

Uniform Definition of Pro Bono for Major Law Firms

After an extensive review, American Lawyer Media has announced that it will use the definition of pro bono contained in the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono ChallengeSM in its pro bono and A-list rankings. On July 2nd, in *The American Lawyer*, major law firms were assured that there is one uniform definition of pro bono, making reporting much easier. As the *American Lawyer* article below notes, the publication's original definition of pro bono was based on what has become the Law Firm Pro Bono ChallengeSM. The ChallengeSM definition has become the "industry standard" among major law firms and, now, the ALM family of publications. **[FULL STORY]**

The State of Pro Bono in New Orleans

In an article posted on Friday, July 6, *Slate* described the dismal state of representation for indigent defendants in New Orleans. However, rather than simply excoriating lawyers and law firms for the way things are, the article lists some helpful suggestions for change, including the creative proposal that a firm or firms fund a city-wide pro bono coordinator position to help calm the chaos in the current criminal defense bar. PBI's Esther Lardent, in a letter to the editor in response, outlined comments on the article and its approach. Read the full story to read both the article and the letter in response. **[FULL STORY]**

Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO) Forms Task Force to Deal With In-House Multi-Jurisdictional Practice Pro Bono Issues

One potential obstacle to greater in-house pro bono participation is the fact that some in-house corporate attorneys, though admitted and in good standing in one or more jurisdictions, are not licensed in the states in which they currently work. Some states provide exceptions to their unauthorized practice rules or registration systems for these corporate counsel; other states are studying or have recently passed multi-jurisdictional practice rule reforms that authorize in-house lawyers to provide legal advice to their corporate clients. But a large number of state rules do not allow for such non-locally admitted counsel to represent low-income persons or nonprofit groups on a pro bono basis. In order to share interests and ideas and create a broad-based approach to this obstacle, Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO), a joint partnership of the Association of Corporate Counsel and the Pro Bono Institute, is forming a task force composed of in-house counsel from jurisdictions impacted by these restrictive rules, including Arizona, New York, California, Illinois, Connecticut, Virginia, Washington and other locations. Susan Hackett, the Senior Vice President & General Counsel of the Association of Corporate Counsel and a nationally known expert on multi-jurisdictional practice issues, will serve as a key adviser and a member of the task force. In-house lawyers interested in participating in - or learning more about - the task force should contact Eve Runyon, CPBO Director. **[FULL STORY]**

Boston Bar Foundation and Peabody & Arnold LLP Celebrate the Life & Legacy of John G. Brooks

On June 22nd, the Boston Bar Foundation and Peabody & Arnold LLP held an event to honor John G. Brooks. The event, which was held in the Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House on the 70th anniversary of Mr. Brooks' graduation from Harvard Law School, featured speakers including the Honorable Robert J. Cordy, Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch; John J. Curtin, Jr.; Harvey Weiner.; the Honorable Howard H. Dana, retired Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court; Robert Sable of Greater Boston Legal Services; Mr. Brooks' nephew, Nick Littlefield; and Mr. Brooks' granddaughter, Ashley H. Brooks. **[FULL STORY]**

WilmerHale Creates Pickering Fellowships to Allow Associates to Serve Public Interest Organizations in Boston, New York, and Washington, DC

In March 2007, WilmerHale announced the creation of Pickering Fellowships for associates in honor of John H. Pickering, who inspired generations of lawyers with his commitment to the public interest. The Fellowships will allow approximately six associates a year to spend six months each working in a pro bono organization. The firm has since selected several pro bono organizations that will provide challenging and interesting work and have made arrangements with them to serve as hosts for the firm's Fellows. **[FULL STORY]**

The Executive Office for Immigration Review Issues New Guidelines for Those Representing Unaccompanied Alien Children in Immigration Court Cases

The Executive Office for Immigration Review has issued new guidelines for attorneys representing unaccompanied alien children in immigration cases. On May 22, 2007, The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge issued Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum 07-01, in part due to advocacy by the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The new guidelines suggest means to ensure that the unaccompanied alien child understands the nature of the proceedings, has evidence presented effectively, and receives appropriate assistance. The guidelines include a definition of an unaccompanied alien child, basic principles relevant to such representation, modification of ordinary courtroom procedures and configuration, and a confirmation of the Office's commitment to proper training for pro bono attorneys. **[FULL STORY]**

Pro Bono and Marketing

Reprinted from Law Practice Today

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by Bob Weiss

Soon to become a model in pro bono work, law firms are increasingly partnering with in-house attorneys. There are benefits all around. Lawyers tend to enjoy pro bono work, it allows for increased trust with an outside lawyer and there is increased probability of additional work in the future. Intel's new and innovative approach to pro bono work for its in-house lawyers, given a little twist, presents every firm with a way to accomplish its community service goals while concomitantly developing or maintaining relationships with in-house counsel.

Last fall, the computer chip maker successfully used a request for proposal to find law firms to partner with in-house attorneys at its Silicon Valley headquarters on pro bono projects. **[FULL STORY]**

Major Law Firms Perform Pro Bono that Serves Women's Legal Needs

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By Cynthia L. Cooper

WeNews correspondent

Jamesina King, a lawyer in Freeport, Sierra Leone, needed sophisticated research on international human rights to complete a report to the government on the treatment of female prisoners in her country, but had no budget to pay for the work. King, who works for the organization LAWYERS--an acronym for Legal Access through Women Yearning for Equality, Rights and Social Justice--found help from what might seem an unlikely source: mega-sized, 88-year-old business law firm Covington & Burling, which has offices in Washington, New York, San Francisco, London and Brussels. Under the firm's "pro bono" program, a team of attorneys dove in and, at no charge, helped King explain needed prison reforms, said Anne Proctor, the pro bono counsel at the 650-lawyer firm. **[FULL STORY]**

Please Welcome New Staff: PBI's Executive Assistant

Please welcome Jennafer Bonello as Esther Lardent's new Executive Assistant. A 2006 graduate of Georgetown University, Jennafer will be the first point of contact for those of you trying to contact the PBI President. In the year since her graduation, Jennafer has been working as a senior administrative assistant at Edward W. Kelley & Partners, a consulting firm, in the Education practice. A talented multi-tasker, Jennafer worked as a writing tutor while in college, interned on the Hill, worked for the Business Manager at the Georgetown University Graduate School of the Arts & Sciences, and was in the band. Outside of working hours, Jennafer is a coach for a synchronized swimming team, the Northern Virginia Nereids. **[FULL STORY]**