



SECTION 6:

ADDITIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCES

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PILI Pro Bono Initiative

Since its founding in 1977, the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) has cultivated a lifelong commitment to public interest law by creating opportunities for law students and lawyers to provide public interest and pro bono work in Illinois. The Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI), through its Pro Bono Initiative, is a resource for Illinois law firms and corporations developing or enhancing pro bono programs. This pro bono consulting program fosters business cultures and legal careers that feature a commitment to public interest law and pro bono work. PILI works collaboratively with law firms, corporations, public interest law agencies and law schools to create and promote work environments, programs and opportunities that help new associates and seasoned attorneys actualize their commitment to pro bono work. By cultivating best practices, ensuring effective communication and serving as a clearinghouse for pro bono issues, PILI enhances the scope and quantity of pro bono work in Illinois for those who lack access to justice. PILI achieves its mission in the following ways:

Engaging former PILI Interns and Fellows, through the PILI Alumni Program, in the work of PILI and in the public interest law community by:

- Developing and implementing the structure of PILI's Alumni Program;
- Engaging former PILI Interns and Fellows in the Alumni Program and reaffirming in them through the Alumni Program, a lifelong commitment to public interest law;
- Developing and implementing communications and programming as part of the Alumni Program; and
- Working with each annual class of PILI Fellows as they transition to pro bono practitioners in the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Working with law schools – particularly public interest law programs, career services offices and clinics – to promote PILI and public interest law, and pro bono practice to law students and recent law graduates by:

- Developing and implementing law school panels, symposia or consortia on pro bono and public interest law topics when appropriate;
- Assisting in the development of pro bono relationships among Illinois' law schools and law students and the larger pro bono community; and
- Facilitating collaboration and cooperation among Illinois' law schools regarding their pro bono and public interest law efforts.

Facilitating the development and sharing of pro bono best practices and policies with law firms and corporate law departments by:

- Educating law firms and corporations about available pro bono resources and opportunities;
- Recruiting and forming consulting teams to work with individual law firms and corporations that are interested in developing or expanding internal pro bono programs;
- Developing and maintaining a comprehensive pro bono manual containing sample pro bono policies and procedures and other pro bono resources for law firms and corporations; and
- Convening pro bono leaders from specific segments of the pro bono community to discuss relevant pro bono issues within those segments.

Promoting and enhancing pro bono capacity throughout Illinois by:

- Serving as a resource to legal aid and public interest law organizations as they organize or strengthen their pro bono programs;
- Working with legal aid and public interest law organizations to effectively communicate pro bono news and opportunities through www.IllinoisProBono.org, bar publications and other relevant media;
- Encouraging Illinois' law firms and corporations to develop and foster business cultures that feature a commitment to public interest law and pro bono work
- Developing targeted pro bono outreach for particular segments of the legal community, such as law students, senior and government lawyers and paralegals, as well as those with particular interest types; and

- Working with The Chicago Bar Foundation to host periodic educational forums for law firms, corporations, legal aid organizations and other stakeholders on pro bono issues of common interest and concern.

Acting as a clearinghouse for resources and information on pro bono legal issues by:

- Gathering information about pro bono from law firms, corporations, law schools and legal aid and public interest law organizations and publicizing success stories and other relevant information;
- Publishing relevant pro bono materials, resources and success stories;
- Facilitating the nomination of pro bono leaders for recognition by PILI and other entities; and
- Coordinating with other pro bono and access to justice initiatives, including The Chicago Bar Foundation and Illinois Legal Aid Online, and other local, state and national bars and access to justice organizations.

For additional information about PILI and its pro bono efforts, contact PILI's Program Manager, Sheila Simhan, at 312-832-5128 or ssimhan@pili-law.org. You may also visit PILI's website at www.pili-law.org for additional information.

The Chicago Bar Foundation

The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) is dedicated to bringing our legal community together to ensure that everyone in the Chicago metropolitan area has equal access to justice, particularly the low-income and disadvantaged people who are in most critical need of the protections of our civil legal system. Through grants, advocacy and other leadership, the CBF takes a system-wide approach to improving access to justice and focuses on those objectives that are best achieved by working together as a community.

Promoting pro bono by lawyers, law firms and corporations is a core part of the CBF's strategy to carry out its larger mission of working to ensure equal access to justice in our community. In partnership with The Chicago Bar Association (CBA), the CBF encourages and supports pro bono in a variety of ways, including:

Building the Capacity of the Pro Bono Infrastructure in the Chicago Area

- Making grants to legal aid and public interest law organizations for the infrastructure to support pro bono (i.e., pro bono programs with solid screening, referral, training and support functions for volunteers);
- Developing and sponsoring other capacity building efforts for CBF-funded pro bono and legal aid organizations, such as workshops and trainings promoting best practices for pro bono work and initiatives to increase professional development opportunities for legal aid lawyers; and
- Serving as a founding partner and significant funder of www.IllinoisProBono.org, a statewide website designed to provide information and training materials and other pro bono resources to pro bono attorneys.

Promoting Pro Bono in the CBA and Larger Legal Community

- Providing information and assistance to lawyers who want to learn more about pro bono through the CBF's Pro Bono Support Program and the CBF Pro Bono Opportunities Guide;
- Promoting the CBA Pro Bono Resolution to the CBA membership and supporting members' efforts to engage in pro bono services;
- Recognizing exemplary pro bono attorneys through the CBA/CBF Annual Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon and other means; and
- Co-sponsoring the annual CBA/CBF Pro Bono Week and the CBA Young Lawyers Section Pro Bono and Community Service Fair.

Expanding Pro Bono Support from Law Firms and Corporations

- Using the CBF's Law Firm and Corporate Leadership Circles to promote best practices for law firms and corporations on pro bono, giving and related issues involving access to justice;
- Working with law firm professional development contacts to provide improved training and professional development opportunities for legal aid lawyers;
- Promoting other types of pro bono support for legal aid organizations from law firms and corporations on issues such as advocacy, marketing, finance and administration; and
- Working with the Public Interest Law Initiative to host periodic educational forums for law firms, corporations, legal aid organizations and other stakeholders on pro bono issues of universal interest.

Leading Efforts to Make the Legal Profession and Justice System More Conducive to Pro Bono

- Leading advocacy efforts for adoption and implementation of the new Supreme Court mandatory pro bono reporting rule as well as the rule permitting corporate lawyers with limited admission and attorneys on retired or inactive status to engage in pro bono work; and
- Working with the CBA, the Circuit Court and CBF grantee organizations to develop pro bono projects like the Chancery Court Access to Justice Program and the Probate Court Guardian Ad Litem Program.

For more information on the CBF's pro bono efforts, please contact CBF Pro Bono Director Kelly Tautges at (312) 554-8356 or ktautges@chicagobar.org.

Illinois Legal Aid Online

Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) brings together in-depth and up-to-date legal content, detailed information about legal aid agencies, training sessions and events and countless opportunities for attorneys to do pro bono work. ILAO was founded in 2001 as the Illinois Technology Center for Law & the Public Interest. In March 2005, the organization changed its name to Illinois Legal Aid Online and formed an independent non-profit corporation. Funding for Illinois Legal Aid Online has also been contributed by the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation and the Illinois Bar Foundation.

ILAO designed and developed three websites focused on different populations needing legal information and support. For pro bono attorneys, ILAO has developed www.IllinoisProBono.org. This site is freely available to any attorney who is interested in pro bono. The website details information on legal aid programs and their pro bono opportunities throughout the state. Many free training sessions are also available via live webcast and archived as video on the site for later viewing. There is a wealth of substantive content available to assist pro bono attorneys in handling cases in a new practice area.

Other features available on IllinoisProBono.org that make finding and doing pro bono work easier include:

- *Volunteer Opportunity Search:* You can now more easily search for pro bono work based on a variety of factors, including who you are, location, type of opportunity, area of law, skills you would like to acquire, specific client type, and time availability. The search recommends pro bono work based on preferences selected when you register. Registered users also receive email alerts for new opportunities that may be of interest to them.
- *Pro Bono Case Pairing and Mentor Matching System:* New pro bono practitioners can use the tool to be matched with more experienced pro bono practitioners who are willing to serve as mentors and pro bono volunteers can use the system to connect with other pro bono volunteers to share a specific pro bono case or matter. Registration is free and the system is available to attorneys, law students, paralegals and other legal professionals who register on the website.
- *Legal Resources Library:* Each time you log onto the new website it gets smarter and delivers more relevant legal content, news and events to your homepage based on your usage history and identified preferences. Users can now sort legal resources in 24 areas of law by practice area or type of resource, so finding forms or video training presentations is much easier.
- *My Favorites:* For quick one-stop access, you can save links to favorite pages on IllinoisProBono.org and any other website.
- *My Contacts:* You can add contact information for colleagues and friends, which is then available from any web browser.
- *Discussion Board/Email List:* You can share information with colleagues about doing pro bono work and ask questions about your cases, either via the website or email.
- *HotDocs® Automated Forms:* Preparing documents for your pro bono cases is easier and faster with automated forms. Just fill in the correct information, and the document is created for you.
- *My News:* An enhanced news section allows you to get news from Illinois pro bono programs and national legal services organizations via RSS feeds. Registered users can also add their own RSS feeds, thereby integrating news from various sources into one webpage.

Another ILAO site, www.IllinoisLegalAid.org, provides the general public with information on legal aid agencies that might be able to assist them with their legal matter. The site also provides detailed, easy to understand and accurate legal information about the legal process, automated legal documents and forms, and self-help instructions.

The third website, www.IllinoisLegalAdvocate.org, is a site dedicated entirely to legal aid attorneys. The site helps bring together agencies from across the state so that information on programs and services, training modules, job openings and events are readily available at a simple click of the mouse. Legal aid attorneys also have free access to IICLE SmartBooks® online, to participate in discussion groups, to receive newsletters customized to their areas of interest, to access legal aid staff directories, and to access Lexis-Nexis® HotDocs® forms through the site.

For more information, contact ILAO Executive Director, Lisa Colpoys, at 312.977.9047, ext. 14, or e-mail her at lcolpoys@illinoislegalaid.org, or visit www.IllinoisLegalAidOnline.org.

Source: www.IllinoisProBono.org.

American Bar Association Center for Pro Bono

The American Bar Association (ABA) [Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service](#) is the national source of information, resources and assistance to support, facilitate, and expand the delivery of pro bono legal assistance. The Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service is the ABA's center of activity for the development and promotion of pro bono policies and initiatives. The mission of the Committee includes fostering the development of pro bono programs and activities by law firms, bar associations, corporate legal departments, law schools, government attorney offices and others; analyzing the scope and function of pro bono programs; and proposing and reviewing legislation that affects lawyers' ability to provide pro bono legal services.

The Standing Committee and its project, the [Center for Pro Bono](#), encourage lawyers to do pro bono work and help them connect with opportunities that meet their needs. The Center's programs, projects and services help pro bono programs, advocates and policymakers address the legal needs of the poor.

The Center for Pro Bono is a major project of the Committee and its implementation arm. The Center provides technical assistance and planning advice to a wide range of constituents in the field, including bar associations, pro bono programs, legal services offices, bar leaders, law schools, corporate counsel, judges and government attorneys. The Center also produces a number of publications, maintains a national clearinghouse of materials on a wide range of pro bono topics and operates the Peer Consulting Project. The Peer Consulting Project involves peer consulting teams providing on-site technical assistance and planning advice to bar associations, legal services Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) programs, law schools and other groups activating or expanding pro bono programs.

The Center is also responsible for organizing the annual [Equal Justice Conference](#). The Equal Justice Conference brings together all components of the legal community to discuss equal justice issues as they relate to the delivery of legal services to poor and low-income individuals in need of legal assistance. The emphasis of this Conference is on strengthening partnerships among the key players in the civil justice system. Through plenary sessions, workshops, networking opportunities and special programming, the Conference provides a wide range of learning and sharing experiences for all attendees. Pro bono and legal services program staff, judges, corporate counsel, court administrators, private lawyers, paralegals, and many others attend this event.

In November 2000, the ABA, through a generous gift by Melita and William Grunow, created the [Pro Bono Child Custody Project](#). This Project, a joint effort of the ABA's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and Family Law Section, created a nationwide network of programs and volunteers to represent children in custody situations. The Project supports lawyers' efforts through training and substantive materials available on the Project's website. The Project is housed in the Center for Pro Bono.

For more information about the ABA Center for Pro Bono, contact the Center at 312.988.5759, or visit <http://www.abanet.org/legal services/probono/home.html>.

Source: www.abanet.org/legal services/probono.

Pro Bono Institute

Established in 1996, the Pro Bono Institute is a non-profit organization housed at the Georgetown University Law Center that provides research, consultative services, analysis and assessment, publications, and training to a broad range of legal audiences. The Pro Bono Institute's President, Esther F. Lardent, is an internationally recognized expert in the field of access to justice, legal services and legal aid, and *pro bono publico*, with an emphasis on program assessment and the development of new strategies and delivery systems.

The Pro Bono Institute is mandated to explore and identify new approaches to - and resources for - the provision of legal services to the poor, disadvantaged, and other individuals or groups unable to secure legal assistance to address critical problems. In doing so, the Institute identifies and develops innovative programs and undertakes rigorous evaluations to ensure that the proposals and methods identified are workable in the real world of law practice and legal services delivery.

The Institute also strives to take an objective and critical look at the strengths and limitations of current models, and, working with key decision makers and opinion leaders, to assess, improve, and re-think those systems to avoid stagnancy and to ensure responsiveness to new issues, environments, and opportunities.

The Pro Bono Institute does not provide direct legal services. Rather, the Institute is a catalyst, administering projects that support, guide, and inspire legal institutions to enhance access to justice. While each of the Pro Bono Institute's projects stands alone, the Institute selects and operates projects that, working in concert, promote synergies and inform and strengthen each other.

Among the projects operating under the aegis of the Institute is the highly-regarded [Law Firm Pro Bono Project](#). The Project provides a wide range of services to its target audience of larger law firms, including its annual training program, the [Pro Bono Seminar](#), local training sessions and convocations, newsletters that provide cutting-edge information on law firm pro bono activities and trends, empirical research, surveys, and publications, such as monographs and best practices compilations, a comprehensive global clearinghouse of materials and information on all aspects of law firm pro bono practice, and technical assistance to individual law firms and to consortia of firms on a city-wide, state, regional and national basis. The Project, a valued and respected resource among larger law firms, enables these firms, despite dramatic shifts in firm structures and economics, to strengthen, institutionalize, and expand their pro bono culture and service.

[Corporate Pro Bono](#), a joint initiative of the Pro Bono Institute and the [Association of Corporate Counsel](#) (ACC), is designed to substantially increase the amount of pro bono work performed by in-house counsel and to enhance the pro bono culture of in-house legal departments. The Project assists legal services, pro bono, and public interest programs in publicizing and placing pro bono matters with in-house lawyers and promotes and brokers pro bono joint ventures among legal departments, major law firms, and public interest groups. Corporate Pro Bono also works closely with ACC chapters to focus their resources and agendas on pro bono service and sponsors, in conjunction with the Pro Bono Institute Annual Seminar, a [Forum on In-House Corporate Pro Bono](#).

The Pro Bono Institute's [Reinventing Pro Bono Project](#) provides strategic advice, training, and tailored technical assistance for public interest organizations that address the legal problems of the poor and disadvantaged through major impact litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, community economic development, community lawyering, and similar strategies.

For more information about the Pro Bono Institute, contact its President, Esther F. Lardent, at 202.662.9699, e-mail her at elardent@probonoinst.org or visit www.probonoinst.org.

Source: www.probonoinst.org.