IN-HOUSE PRO BONO IN PRACTICE PROFILE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACC CHAPTER

August 2017

The Southern California Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC Southern California) launched its pro bono program 18 years ago in order to expand opportunities for pro bono work and provide resources to help its members volunteer more easily. Since the program's founding, ACC Southern California has regularly hosted a wide variety of pro bono clinics, spearheaded a number of community service initiatives focused on children and underprivileged populations, and partnered with law firms and organizations to provide legal aid to those in need. The success of ACC Southern California's pro bono program is due in part to those strong partnerships and the variety of pro bono opportunities offered to broaden participation among the chapter members.

General Program Information	
Pro Bono Contact	Adriana Dulic, Co-Chair, Pro Bono Committee Jill Kalliomaa, Co-Chair, Pro Bono Committee
Region Served	ACC Southern California serves Los Angeles and surrounding counties.
Number of Members	Approximately 1700 members
Pro Bono Program History	The ACC Southern California Chapter's pro bono program was formed in 1999 as chapter members expressed an interest in providing pro bono and the chapter's leadership recognized that not all of their members' in-house departments were large enough to have a formal pro bono program to facilitate volunteering.
Pro Bono Leadership Structure	ACC Southern California's current pro bono leadership structure consists of two co-chairs. Co-chairs share responsibility for identifying, promoting, developing, and facilitating pro bono opportunities for their members. They have monthly conference calls with their pro bono committee to discuss planning events. The pro bono committee organizes four to eight events each year.
Pro Bono Policy	ACC Southern California has adopted the ACC Chapter Guidelines regarding pro bono, which encourages consideration of existing prototype programs already developed by ACC Global, including CPBO initiatives.
Communications	ACC Southern California promotes its pro bono opportunities through weekly e-mail blasts to its members, on its website, and through personal recruitment by the pro bono committee co-chairs. The chapter also develops flyers that are distributed at various ACC events.

Recognitions/Awards	• **Chapter Newsletter** – ACC Southern California acknowledges all volunteers that participate in all of its pro bono and community service events in its quarterly newsletter. • **Chapter Pro Bono Corporate Counsel of the Year ("Justice") Award** – ACC Southern California presents the Pro Bono Corporate Counsel of the Year ("Justice") Award to the ACC member who embodies the highest ideals of the legal profession by his or her sustained commitment to voluntary service to others.
Tracking Pro Bono	ACC Southern California tracks how many events and activities the chapter participates in, how many volunteers participated in each event and activity, and how many clients members served at each event or activity.
Partnerships	ACC Southern California partners with its sponsor law firms to provide pro bono services. Partners have included Bryan Cave, Gibson Dunn, Morgan Lewis, O'Melveny & Myers, Pillsbury Winthrop, Rutan & Tucker, Squire Patton Boggs.
Professional Liability	ACC Southern California relies on partner organizations to provide professional liability insurance.
Pro Bono Projects	
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) Clinic	The KIND clinic is one of ACC Southern California's most popular annual clinics. In partnership with Gibson Dunn, ACC volunteers meet with and interview unaccompanied minors and gather valuable information that KIND uses to evaluate the type of immigration relief for which minors may be eligible.
Veterans Clinic	ACC Southern California partnered with Snell & Wilmer and Public Law Center for a veterans clinic in 2016. Twenty ACC volunteers assisted 10 veterans to upgrade their discharge status, which can make a significant difference in their eligibility for benefits, housing, and employment.
Nonprofit Clinic	ACC Southern California partnered with Morgan Lewis and Public Counsel to host a nonprofit clinic where volunteers teamed up with summer associates from Morgan Lewis to assist 26 nonprofits with corporate governance issues.
Justice Bus Clinic	In 2016, ACC Southern California partnered with OneJustice, Bet Tzedek, and ACC Financial Services Committee for a Justice Bus event to volunteer in a rural community. ACC volunteers traveled to the Antelope Valley Senior Center to provide assistance in advance planning to seniors.
Small Business Clinic	ACC Southern California partnered with Rutan & Tucker, Public Law Center, and University of California Irvine (UCI) School of Law for a small business clinic where ACC volunteers teamed with UCI

	law students to counsel small business owners on a variety of issues, including choice of entity, real estate, employment, websites, and intellectual property.
Citizenship Clinic	ACC Southern California partnered with Advancing Justice, a nonprofit focused on working for civil liberties and human rights to empower vulnerable communities, on a citizenship clinic to help applicants complete their naturalization applications and fee waivers. The pro bono service provided in this clinic saved applicants over $10,000 in filing fees.
Lessons Learned	
Make sure you have the right pro bono leadership	It may seem obvious, but finding the right leaders is even more important when it comes to pro bono and community service because the job requires a lot of persistent and personal outreach to members with whom leaders of the pro bono committee have formed relationships. It's also important to have leaders who recognize the importance of consistently providing a range of opportunities to broaden participation even if individual pro bono events have varying levels of success.
Offer a variety of pro bono activities and events	Members have varied interests and feel passionate about different causes. It's important to offer a variety of pro bono opportunities, as well as community service events, throughout the year to maximize the number of members who might participate.
Seek out strong partners	Use your personal volunteering as an opportunity to introduce ACC to different causes and organizations and it will pay dividends. It is important to partner with organizations who have people equally dedicated and hardworking in support of their collective goals. The ACC Southern California pro bono program is only possible because of the strengths of its partners.

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