

## CONTENTS

A Gala Evening Celebrating Pro Bono Partnerships

New Publication Available: Law Firm Pro Bono Project Staffing and Salary Survey

Save the Date! *The Power of Pro Bono* – PBI Annual Seminar/ Forum on In-House Corporate Pro Bono to be held February 28, February 29, and March 1, 2008

Seeking Attorneys' Fee Awards in Pro Bono Cases

Corporate Pro Bono in the Spotlight

Recruitment and Pro Bono

National Law Journal Article Details a Recent Report on Disparities in Immigration Adjudications

NY Poverty Lawyers Find Reasons for Optimism

## ARCHIVE

Late September 2007

Early September 2007

Late August 2007

Early August 2007

Late July 2007

Does your law firm or legal department actively use pro bono as a legal recruitment tool?

- Yes.
- No.
- Pro bono is mentioned as part of our overall firm/department culture.
- I don't know.

Submit

## A Gala Evening Celebrating Pro Bono Partnerships

On November 6, 2007, the Pro Bono Institute will host its 2007 Annual Gala at Gotham Hall in New York City to celebrate the power of pro bono partnerships. Law firm and corporate leaders should have received invitations to this exciting and inspiring event recently. Space for the event is extremely limited and the demand for tables has been very high, so we encourage those who plan to attend and join the many other in-house and law firm leaders in attendance to reserve space today! For more information about the Pro Bono Gala or to purchase a table or ticket, please contact the Gala Office via telephone (202) 973-8720, fax (202) 331-0111, or email [probonogala@courtesyassoc.com](mailto:probonogala@courtesyassoc.com). Invitations may also be accessed online on the PBI website, [www.probonoinst.org](http://www.probonoinst.org), and the CPBO site, [www.cpbo.org](http://www.cpbo.org).

[FULL STORY]

## New Publication Available: Law Firm Pro Bono Project Staffing and Salary Survey

The Pro Bono Institute has added a new publication to its extensive library of materials on law firm and corporate pro bono. Each week, the Pro Bono Institute's [Law Firm Pro Bono Project](#) receives several requests from law firms inquiring about general trends in pro bono staffing and salaries. To accurately respond to these requests, the Project recently requested up-to-date information from major law firms about pro bono staffing patterns and salaries via an online [survey](#). Specifically, this survey focused on how pro bono-related duties are allocated among firm staff and how those staff members are compensated for their pro bono responsibilities. Certain trends can be deduced from the responses received, including data to support what we had anecdotally suspected to be the case: in light of the current salary climate at large law firms, pro bono staff members are generally very modestly compensated for their pro bono-related responsibilities.

This report is available free of charge – [in the PBI online clearinghouse](#) – to Member law firms and, as well to legal departments. Other firms may also purchase the survey [via the PBI website](#) at a cost of \$25 for non-Members.

[FULL STORY]

## Save the Date! *The Power of Pro Bono* – PBI Annual Seminar/ Forum on In-House Corporate Pro Bono to be held February 28, February 29, and March 1, 2008

*The Power of Pro Bono*, the 2008 Pro Bono Institute Annual Seminar and Corporate In-House Forum, is the legal profession's premier global pro bono event. This conference is the only event specifically tailored to the interests, needs, resources, and evolving issues faced by law firm and corporate leaders involved in the direction, oversight and administration of their pro bono programs. While registration has not yet opened, please mark your calendars



and be on the lookout for an invitation via email in the near future. Hotel space is limited, and rooms at the conference hotel sold out early last year. To make a reservation, please contact the Willard InterContinental Washington Hotel directly at (202) 628-9100.

[FULL STORY]

## Seeking Attorneys' Fee Awards in Pro Bono Cases

There has been considerable controversy of late concerning the issue of attorneys' fee awards and whether, if a court awards fees, a case taken without expectation of a fee and not in the ordinary course of commercial business can truly be counted as a pro bono matter. The Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge<sup>SM</sup> provides that such awards do not change the pro bono nature of matters, but strongly encourages firms to contribute an appropriate portion of those fee awards to a public interest/pro bono legal organization. The American Lawyer has taken a [somewhat narrower view of the issue](#).

[FULL STORY]

## Corporate Pro Bono in the Spotlight

An article in [the September 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the San Francisco Business Times](#) highlights corporate pro bono efforts – specifically noting the work of such Corporate Pro Bono Challenge<sup>SM</sup> Signatories as Intel Corporation, Agilent Technologies, Inc., and Clorox Company. The article correctly points out that corporate pro bono is becoming more prevalent and that many newly created corporate pro bono programs focus primarily on short-term or “bite-size” pro bono opportunities. The article also makes the connection between corporate pro bono and corporate social responsibility – “CEOs see pro bono work as part of good corporate citizenship and as a vehicle to boost lawyer morale because it exposes the attorneys to areas of law they don't usually practice.”

[FULL STORY]

## Recruitment and Pro Bono

With the employment market for new law graduates remaining remarkably strong and almost 91% of the Class of 2006 – those whose employment status has been reported – finding employment within six months of graduation – subtle differences among employers are becoming more important in attracting new recruits. Although there have been suggestions that a new round of salary increases could become a factor in employment decisions, more legal employers have indicated a resistance to another round of salary wars. In this environment, intangibles and “perks” may become the next weapon in the competition for new attorneys. Discussion of “perks” has also included pro bono as a method of distinguishing the culture at one firm from another.

[FULL STORY]

## National Law Journal Article Details a Recent Report on Disparities in Immigration Adjudications

Disparities in the adjudication of immigration cases have garnered significant notice recently. An article in the [September 26<sup>th</sup> online edition](#) of the National Law Journal discusses the findings of a report on a recent study of such cases.

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The report's conclusions suggest that variations in asylum request results are not affected by either the location of the court or nationality of the petitioner. Read the full story for more details on the report's results.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

## **NY Poverty Lawyers Find Reasons for Optimism**

Reprinted with Permission September 21, 2007 New York Lawyer

Twenty-three years ago when he won a \$25,000 grant from the New York Community Trust to begin what is now the Urban Justice Center, Douglas Lasdon ran a one-man poverty law operation from an East Harlem building that sometimes had heat in the winter months.

It was 1984, not a good year for lawyers advocating for the homeless and otherwise down-and-out clients. Ronald Reagan was president and wildly popular, due in part to his campaign criticisms of a system that supported Cadillac-driving "welfare queens" in Chicago and "slum dwellers" in Mr. Lasdon's own bailiwick who were suddenly given apartments with "11-foot ceilings and a 20-foot balcony, a swimming pool and gymnasium," all for monthly rents of \$113.20.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

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