

2018 PBI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2018
WASHINGTON, DC

Public Interest Schedule-at-a-Glance

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

February 20

Alston & Bird Welcome Reception

Wednesday

12:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

February 21

Registration

Offsite Programming

Programming at Conference Hotel

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. – 5:00 p.m.

Session

Break

Session

Break

Session

Thursday

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

9:00 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. – 5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

February 22

Get Moving

Registration

Breakfast

Plenary

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Award Lunch

Concurrent Sessions

Break

Concurrent Sessions

Pro Bono EXPO and Happy Hour

Reception

Friday

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

February 23

Get Moving

Registration

Breakfast

Session

Lunch

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

February 20

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Alston & Bird Welcome Reception (pre-registration required)

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, in-house legal departments, and public interest organizations for a reception 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.

February 21

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Offsite Programming

Public interest participants at the PBI Conference will gather for a series of brainstorming sessions and conversations to identify areas for collective action and to share effective models for collaboration. Pro bono leadership from legal services organizations, court-based programs, state bars, bar associations, academia, and other public interest segments of the pro bono community will be in attendance. Join forces to activate pro bono nationally, regionally, and locally!

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Programming at Conference Hotel

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Guide to Working with In-House Counsel

With the growth of in-house pro bono, many legal departments are looking to expand their relationships with legal services organizations, but face various constraints. How can legal services organization best connect with in-house counsel and manage these relationships in ways that is effective and beneficial for all, most importantly, the clients? Public interest leaders who successfully engage in-house counsel in pro bono legal services will share rewards, challenges, and best practices, as well as discuss strategies for working with this growing pool of pro bono volunteers.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Perfect Match or an Odd Couple? Pro Bono and Fundraising

How does your organization align fundraising, financial support, and programmatic operations? “Pay to play.” “Exclusive membership opportunities.” This session will explore fundamental tensions and the benefits and drawbacks associated with a range of models that connect (or disconnect) pro bono and fundraising. What role, if any, should pro bono and program staff play in resource development?

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cultivating a Culture of Pro Bono

How do you convince skeptical colleagues of the value of pro bono? What are best practices for ensuring that stewardship of pro bono relationships flows throughout your entire organization? Let’s discuss how we can market, communicate, and spread the value of pro bono to all departments and co-workers at our organizations.

February 22

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Get Moving

An informal gathering for runners and walkers. Meet at the concierge desk in the lobby of the Capital Hilton. All speeds and distances are welcome to participate in this early-morning opportunity to meet your peers informally before sessions start.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Plenary

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

A Collaborative Approach to Justice: Reducing Recidivism

This session will highlight tools and strategies that one multi-disciplinary initiative has adopted to more effectively deploy stakeholders from different sectors to collectively develop and implement a measurable plan to reduce, and ultimately, ameliorate a critical problem – successful reentry of released offenders from federal and state prisons.

All Together Now: Integrating Pro Bono, CSR, and Charitable Giving to Increase Impact

Many law firms and companies have already discovered the benefits of working with their foundations and/or integrating their pro bono activities with their charitable contribution practices and corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts. This session will explore their successes and challenges and provide guidance for how to integrate pro bono, charitable contributions, and CSR efforts.

First Do No Harm: Emerging Ethics Issues in Immigration Pro Bono

The increase in enforcement activity and the use of detention in the Trump Administration pose new ethical concerns for practitioners. How do you evaluate whether the risks of applying for a particular benefit, even before USCIS, outweigh the possible gain? When is it better to leave well enough alone? What if the only choices are between two risky options? How do you handle the duty of confidentiality when some of the risks are to non-client family members? How to answer the “what if” questions if the answers mean your client may not appear for a hearing or interview? Who makes the decision about how to proceed, especially if your client is a child? Can any pro bono volunteer satisfy the duty of competence in this climate?

Housing Matters (Pro Bono in Practice)

This session will explore housing-related pro bono opportunities and developments, including the status of available pro bono opportunities, emerging issues, how to get started, and opportunities for collaboration.

Pro Bono in the Suburbs

Pro bono clients aren’t limited to our downtowns or city centers. Estimates indicate that one in three poor Americans live in the suburbs. What is the pro bono community doing to meet this rising demand for legal services? This new session will explore innovative initiatives to address the unmet legal needs presented by suburban poverty.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Engaging Future Pro Bono Leaders

The session will explore innovative collaborations between law firms, legal departments, law schools, and public interest organizations that engage students in pro bono as they face critical choices about their professional development and examine various effective models, including externship programs; student-run projects supported by law firms or legal departments; and classes devoted to pro bono theory. There will also be an opportunity to brainstorm additional ways to engage the next generation in pro bono at the “lawyer in training” stage.

Protecting the First Amendment (Pro Bono in Practice)

This session will provide a thought-provoking discussion of current events and their impact on the First Amendment Freedoms of Speech, the Press, and the Right to Assemble, and how pro bono lawyers can be of assistance.

Serving Our Seniors (Pro Bono in Practice)

How can we ensure that low-income and other eligible seniors age with dignity? From advanced planning to government benefits and housing protections to fraud and abuse prevention, this session will explore a range of pro bono opportunities and developments.

Time's Up: Actions for Gender Equity

The spotlight is on, and while sexual harassment in the workplace is nothing new, the current focus by celebrities and the media presents a unique opportunity to effect change. This session will introduce the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, which connects those who experience sexual misconduct in the workplace with legal and public relations assistance, and will discuss how pro bono volunteers can get involved.

Update on In-House Pro Bono (Spoiler Alert: It's Growing!)

A panel of leading in-house counsel will provide an overview of in-house pro bono, discuss the role of CLOs and other leaders in supporting such efforts, and address the growth and importance of in-house pro bono within legal departments, companies, and the communities where they work as well as what these developments mean for pro bono supporters at law firms, legal departments, and public interest organizations.

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Award Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break)

Note: These afternoon sessions will be offered in two parts with a break. You are welcome to attend the entire session or you may come for either the first or second part only

Global Spotlights

While pro bono has been popular in the United States for a long time for various reasons, it is now burgeoning in other parts of the world. This fast-paced session will provide brief glimpses of where and how pro bono is flourishing, identify challenges, and crowdsource solutions.

Leveraging Technology to Expand Pro Bono and Address Challenges

The demand for pro bono legal services continues to far outpace the supply and there is often a mismatch between client and volunteer, due to geography, schedules, etc. In response, numerous organizations and collaborations have developed technology to improve the delivery of client services and to expand the reach, efficiency, and impact of pro bono efforts. This session will explore several models and the associated benefits and limitations.

Effective Collaboration

While individual law firms, in-house legal departments, and public interest organizations effectively assist underserved individuals and communities, society's increasingly complex and persistent unmet legal needs often require larger scale, multi-institutional pro bono efforts. This session will provide an overview of the ways in which institutions are collaborating to pool resources to address critical legal needs and will explore lessons learned and best practices for working together.

Transactional Pro Bono: The Next Frontier

While single-day clinics providing transactional legal services are undeniably beneficial and can build interest and momentum for pro bono, organizations engage pro bono attorneys and their colleagues to provide a variety of impactful transactional assistance to low-income communities.

Understanding the Role of Race and Privilege in our Pro Bono Work

What role might race and privilege be playing in your pro bono program? In your relationship with your clients and colleagues? Broaden your perspective and join us for an eye opening and interactive workshop.

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pro Bono EXPO and Happy Hour

Join us for Happy Hour and more networking! Don't miss this 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.

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Reception at the National Museum of Women in the Arts

February 23

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Get Moving

An informal gathering for runners and walkers. Meet at the concierge desk in the lobby of the Capital Hilton. All speeds and distances are welcome to participate in this early-morning opportunity to meet your peers informally before sessions start.

8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided

Times of Crisis: Pro Bono and Emergency Response

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” – Fred Rogers

Hurricanes. Fires. Terrorist attacks and armed conflicts. Travel and refugee bans. Natural disasters and political upheaval. The rapid outpouring of offers of pro bono assistance in response to crises demonstrates a keen sense of ethical responsibility and a strong pro bono commitment. The challenge, however, is to channel good intentions into great results and sustained assistance to foster recovery and renewal. How can we successfully develop protocols in advance that enable pro bono efforts to be proactive, efficient, and effective?

Our closing session will explore lessons learned and develop strategies from experiences with disasters and emergencies that can be used to enhance pro bono infrastructure and response, create effective partnerships, and leverage pro bono efforts to meaningfully address critical, long-term legal needs.