



PILI Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable

An opportunity to share pro bono best practices and discuss challenges facing corporate pro bono programs in Illinois

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2013

TIME: Noon - 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Aon plc
200 East Randolph, Chicago, Illinois

1.0 hour of Professional Responsibility MCLE credit has been approved for those who attend in person.

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meet fellow corporate attorneys and pro bono coordinators and learn about their corporate pro bono programs.

II. Information and Idea Exchange

Share your experiences and discuss the challenges facing your corporate pro bono program relating to the following topics, as time allows:

- Successful pro bono partnership models between and among corporate legal departments, law firms, and public interest law organizations.
- Demonstrating the business value of developing or expanding a corporate pro bono program.
- Developing pro bono interest surveys and gaining pro bono program feedback.
- Involving non-attorney staff in pro bono programs.
- Using pro bono programs to build unity in a corporate legal department that is spread over many office locations.

III. Other Discussion?

***About PILI's Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable:** The Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable annually brings together corporate pro bono leaders from around Illinois to discuss the pro bono opportunities and challenges facing corporate legal departments and to share best practices and strategies for successful pro bono programs.*

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT COMMISSION
ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE
222 N. LaSalle Street
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601**

**April 2013 Amendments to Illinois Supreme Court Pro Bono Rules for Corporate, Retired, Inactive
and Out-of-State Attorneys in Illinois**

Amendments to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 716 and 756, effective April 8, 2013, continue to increase the ranks of attorneys who can provide critical pro bono legal services in Illinois. Building on 2008 amendments that for the first time allowed retired, inactive and corporate counsel to perform pro bono service in Illinois, the 2013 amendments make it possible for all attorneys, even those licensed in other states, to provide pro bono legal services in Illinois, as follows:

House Counsel Admitted Under Rule 716. Attorneys with limited admission status under Rule 716 are authorized to provide pro bono legal services in Illinois without any additional registration or other pro bono-specific requirements. House counsel admitted under Rule 716 no longer are required to register pro bono participation with the ARDC or work with a partner organization.

Attorneys Licensed In other States, but not Illinois. Attorneys who are licensed in another state, but not in Illinois, may provide pro bono service in Illinois so long as they do the following: (1) file a registration form with the ARDC; (2) work with an approved sponsoring entity (such as a legal aid organization or law clinic); (3) complete any training required by the sponsoring entity; and (4) annually register with the ARDC ongoing participation in a pro bono program.

Retired and Inactive Counsel. Illinois attorneys who are registered as retired or inactive may also provide pro bono legal services so long as they do the following: (1) file a registration form with the ARDC; (2) work with an approved sponsoring entity (such as a legal aid organization or law clinic); (3) complete any training required by the sponsoring entity; and (4) annually register with the ARDC ongoing participation in a pro bono program.

Under the Rule, a **sponsoring entity** is “a not-for-profit legal services organization, governmental entity, law school clinical program or a bar association providing pro bono services.” Sponsoring entities must do the following: (1) submit an application to the ARDC describing the organization’s pro bono program in which attorneys covered under Rule 756 may participate; (2) certify that the organization will provide appropriate training and support to pro bono attorneys; (3) provide malpractice insurance to pro bono attorneys; and (4) notify the ARDC if the organization discontinues participation in the program. A list of sponsoring entities is available on www.IllinoisProBono.org.

If you have any questions about the amendments to the Rules, or about working with retired, inactive, or out-of-state attorneys under the amended rules, please contact Danielle Hirsch, Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice at dhirsch@court.state.il.us or 312.793.2014 or Kelly Tautges, Director of Pro Bono at The Chicago Bar Foundation, at ktautges@chicagobar.org or 312-554-8356.



PILI Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable Summary

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Aon plc

I. Welcome and Introductions

Pro bono leaders from various corporations including Aon plc, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Career Builder, Deere & Company, Exelon, JPMorgan Chase & Co., United Airlines, McDonald's Corporation, Northern Trust and State Farm introduced themselves.

II. Information and Idea Exchange

Roundtable participants engaged in an information and idea exchange, where pro bono leaders from different corporations led short discussions on the below topics while sharing insight into lessons learned from their corporation's own pro bono programs. The following topics and ideas were discussed:

- **Successful pro bono partnership models between and among corporate legal departments, law firms, and public interest law organizations.**
 - **Possible partnership models include:**
 - Partner with a legal services or pro bono program office to handle pro bono cases;
 - Create a signature, stand-alone project;
 - Sponsor a neighborhood clinic; and
 - Create small teams of staff to work on cases and help provide back-up support.
 - Partner with outside counsel and work on pro bono cases as a team. Many firms welcome the opportunity to partner with their clients on pro bono projects and many have formal pro bono programs and full-time pro bono coordinators. Have your contact person at the firm connect you with the pro bono coordinator or committee chair.
 - **Corporate legal departments have partnered with a variety of legal aid organizations in Illinois including:**
 - Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA): United Airlines' attorneys have volunteered at CGLA's Expungement Help Desk at the Daley Center and provided services to people attempting to expunge or seal minor criminal records from their past and help with in-take training.
 - National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC): NIJC holds weekly clinics to meet the needs of the estimated 75,000 youth between the ages of 16 to 30 in Illinois eligible for the deferred action program. Attorneys from United Airlines and Exelon have helped staff these clinics which work directly with clients to fill out the 20-page application for deferred action and help them find document evidence to prove their eligibility.
 - Center on Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) – United Airlines and JPMorgan & Chase have volunteered through the CDEL's Senior Center Initiative. The Initiative trains attorneys and paralegals to establish power of attorney, offering CLE credit. Then the lawyers meet with clients at senior centers for a workshop to draw up legal documents. The program's manageable time commitment makes it popular and it has done workshops with a half-dozen companies.
 - Equip For Equality (EFE) – United Airlines has worked with EFE to provide legal information and advice to parents of children with disabilities about special education law, help parents draft letter and conduct legal research through their Special Education Clinic Hotline. It is a convenient pro bono opportunity because attorneys can provide services without leaving their desk, and it does not involve representation. Also, teams of attorneys can provide service once every 4 – 5 weeks.
 - Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network (CMBWN)– This is a great opportunity for attorneys and non-attorneys who interested in monitoring court hearings and making suggestions for court reform efforts. The CMBWN Court Watch program is committed to increasing public awareness of the domestic violence laws and promoting accountability, and adherence to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. Teams of 4 -5 staff members rotate through the year.

- **Demonstrating the business value of developing or expanding a corporate pro bono program.**
 - A pro bono program can have a positive impact on revenue by enhancing and supporting corporation's community service goals and activities which create a competitive edge corporations.
 - Pro bono opportunities as a training vehicle allow corporate legal departments to provide a wide variety of high-quality skills training to their attorneys and paralegals at a low cost.
 - Pro bono work can be a highly effective marketing tool (e.g. award recognition, sponsoring pro bono events, publishing pro bono accomplishments on the corporation's website, through reports, and brochures).
 - Working with law firms on a pro bono case provides an opportunity for closer professional relationships with law firm attorneys.

- **Developing pro bono interest surveys and gaining pro bono program feedback.**
 - It is helpful to find out what kinds of pro bono projects would interest attorneys in your corporate legal department. Many corporate pro bono coordinators gauge the interest of attorneys through word of mouth or by knocking on doors and asking people what type of pro bono work interest them.
 - Some corporate legal departments have sent out a brief online survey which will allow you to sort the results by location and other factors (Survey Monkey has been used by a number of departments.). Participants indicated, however, that it is important to be aware of how many survey requests attorneys are receiving since it will affect the number of attorneys who complete the survey.
 - It is also important to consider the resources and capabilities of each corporate legal department with improving or creating new pro bono programs. For example, do you have the resources to take on a longer-term litigation matter? Do your business model and client relationships allow you the flexibility to have numerous lawyers leave the office all at once to participate in a clinic?

- **Involving non-attorney staff in pro bono programs.**
 - Paralegals and administrative staff as well as other non-lawyer volunteers should be an essential aspect of every pro bono program and can be greatly effective if engaged properly.
 - Examples of opportunities for non-attorney legal staff include large scale pro bono help desk or project support services like the CDEL's Senior Center Initiative, (2) individualized pro bono projects where translators/interpreters are needed, (3) volunteer direct service opportunities for staff are also available, like the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County, and (4) volunteer opportunities at individual legal aid agencies, such as becoming an adjunct administrative assistant (5) Non-attorneys help with client intake or with mass mailings for LAF's b Pro Bono Medical Assistance Program. (6)Through LAF Food Stamp Project attorneys and a staff will provide telephone advocacy on behalf of individuals and families who receive food stamps from the State of Illinois and are having problems receiving their benefits.
 - Difficulties can arise when corporate legal departments have policies prohibiting paralegals or administrative staff from assisting with a pro bono case unless their assigned attorney is working on the same case.
 - Some corporations like Exelon give pro bono awards to non-attorneys for exemplary pro bono contributions.

- **Using pro bono programs to build unity in a corporate legal department that is spread over many office locations.**
 - Joint community service/pro bono service days can provide an opportunity for attorneys and non-attorneys to come together, network and work as a team on various service projects.
 - Creating a state-wide or nation-wide pro bono project with a common topic/theme may help unite attorneys spread over many office locations.
 - Finding one national legal aid organization that can help coordinate pro bono projects with all your offices may be useful. However, it may be difficult to find one type of legal project that works with all office locations.

III. Other Discussion:

- In April 2013 amendments to Illinois Supreme Court Pro Bono Rules for corporate, retired, inactive and out-of-state attorneys in Illinois as well as the newly formed Illinois Access to Justice Commission were adopted. The 2013 amendments make it possible for all attorneys, even those licensed in other states, to provide pro bono legal services in Illinois, as follows:
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- The Illinois Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission was created last year and is comprised of members of the judiciary and bar. The Commission is currently engaged in conversations across the state of Illinois to hear about problems confronting the poor and vulnerable as well as possible solutions. The Commission will, among other things, consider: the adoption of standardized forms to ease the burden of comprehension on pro se litigants; means to increase access to effective and affordable legal aid; increasing access to persons of limited English proficiency; and solutions to the problem of physical access to justice for those in rural or otherwise inaccessible areas.