2017
Global Pro Bono Digest
The 2017 Global Pro Bono Digest contains updates from pro bono clearinghouses, roundtables and other initiatives organized around the world. Section 1 includes updates from PILnet-managed initiatives and those of our partner clearinghouses. Section 2 includes updates from law firm-led pro bono roundtables.

The following text has been submitted by each initiative and are not intended to reflect all developments within that jurisdiction. All views are that of each author.

If you want further information, join all of us at the Global Pro Bono Café at Sofitel Chain Bridge on Wednesday 18 October from 14:00-15:00.

**Featuring:**

- Australia
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Paraguay
- Poland
- Russia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States

This digest will be available on PILnet’s website after the 2017 Forum. If you have updates you would like to share about your own initiative, please contact Alix Vadot before Wednesday 25 November 2017: avadot@pilnet.org.
Section 1: Clearinghouses & Non-profits

Australia

Submitted by the Australian Pro Bono Centre
Contact: John Corker | john.corker@probonocentre.org.au | www.nationalprobono.org.au

Purpose:
The Centre was established in 2002 as an independent, not-for-profit center of expertise at the University of New South Wales. It leads legal pro bono service delivery in Australia, with the principal objective of growing the capacity of the Australian legal profession to provide pro bono services that are focused on increasing access to justice for socially disadvantaged and marginalized persons, and furthering the public interest.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. The development of health-justice partnerships
2. Increasing numbers of law firms signing up to and meeting the national pro bono aspirational target of 35 hours per lawyer per year
3. An increase in total pro bono hours driven by more firms doing pro bono legal work for asylum seekers and refugees

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. A new resource guide for in-house corporate counsel and corporations on how to develop a pro bono program and get involved in pro bono in general
2. A new guide on client management and self-care for pro bono lawyers

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Getting greater participation from across the whole legal profession
2. Developing new clinics and projects where "busy lawyers" are motivated to participate
3. Developing models where scarce pro bono resources are targeted towards greatest unmet legal need.

How to get involved:
The Australian Pro Bono Centre is not a member based organization. Lawyers can get involved by just doing it!
Purpose:
The Alliance is the first initiative in France to coordinate the provision of free legal support for NGOs, non-profit organizations, international institutions and social and solidarity enterprises dedicated to the protection of human rights. Their activities include research and studies in comparative law, support for organizational management, administrative and legal support, and legal advice in the case of human rights and children rights violations. Their pro bono lawyers, coming from 25 law firms, assist and represent around 117 NGOs and victims from vulnerable groups in France and abroad in court. AADH also develops various training models for NGO partners, diplomats and young lawyers, relating to the respect of fundamental rights and the legal concepts necessary to the proper functioning of an organization.

Top development in pro bono in the country:
Increased interest by French law firms in getting involved in pro bono.

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Support for refugees and migrants: The AADH got involved in the migrant crisis and enabled the opening of "legal houses" in Calais to help NGOs and refugees understand their rights. AADH won the prize “Coup de Coeur des Migrants”
2. International research study regarding women’s rights
3. Creation of the AADH pro bono awards

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Lack of financial support
2. Need for more cooperation between local initiatives

How to get involved:
Membership model. Please contact Noanne to find out more. The clearinghouse works closely with lawyers to respond to their interests and suggestions, and pushes them to be active members in the development of the organization. AADH regularly communicates on events involving its member law firms, and works to create increased cooperation among the firms.
Submitted by PILnet’s Hong Kong Pro Bono Clearinghouse

Contact: Leontine Chuang | PILnet | lchuang@pilnet.org | www.pilnet.org

Purpose:
PILnet’s Clearinghouse in Hong Kong connects the legal needs of NGOs and vulnerable communities with pro bono lawyers.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. More lawyers are interested in getting involved in pro bono and looking for opportunities
2. PILnet is creating more innovative and interesting projects for attorneys to participate in pro bono
3. Law firms in Hong Kong are beginning to hire dedicated pro bono coordinators to sit in their offices and drive their pro bono programs locally

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. The development of some longer term innovative projects for pro bono lawyers to get involved in
2. Increased connections with new law firms
3. PILnet and DLA Piper published a landmark community legal needs report, ‘This Way - Finding Community Legal Assistance in Hong Kong’, laying out recommendations on how pro bono can be expanded in the country

Top pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Getting more local law firms interested in pro bono
2. Working to get regulations changed in order to make doing pro bono easier for lawyers

How to get involved:
Contact Leontine to find out if your firm or NGO can join our network and access pro bono opportunities.
Submitted by PILnet’s Hungarian Pro Bono Clearinghouse

Contact: Tamás Barabás | PILnet | tbarabas@pilnet.org | www.pilnet.org

Purpose:

PILnet’s Clearinghouse in Hungary connects the legal needs of NGOs and vulnerable communities with pro bono lawyers.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:

1. Increased collaboration between law firms and civil society organizations
2. PILnet is further on consolidating institutional relations with law school-based clinics and leading civil society organizations
3. Increase in larger and medium-size Hungarian/domestic law firms getting involved in the work of the pro bono clearinghouse

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:

1. Hintalovon Foundation collaborated with PILnet to establish a specialized children rights clearinghouse. The project involved more than 20 commercial lawyers in more than 40 cases within 6 months
2. PILnet established a compliance project called Budapest Bridge that engages law firms, leading NGOs, companies and a compliance expert from the banking sector
3. PILnet started to develop legal tools for NGOs to enable organizations to address effectively legal compliance challenges

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:

1. Engage companies, banks and medium-size law firms in cross-sectoral pro bono projects
2. Address the increased legal challenges NGOs are facing due to closing space for civil society
3. Ignite innovation to design projects that address the root causes of social problems and legal anomalies

How to get involved:

Contact Tamás to find out if your firm or NGO can join our network and access pro bono opportunities.
Submitted by the Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA)

Contacts: Rachel Power & Eithne Lynch | PILA | rachel.power@flac.ie & eithne.lynch@flac.ie | www.pila.ie

Purpose:
To connect social justice NGOs with pro bono legal expertise with the aim of improving access to justice and developing public interest law.

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. A successful High Court case that secured the right to a secret ballot for visually impaired people
2. Impending decision on a Collective Complaint brought against Ireland on conditions in social housing
3. New Signature Project with a large commercial law firm that assists victims of domestic violence through family court proceedings

How to get involved:
Sign up to join PILA as an individual barrister or as a law firm. Contact Rachel and Eithne for more information.
Submitted by Pro Bono Connect

Contact: Lara Talsma | Amsterdam | info@probonoconnect.nl | probonoconnect.nl

Purpose:
Connecting NGOs/civil society with top lawyers for pro bono legal assistance. This includes setting up the clearinghouse (a new phenomenon in the Dutch legal sphere) and enhancing pro bono culture in the Netherlands.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Large increase in the pro bono work carried out, in terms of the number of hours put in by individual lawyers as well as number of requests taken on
2. Pro bono becoming more organized: law firms are developing pro bono policies, setting targets etc., a development that is partly stimulated by Pro Bono Connect and the interaction that it has with law firms
3. Greater variety in the types of requests (from complex corporate questions, to human rights, to fairly simple advice questions or extensive litigation)

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Pro Bono Connect received more than 100 requests from more than 50 NGOs in 1.5 years (how long Pro Bono Connect has existed), of which nearly 100 have been matched
2. Pro Bono Connect initiated the Know Your Rights project, a project which brought together NGOs and commercial law firms to legally empower young asylum seekers
3. Pro Bono Connect helped shape perhaps unexpected but very strong coalitions in strategic human rights litigation

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Navigating conflicts in matching complex or sensitive cases and matters
2. Not all law firms express validation for pro bono hours to the same extent (lawyers are not allowed to register pro bono as billable by all firms, only by a few)
3. NGOs and civil society are too unaware of the possibilities or do not yet fully trust commercial law firms

How to get involved:
Please contact Lara for more information.
Submited by Programa Abogación Pro Bono – CISDEP UC

Contact: Monica Cáceres | Asunción | mmc@uc.edu.py

Purpose:
CIDSEP UC is an institution dependent on the Catholic University of Asunción, Paraguay, working autonomously since 1985 to develop investigations, research, assistance in legal issues, etc., in order to improve democracy and rule of law in the country. In 2011, CIDSEP UC started a legal pro bono program to institutionalize and organize voluntary legal services for people in need and NGOs working with vulnerable people.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. There is no strong pro bono culture in Paraguay, but most lawyers do provide free legal services. CISDEP UC is the first initiative to develop a clearinghouse model. Paraguayan society is very conservative, so this has been a slow process so far
2. Still need to inform the community, lawyers, and law firms, of the way the clearinghouse functions
3. Other NGOs have begun to mimic CISDEP UC’s work, which is good in that there is increased awareness but there needs to be a clear definition of what pro bono really means, and how the work of a clearinghouse is truly carried out

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. The creation of a communitarian organization of justice promoters (paralegals) in a small vulnerable neighborhood, creating a bridge between people in need and pro bono lawyers
2. More law firms have started to work with the program to work specifically with NGOs’ legal needs
3. The publication of a 5-year report covering the organization’s work

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. To obtain financial sustainability
2. Promote more involvement among lawyers and law firms (Paraguay counts 500 lawyers per each 100,000 inhabitants)
3. To create a pro bono lawyers committee to study several problems regarding public demands, principally

How to get involved: Contact Monica
**Poland**

Submitted by Centrum Pro Bono

**Contact:** Anna Włodarczyk | Warsaw | biuro@centrumprobono.pl | www.centrumprobono.pl

**Purpose:**

Centrum Pro Bono, the first project of its kind in Poland, is a clearinghouse program run by the Polish Legal Clinics Foundation. It meets a growing need for pro bono legal aid in Poland. It is an important network that matches NGOs with law firms willing to provide pro bono legal aid. Through close cooperation with 30 Polish firms, Centrum Pro Bono undertakes various educational projects addressed to NGOs. They also run a periodical Pro Bono Roundtable, an opportunity for Polish firms and legal professionals to meet and discuss pro bono development.

**Top three developments in pro bono in the country:**

1. Strategic litigation and creative advocacy carried out by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law. HFHR organized an alternative Citizens’ Public Hearing on the government’s draft law on anti-terrorist activities. After an application for a proper public hearing at the parliamentary stage was rejected at a session of the Sejm’s Administration and Internal Affairs Committee, a citizens’ public hearing was organized in an attempt to create a forum to hear the voices and positions of various stakeholders
2. Centrum Pro Bono's activity in general
3. Constitutional Week held by pro bono lawyers in Polish preliminary schools in Poland, raising awareness about the Constitution through lectures

**Top successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:**

1. Lawyers from Centrum Pro Bono collaborated with CPB and held legal lectures and workshops at Warsaw high schools, providing an introduction to labor law and tax law for students attending law and social science-related courses
2. Cooperation with NGO.PL in an "Ask lawyers about..." joint project carried out by Centrum Pro Bono and NGO.PL. Lawyers answered questions concerning various branches of law. Answers were then published online at: http://poradnik.ngo.pl/wiadomosci/podobne/2010617.html

**How to get involved:**

Contact Anna at biuro@centrumprobono.pl to receive cases, pro bono educational projects propositions, and invitations to Pro Bono Roundtable meetings.

Other NGOs giving lawyers the opportunity to do pro bono work include the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law
Russia

Submitted by PILnet’s Russian Pro Bono Clearinghouse

Contact: Dmitry Shabelnikov | PILnet | dshabelnikov@pilnet.org | www.pilnet.org | Moscow

Purpose:
PILnet’s Clearinghouse in Russia connects the legal needs of NGOs and vulnerable communities with pro bono lawyers.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. The concept of pro bono has become mainstream among law firms and lawyers
2. Some bar associations now embrace pro bono at the local level
3. Bar leadership is cautiously beginning to support pro bono as a trade-off for the purposes of protecting their proposed monopoly on court representation (right now, the bar does not have that, and many corporate lawyers are not members)

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. An ongoing project headed by the Center for Autism Problems to reform the regulation and practices in the field of inclusive education for children with autism spectrum conditions
2. Advice to a charity that helps families with children suffering from rheumatic diseases, so that they continue to receive subsidized, vitally important medicines after having been stripped of disability status
3. Creating a personal data protection system for an NGO helping orphanage graduates to integrate in the society

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Developing pro bono outside the big cities
2. Conflicts of interest on "sensitive" matters
3. Pro bono brand being used for PR purposes in cases where the assistance is not completely free to the client, or is used for matters that are not in the public interest

How to get involved:
There is no membership. There is screening to make sure law firms and lawyers are professional and qualified. Contact Dmitry for more information.
Submitted by the Law Society Pro Bono Services

Contact: Tanguy Lim | Law Society | tanguy@lawsoc.org.sg | probono.lawsociety.org.sg

Purpose:
We provide clearinghouse programs to assist individuals (legal advice and criminal legal representation) and non-profit organizations (legal advice, corporate legal services).

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. The scaling up of pro bono participation by the legal profession
2. The use of public-private-people partnerships as the preferred platform for supporting large scale pro bono programs
3. The harnessing of information technology developments (e.g. artificial intelligence) to streamline demand for/allocation of pro bono resources

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
The successful scaling up of pro bono programs using public-private-people partnerships for
1. Public legal literacy
2. Legal clinics
3. Criminal legal representation

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Pro bono is perceived by lawyers as a threat to their livelihood
2. Capacity building and training of lawyers to volunteer in areas which they do not typically practice in
3. Engaging the in-house counsel community for pro bono

How to get involved:
If located in Singapore, email volunteer_pbso@lawsoc.org.sg to register as a volunteer.
Submitted by GongGam Human Rights Law Foundation

Contact: Pillkyu Hwang | Seoul | hopenvision@naver.com | www.kpil.org

Purpose:
To promote public interest lawyering and pro bono with bar associations, law firms, individual lawyers and prospective lawyers and law students

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Recruitment and networking of full-time pro bono directors in almost all Korean major law firms
2. Increased networking of full-time public interest lawyers
3. Establishment of Seoul Bar Association Pro Bono Assistance Center

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Successfully handing over the coordinating role of law firm pro bono directors' meeting to law firms themselves
2. Organizing active work among full-time public interest lawyers, e.g. publication of a legislative advocacy manual
3. Stabilizing the work of Seoul Bar Association Pro Bono Assistance Center as the head of the center

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Lack of pro bono coordination between lawyers and those in need
2. Lack of pro bono culture in many law firms
3. Too much focus on lawyers' self-interest regarding the activities of the bar association

How to get involved:
GongGam works through networking. Lawyers and law firms can contact GongGam directly at hopenvision@naver.com or join various platforms and networks GongGam is involved in (Seoul Bar Association Pro Bono Assistance Center, the Society on Disabilities Law, etc.)
Submitted by the Ukrainian Pro Bono Clearinghouse/Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation

Contact: Mykola Sioma | Kyiv | sioma@ulaf.org.ua | pro-bono.in.ua & ulaf.org.ua

Purpose:
To accelerate the development of Ukrainian democratic society by combining civic initiatives with real pro bono.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. ULAF started to send a newsletter to pro bono providers
2. ULAF now distributes individual applications to lawyers, NGOs, and law firms, and no longer sends unnecessary information to various pro bono providers
3. ULAF negotiated with the National Bar Association (which represents 40,000 attorneys across the country) to recognize lawyers’ pro bono work officially and to advertise pro bono matters to member lawyers as well as on the Association’s website.

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. The Ukrainian Pro Bono clearinghouse helped to create several All-Ukrainian NGOs that are already actively representing vulnerable populations throughout Ukraine
2. Creation of a network of lawyers and law firms that are ready to provide pro bono

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. ULAF is contemplating the creation of a 'Pro Bono club' for providers. What could be topics for the first gatherings?
2. Ukrainian-based law firms do not want to provide pro bono for well-known NGOs, because, according to firms, their funding allows them to pay for such services
3. Ukrainian NGOs do not understand what kind of requests they can send to the clearinghouse – potential clients must be reminded of the opportunity to receive pro bono legal services

How to get involved:
Individual lawyers are all members of the bar, which will announce the opportunity to participate in pro bono and receive benefits such as free education. ULAF is also collecting success stories to publish in the media. At a July 2017 gathering, firms expressed interested in gatherings to discuss the latest issues (not only in the sphere of jurisprudence, but even in an informal setting). This is how the idea of a “Pro Bono Club”, and issues to discuss, has come up.
Submitted by the Brussels Pro Bono Roundtable

Contacts: Charles Albert Helleputte, Mayer Brown & Marianne McKeown, PILnet
chelleputte@mayerbrown.com & mmckeown@pilnet.org

Purpose:
The Roundtable was established in June 2015 by PILnet to exchange best practices, serve as a meeting platform and foster the development of a pro bono culture within law firms that are not active in the area. The Roundtable meets on average bi-monthly. 1-2 NGOs are asked to present on their work and pro bono needs at each meeting.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Reduction in legal aid has led to an increase in demand for pro bono services
2. Increased demand for partnerships with corporate clients in the pro bono sphere
3. Assistance for refugees

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Pro Bono assistance to obtain compensation for victims of the Brussels attack
2. Pro bono in the sphere of EU law is gaining momentum
3. Continued interest in and growth of the roundtable membership

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Need for a clearinghouse and a funding model to sustain it
2. Need to increase the participation of domestic firms
3. Need to find pro bono projects to reflect the mix of expertise on the ground

How to get involved:
No formal membership process. Contact Marianne to receive email updates and/or join a meeting.
Submitted by Pro Bono Deutschland e.V.

Contacts: Peter Braun, Speaker of the Board of PBD & Dentons I Karina Fletcher, General Secretary & Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer I Frankfurt I info@pro-bono-deutschland.org

Purpose:
“Pro Bono Deutschland e.V.” was founded in February 2011. Its members, all of them law firms, are committed to providing pro bono legal services for charitable causes as part of their civic engagement. The Association endeavors to achieve greater recognition and a more widespread implementation of the concept of pro bono legal advice among lawyers. The main purposes of the Association are:

- Providing a sustainable platform for information of member firms on pro bono and CSR
- Support of pro bono infrastructure in Germany
- Support of law clinics at national universities
- Dialogue with stakeholders, in particular bar organizations
- Organizing and sponsoring events relevant to the Association’s purpose

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Pro Bono Deutschland, in collaboration with UPJ, is setting up a national clearinghouse for legal pro bono, which will be formally launched in January 2018
2. Increased recognition of pro bono by bar organizations
3. Increased interest in pro bono legal work by NGOs

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
The greatest challenge remains the recognition of pro bono in Germany. There are still minor uncertainties around working pro bono for German clients. Pro Bono Deutschland e.V. will continue to work towards the removal of those statutory hurdles and to improve the regulatory framework. A further challenge is the need to educate the legal and charitable sector about the concept of pro bono and to provide more information on how to provide pro bono legal advice. The existing engagement of lawyers in this field needs to be made more visible and promoted more strongly amongst NGOs. This is one of the Association’s top priorities.

How to get involved:
The Association is fundamentally open to all lawyers and law firms willing to commit themselves to the principle of pro bono legal advice and able to render such advisory services. We meet every 4 to 6 weeks over lunch in Frankfurt, with lawyers residing in other locations regularly dialing in. For more information contact Peter Braun and Karina Fletcher.
Submitted by the Hong Kong Pro Bono Roundtable

Contact: Annette Bain | DLA Piper | Hong Kong | annette.bain@dlapiper.com

Purpose:
Increase access to justice: to network and strengthen pro bono infrastructure, identify local legal need, and build the pipeline of pro bono work.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Launch of PILnet and DLA Piper joint publication 'This Way - Finding Community Legal Assistance in Hong Kong'
2. Establishment of 'This Way' taskforce to implement the 24 recommendations
3. Inaugural Pro Bono Global Leaders Asia Summit held in Hong Kong to develop increased cooperation and collaboration for law firms to increase pro bono delivery and impact

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. The Roundtable has established its own Steering Committee to plan and prepare more focused agendas which should generate more pro bono work
2. Setting a pro bono target is on the agenda of the roundtable
3. Increasingly, law firms are sending the same designated person to represent it at the roundtable and not just anyone who is available. This greatly increases the level of awareness and decision-making capacity among the attendees

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Lack of awareness of gaps in legal access for marginalized people
2. Legal professional regulatory barriers e.g. an NGO cannot employ a lawyer
3. No legal clearinghouse for individuals

How to get involved:
Contact Annette.
Submitted by Pro Bono Italia (PBI)
Contact: Giovanni Carotenuto | Carotenuto Studio Legale & PBI | Rome and Milan
seGREteria@carotenutolex.com

Purpose:
PBI was established in May 2017 as the first association of lawyers, law firms and forensic associations ever launched in Italy to promote a pro bono culture throughout the country.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Launch of PBI
2. Reform of the Third Sector
3. Increase in local pro bono initiatives by international law firms

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Launch of PBI
2. Organization of the EU Pro Bono Masterclass in collaboration with The Good Lobby in Rome and Milan
3. Organization of two major events, on migrants and the Reform of Third Sector, due to take place by March/June 2018

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Need for new legislation concerning pro bono, including tax relief for providers
2. Lack of a pro bono culture through professionals and civil society
3. Developing a model for successfully tackling the refugee crisis

How to get involved:
1. Get in touch with PBI by sending an email to Giovanni or any Board member
2. Participate in roundtables regularly held in Rome and Milan
3. Participate in PBI’s events.
Submitted by Tokyo Pro Bono Roundtable
Contact: Shotary Maruyama I DLA Piper I Tokyo I shotaro.maruyama@dlapiper.com

Purpose:
The purpose is to increase access to justice: to network and strengthen pro bono infrastructure, identify local legal need, and build the pipeline of pro bono work.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Finding opportunities to do legal work for individuals with the Japan Association of Refugees
2. Referral of pro bono matters from Japanese law firms to global law firms e.g. when an international party is involved
3. Growing connection with NGOs

Top successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Connecting with the Japanese law firm pro bono group
2. Increased frequency of the meetings is helping the group to focus and plan

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Legal professional regulatory barriers
2. Lack of awareness of unmet legal need
3. Lack of knowledge of local NGOs

How to get involved:
Contact Shotary for further information.
Submitted by the Bangkok Pro Bono Roundtable
Contact: Bethany Rose | Thomson Reuters | bethany.rose@thomsonreuters.com

Purpose:
Increase access to justice: to network and strengthen pro bono infrastructure, identify local legal need, and build the pipeline of pro bono work.

Top developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Efforts to respond to the needs of migrant workers and refugees in camps which are being closed along the Thai-Myanmar border
2. Connecting with the Asian Law Students Association which has 36,000 members. ALSA is looking for pro bono opportunities for its members

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Making the roundtable a regular occurrence
2. Attendance has grown from about 8 a year ago, to about 20 attendees now
3. The Roundtable receives logistic support from Thomson Reuters TrustLaw Bangkok which acts as a secretariat - managing the invitation list, sending the invitation and agenda, coordinating the host firms

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Identifying the greatest area of legal need
2. Connecting with local NGOs
3. Legal professional regulatory barriers

How to get involved:
Contact Bethany Rose.
United Kingdom

Submitted by the UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono

Contact: Paul Yates (paul.yates@freshfields.com) | Stas Kuzmierkiewicz (stas.kuzmierkiewicz@dlapiper.com) | Rebecca Greenhalgh (rebecca.greenhalgh@ashurst.com) | London

Purpose:
The UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono provides a vehicle for firms to publicly reinstate their commitment to pro bono and access to justice, to share knowledge and materials, to collectively develop new pro bono projects and to share data on their pro bono practices.

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. The continuing after-effects of cuts to civil legal aid
2. A move away from one-off advice for individuals towards end-to-end casework
3. An increase in number of full-time pro bono lawyers employed by law firms

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. Developing collaborative legal clinics
2. Supporting professional development of the pro bono sector via UKademy
3. Increased cross-sector engagement / collaboration

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. Navigating the fault lines between pro bono for individuals and civil legal aid
2. Working with NFP advice centers which are under great pressure
3. Working with in-house lawyers.

How to get involved:
Contact Paul, Stas or Rebecca for more information.
Submitted by the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo)

Contact: Brenna DeVaney | APBCo covers USA (mostly) as well as UK, Australia, and Europe | apbco@apbco.org | www.apbco.org

Purpose:
To maximize access to justice through the delivery of pro bono legal services by: advancing the model of the full-time law firm pro bono counsel; supporting and enhancing the professional development of pro bono counsel; serving as the voice of the law firm pro bono community

Top three developments in pro bono in the country:
1. Increased collaboration among law firms to address serious public policy concerns
2. Continued professionalization and institutionalization of law firm pro bono
3. Development and growth of pro bono programs in corporate legal departments

Top three successes or achievements of the initiative in the last year:
1. APBCo helped lead the effort to support continued federal funding for legal aid
2. APBCo created organizational structures to distribute pro bono opportunities among member firms regarding issues like immigration restrictions
3. APBCo cemented its status as the voice for large law firm pro bono in the United States

Top three pro bono challenges in the country:
1. An ever-increasing demand for both direct legal aid to low-income clients and impact work on behalf of communities adversely affected by current federal government policy
2. Pro bono in the US relies heavily on a robust legal aid system, and reduced funding for legal aid is a major challenge to the pro bono community
3. There is an ever-present organizational challenge to pro bono because, historically, the "system" is actually a hodge-podge collection of individual firm and attorney relationships with legal aid organizations -- rather than a well thought-out structure

How to get involved:
APBCo membership is primarily made up of attorneys who currently manage a law firm pro bono practice on a full-time basis. Other categories of eligible members include: non-attorneys who manage a law firm pro bono practice on a full-time basis; non-attorneys who provide programmatic support to an APBCo member on a full-time basis and are sponsored by this member. Considered on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors or designee: attorneys who currently spend approximately 50% or more of their time managing a law firm pro bono practice.