IN-HOUSE PRO BONO IN PRACTICE PROFILE: CENTRAL OHIO ACC CHAPTER
May 2015

In three years, the ACC Central Ohio Chapter in Columbus, Ohio has transitioned from hosting a single off-the-shelf clinic to developing an ongoing pro bono project tailored to the specific interests of its members and the needs of the community. After co-hosting a Clinic in a Box® program for nonprofits in 2013, pro bono committee co-chair Eric Henricks saw the need and interest to provide continued assistance to nonprofit organizations in Central Ohio. This led to a year-long process, teaming with Barnes & Thornburg, CPBO, and the United Way of Central Ohio, to survey, research, and plan a pro bono effort that resulted in a pro bono nonprofit legal education series for the area's nonprofit organizations.

This series has not only been a positive force for the area's nonprofits, but the ACC Central Ohio Chapter and its volunteers have reaped benefits. According to Henricks, the program "is drawing in some volunteers that may not be as closely involved with the ACC chapter, and allows them to be more closely connected to the chapter. It allows those volunteers to be an expert in a different setting, which supports career growth."

General Program Information	
Pro Bono Contact	Eric Henricks, Co-Chair, Pro Bono Committee Nathan Holschuh, Co-Chair, Pro Bono Committee
Region Served	The ACC Central Ohio Chapter serves Central and Northwest Ohio.
Number of Members	Approximately 450 members
Pro Bono Program History	The ACC Central Ohio Chapter formed its formal pro bono program in 2012. Its first sponsored event was a **Clinic in a Box®** program in 2013. Since then, the chapter has expanded its efforts to support an ongoing pro bono nonprofit legal education series.
Pro Bono Leadership Structure	A small committee shares leadership duties for the ACC Central Ohio Chapter's pro bono program.
Pro Bono Policy	The ACC Central Ohio Chapter has no formal policy.
Communications	Opportunities to engage in pro bono are emailed to members. The pro bono committee also conducts personal outreach.
Recognitions/Awards	Though the chapter has not yet publicly recognized volunteers, the committee hopes to implement a system to acknowledge or award participants in the near future.
Tracking Pro Bono	The ACC Central Ohio Chapter tracks the number of sponsored pro bono events and participants.

Partnerships	Partners include the United Way of Central Ohio and Barnes & Thornburg, who work with CPBO to host the pro bono nonprofit legal education series.
Professional Liability	While relying on their partners to provide insurance, the ACC Central Ohio Chapter is actively seeking quotes from insurance carriers in order to purchase its own policy.
Pro Bono Projects	
Pro Bono Nonprofit Legal Education Series	Partnering with the United Way of Central Ohio to serve its member agencies, and with the assistance of CPBO and Barnes & Thornburg, the ACC Central Ohio Chapter held several pro bono nonprofit legal education seminars, beginning in 2014, on specific legal needs, such as hiring and firing, governance, and leases and real estate, and plans to continue with three seminars a year going forward. The seminars start with a presentation about a specific legal topic, and conclude with the opportunity for attendees to obtain brief advice from volunteer lawyers. Four to seven lawyers from the chapter and Barnes & Thornburg staff each seminar.
Lessons Learned	
Pick the right partners.	The ACC Central Ohio Chapter partners with organizations with people equally dedicated and hardworking in support of their collective goals. The pro bono nonprofit legal education series is only possible because of the strengths each partner contributes.
Research the needs and interests of clients and volunteers.	In order to develop a successful pro bono program, the chapter surveyed its members and the United Way of Central Ohio surveyed its member agencies regarding both areas of law and delivery models. Based on the results, the co-hosts were able to tailor a program that meets the needs of the community and utilizes the skills of potential volunteers.
Invest the time necessary to develop a successful project.	The ACC Central Ohio Chapter and its partners spent substantial time determining the specific model to ensure it would deliver value for everyone involved, including volunteers and clients. As a result of detailed surveys and the time spent brainstorming, the partners were able to come up with a less traditional model featuring legal education for nonprofits, focused on relevant legal topics, and delivered in an effective format that provides for the best pairing of volunteers and participants. In addition, the team developed a library of forms to streamline administration of each event.

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