to justice issues.

Your Pro Bono Story

While numbers are important when sharing the impact of our pro bono efforts, narratives can do what data alone cannot – provide context, meaning, and purpose. Stories are universal and compelling. This session will explore the benefits, challenges, and best practices of using stories to frame access to justice issues; recruit, engage, and motivate pro bono volunteers; sway funders; create a sense of urgency; and inspire action.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Integrating Pro Bono, CSR, and Charitable Giving

Increasingly, law firms and companies are taking a fresh look at how their pro bono activities can be integrated with or complement their charitable contribution practices and corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts. This session will examine successful practices for approaching, integrating, and managing these efforts.

Reducing Recidivism: A Collaborative Justice Project™ Update

While legal institutions have the potential to effectively assist underserved individuals and communities, society's increasingly complex problems and vast unmet needs often require large-scale, multi-institutional pro bono efforts. This session will provide an update on an exciting initiative that aims to more effectively deploy stakeholders from different sectors to collectively develop and implement a measurable plan to reduce and, eventually, ameliorate a persistent and critical societal problem – successful reentry of released offenders from federal and state prisons.

The Challenges of Citizenship: Elections-Related Pro Bono Opportunities (Pro Bono in Practice)

This “Pro Bono in Practice” session will explore how pro bono efforts play an important role at all levels of the election protection, voting rights, and reform processes on Election Day and all year round. The discussion will include emerging issues, how to get started, opportunities for collaboration, and a range of pro bono delivery systems, ranging from research projects to impact litigation to policy advocacy work.

The State of Pro Bono Around the World

As interest continues to grow and obstacles to participation are addressed, global pro bono is being transformed. Panelists will discuss timely perspectives on global pro bono practices and responses to differences in politics, funding, delivery structures, practice rules, national and local legal cultures, and the need for and availability of pro bono matters.

When Helping Hurts: Sustaining Pro Bono Volunteers

This groundbreaking new session will explore the mental health effects of high stress representation, such as domestic violence, child abuse, immigration, and death penalty advocacy. We'll introduce the concepts of “vicarious” and “secondary” trauma in pro bono volunteers and offer tips for those in need of our care and identify strategies and resources for healing and treatment.

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Networking Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

After *Obergefell*, What's Next? (Pro Bono in Practice)

Now that the pro bono community helped achieve the freedom to marry nationwide, what's next for the LGBTQ movement? This "Pro Bono in Practice" session will discuss post-marriage equality pro bono opportunities and priorities, such as securing basic protection from anti-LGBTQ discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, business, education, banking, parenting, public accommodation, and other aspects of life to securing rights for transgender and gender non-conforming people to stopping police and prison abuses of LGBTQ adults and juveniles.

Ethics: Best Practices for Representing Immigrant Children

This timely session will explore ethical issues that arise when representing children in the immigration context, including the duties owed to a minor client, how to manage representation of a client with diminished capacity, how reporting requirements for child abuse intersect with duties of confidentiality, how to anticipate and avoid conflicts of interest, and how and when to undertake joint representation. Electronic materials will be made available.

Justice Deserts

Are you concerned that potential clients in rural areas have access to fewer legal resources than those in major urban areas and intrigued by the potential of ending this imbalance? Sometimes it can be difficult to define "rural." Drawing from the work in the anti-hunger movement to combat "food deserts" (i.e., communities that face unique barriers to accessing healthy foods), this wide-ranging brainstorming session will explore how the concept could apply to legal services to identify "justice deserts." What factors (language barriers? cultural barriers? physical ability and age barriers?) might we include in the formula to try to identify "isolated" communities and how does that analysis inform the solutions we devise?

Marketplace of Ideas

This popular, fast-paced session will be an opportunity to share information about a range of cutting-edge pro bono projects and learn about new opportunities, offerings, infrastructure, and other pro bono developments.

One-Day Transactional Pro Bono Programs that Work

This practical discussion will provide insight into a variety of time-limited pro bono models that utilize volunteers' transactional skills to help nonprofits and small businesses. Pro bono leaders will share their experience selecting a model, assembling the team of co-hosts, defining the scope of the topic, locating appropriate clients, managing volunteer to client proportions, and building upon the one-day model to increase pro bono participation.

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Developments in In-House Pro Bono

Interest and engagement in in-house pro bono continues to thrive and evolve. This session will offer an overview of the state of in-house pro bono and will address the growth of pro bono within legal departments and what these developments mean for pro bono supporters at law firms, legal departments, and public interest organizations.

Innovations in Legal Services

Leveraging scarce legal aid resources through pro bono partnerships, using technology to connect low-income clients to legal assistance, and involving transactional lawyers in pro bono work are common features of the projects the Legal Services Corporation has funded through its Pro Bono Innovation Fund grants. This session will consider several of these innovative and replicable projects and will highlight opportunities to engage volunteers from law firms and legal departments.

Preventing and Breaking the Cycle of Family Homelessness

More individuals and families experience homelessness in the United States than in any other industrialized country. The problem is complex and our response requires a creative, multi-faceted approach. This cutting-edge session will provide snapshots on how groups around the country are successfully addressing the issue, including a comprehensive response to ending family homelessness and preventing homelessness in our cities. The panelists will encourage a dialogue about the role that pro bono lawyers can play in working with other professionals to support these efforts.

Pro Bono “Rainmaking”

Law firms and legal departments are increasingly ready to commit their institution’s talents and resources, if they could just locate the “right” pro bono matters and projects. How can they develop, source, and secure their desired pro bono engagements, be they impact litigation or time-limited clinics? What are the implications for public interest organizations when firms and legal departments apply their entrepreneurial spirit and business development best practices to securing pro bono matters? This session will offer a candid discussion about obstacles and frustrations and identify the most effective means to efficiently and creatively identify and land appropriate pro bono matters and projects.

Representing Children and Adolescents (Pro Bono in Practice)

This “Pro Bono in Practice” session will explore pro bono opportunities and developments related to representing children and adolescents. The discussion will include the status of available pro bono opportunities, emerging issues, how to get started, and opportunities for collaboration.

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Pro Bono Expo

More time for networking! Don’t miss this expanded program – the annual catalyst for new partnerships, relationships, and pro bono initiatives. Meet leading advocates from a range of public interest organizations and learn about cutting-edge issues ripe for pro bono representation.

March 25, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Why Do Lawyers Volunteer?

A growing body of psychological research has identified powerful principles that give us insight into why people volunteer and how to encourage them to more readily do so. Renowned lawyer-psychologist Dr. Larry Richard will review the most important principles, and will provide attendees with concrete suggestions for how to motivate and engage potential volunteers.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Closing Lunch