

Pro Bono Collaborations and Partnerships: When Law Firms and Legal Departments Serve Together

Benefits of Collaboration

For Law Firms

1. Enhance the relationship between the firm and in-house lawyers
2. Display the capabilities of the law firm
3. Raise your pro bono program's profile
4. Engage attorneys and staff in meaningful work that supports the firm in multiple ways

For Legal Departments

1. Build a stronger relationship with outside counsel
2. Expand the pro bono opportunities offered
3. Increase the pool of locally-licensed pro bono volunteers
4. Enhance capacity with law firm's subject matter expertise and administrative support

Logistical Considerations



Malpractice Insurance



Multijurisdictional Practice Rules

Partnership Structures

- **Bilateral** (1 firm and 1 legal department)
- **Trilateral** (1 firm, 1 legal department, and a public interest or legal services organization)
- **Multilateral** (Larger collaborations)



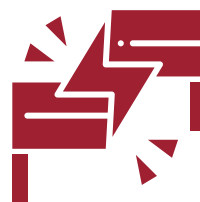
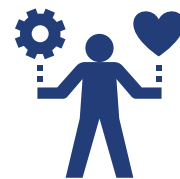
Expenses and Shared Resources



Location

Project Considerations

Balancing of Interests and Capabilities



Conflicts of Interest

Training



Partnership Scope Options

- A specific pro bono matter or project
- Multiple pro bono efforts
- One partner aligns all or most of its pro bono program with the partner(s)

There is no one “right” way to partner. Partnerships come in many forms to best serve the needs of the clients and of the partners themselves.

Contact lawfirm@probonoinst.org (for law firms) or cpbo@probonoinst.org (for in-house legal departments) for help building your partnership today!