

**Remarks to the Pro Bono Institute
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC**

Timothy J. Mayopoulos

February 29, 2008

[Introduction by Robert Sheehan]

Bob, thank you for your kind remarks.

It is a great pleasure to be in the company of so many distinguished guests this evening, including Justice Ginsburg, Justice Zelon, our good friends at Reed Smith and Skadden Arps, and many others.

It is an honor for me to accept the Zelon Pro Bono Award on behalf of the Bank of America Legal Department.

We are especially honored to have earned the recognition of an organization as admired as the Pro Bono Institute and a person of such high esteem as Esther Lardent – the undisputed “first lady” of pro bono. In a little more than a decade, Esther and the Institute have helped to stimulate enormous growth in the number of lawyers committed to doing pro bono work.

The Institute has quite properly challenged the leaders of our profession – the leaders of our country’s major law firms and the senior legal officers of our major corporations – to make personal and tangible commitments to the delivery of pro bono legal services to those in need.

Appealing to the very best instincts of our profession, Esther and the Institute have called upon all of us to show what we are made of.

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I often joke that I have spent most of my professional life making the world safe for bankers.

I recognize that might not be viewed as the highest of callings. I am sometimes concerned that it may not put me in good stead when I report to St. Peter at the pearly gates on my judgment day.

But standing here tonight, I am very proud to be both a lawyer and a banker.

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At Bank of America, we believe that we have a duty to make our communities better places to live and work. That commitment starts at the top of our company with our Chairman and CEO, Ken Lewis.

It spreads through thousands of associates, who together gave over 675,000 volunteer hours to their communities in 2007.

Our Legal Department's efforts in the pro bono arena are an extension of our company's commitment to the communities in which we do business.

What has made the Bank of America Legal Department's pro bono efforts successful?

First, like every great accomplishment in our company, our Legal Department's pro bono program has been a team effort, from top to bottom. There are literally hundreds of my colleagues – lawyers, paralegals and staff -- who have contributed to it.

Second, significant credit belongs to our Pro Bono Committee, a dedicated group of lawyers and paralegals who have been passionate about building and delivering first-rate pro bono opportunities to our associates.

Without diminishing the contributions of many others, I want to recognize the exceptional efforts of two of my colleagues -- Steve Mayo in Charlotte, and Todd Baskin in New York. Steve served as the inaugural chair of our Pro Bono Committee, and Todd succeeded to that role in 2008. Without their combined leadership and tenacious hard work, we would not have been able to accomplish nearly as much as we have.

A third ingredient to success has been to deliver a wide range of pro bono opportunities to all of our Legal Department associates. Not only have we made it possible for our litigators to handle pro bono court cases, we've also provided opportunities for our corporate and transactional lawyers to bring their unique skills to bear.

And we purposely included not just our lawyers in our efforts, but our paralegals and staff as well, giving them opportunities to aid our lawyers and our pro bono clients in the delivery of important services.

Finally, a big part of our success has been our partnerships with a wide variety of outstanding law firms and diverse public interest organizations across the country. This has allowed us to offer a multitude of meaningful programs in many of the major centers in which we have Legal Department associates.

This kind of collaboration is fundamental to our corporate philosophy of philanthropy – that it takes all of us – public and private, non-profit and for-profit, national and local – to solve the problems our communities face.

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While we at Bank of America are honored to receive this award, we recognize that there is much more work to be done.

For example, we know that 80% of the legal needs of the poor are not met. Funding for civil legal services continues to fall short. And despite the efforts of people like all of you in this room, still only 1 in 5 lawyers undertakes pro bono representation of those in need.

We also know more and more people are living in poverty. In recent government figures, 37 million Americans – over 12 percent of our population – are classified as poor. Nearly 25 percent of all African-Americans and nearly 22 percent of all Hispanics live below the federal poverty line.

Perhaps most shockingly, more than one-third of the poor in America are children, the highest of any age group.

So whatever headway we are making, some of our country's problems are clearly worsening.

That's why Bank of America is in this for the long haul. It is why our company's philanthropic commitment is \$1.5 billion over the next ten years and our community development commitment is \$750 billion over that same period.

And it is why we in the Bank of America Legal Department will continue to look for creative and productive ways to provide pro bono legal services to those in need.

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I'm proud to be a lawyer making the world safe for bankers because I have seen the commitment to excellence and social good that both of these professions embody at Bank of America.

If, with this award tonight, we can serve as an example to others of how a corporate legal department can make a difference for those in need, we will be honored indeed.

On behalf of the Bank of America Legal Department, I thank you for this award.