



"PRO BONO ROUNDTABLE"

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DEFINITIONS

PRO BONO PUBLICO

- **for the public good**

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pro%20bono%20publico>

<http://thelawdictionary.org/pro-bono-publico/>

- **involving or doing legal work for free**

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/pro%20bono>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **voluntary work intended to help people in a particular area**

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/community-service

- **work that is done without pay to help people in a community**

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/community%20service>

PUBLIC SERVICE

- **work that someone does as part of a government : the work done by public servants**

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/public%20service>

<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/public%20service>

ABA CLARIFICATION

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▪ Defining Pro Bono

- **Category 1** pro bono is defined as direct legal representation provided to persons of limited means or organizations that support the needs of persons of limited means for which no compensation was received or expected.
- **Category 2** pro bono is defined as any other law-related service provided for a reduced fee or no cost (without expectation of fee) to any type of client, not including activities performed to develop a paying client or anything that is part of paying job responsibilities.

ABA CLARIFICATION (CONTINUED)

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• D. Characteristics of Attorneys' Most Recent Category 1 Pro Bono Service

9. What Tasks Were Performed and What Was the Scope of the Work?

The most frequently reported pro bono legal tasks consisted of providing advice, reviewing and drafting legal documents and interviewing/meeting with the client (Fig. 13).

• B. Category 2 Pro Bono Service

3. What Category 2 Pro Bono Services Were Provided?

Speaker, teacher or trainer on legal issues; board member of pro bono organizations; member of bar committee related to pro bono or access to justice

NOT A BOARD
MEMBER OF A
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION

• V. Conclusion

It is incumbent on the leaders of the legal profession in all quarters to reflect on the roles they can play to be advocates for expanding pro bono. Institutional leadership needs to come from access to justice commissions, bar associations, law schools, corporate law departments, government attorney offices, national organizations, legal services programs, pro bono projects, law firms and other entities.

NFPA® MODEL CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GUIDELINES FOR ENFORCEMENT

[HTTP://WWW.PARALEGALS.ORG/DEFAULT.ASP?PAGE=31](http://www.paralegals.org/default.asp?page=31)

- **1.4**
A PARALEGAL SHALL SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND DELIVERY OF QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES, INCLUDING PRO BONO PUBLICO SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

- **EC-1.4 (Pro Bono Publico)**
 - (a) A paralegal shall be sensitive to the legal needs of the public and shall promote the development and implementation of programs that address those needs.
 - (b) A paralegal shall support efforts to improve the legal system and access thereto and shall assist in making changes.
 - (c) A paralegal shall support and participate in the delivery of Pro Bono Publico services directed toward implementing and improving access to justice, the law, the legal system or the paralegal and legal professions.

NFPA MODEL CODE OF ETHICS

(CONTINUED)

(d) A paralegal should aspire annually to contribute twenty-four (24) hours of Pro Bono Publico services under the supervision of an attorney or as authorized by administrative, statutory or court authority to:

1. persons of limited means; or
2. charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the legal needs of persons with limited means; or
3. individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights.

The twenty-four (24) hours of Pro Bono Publico services contributed annually by a paralegal may consist of such services as detailed in this EC-1.4(d), and/or administrative matters designed to develop and implement the attainment of this aspiration as detailed above in EC-1.4(a)(b)(c), or any combination of the two.

NFPA MODEL CODE OF ETHICS

(CONTINUED)

- **EC-1.4 (Community Service)**

(e) A paralegal should aspire to contribute twenty-four (24) hours of Community Service on an annual basis. For purposes of this EC, “Community Service” shall be defined as: volunteer activities that have the effect of providing a valuable service or benefit to a local community, as distinguished from those services which fall within the traditional definition of *pro bono publico*. By way of example and not limitation, several examples of Community Service may include: working with Habitat for Humanity, volunteering with local women’s shelters, volunteering for hurricane relief, serving meals at local soup kitchens or local homeless shelters.

THE ABA RECOMMENDS 50 HOURS OF PB SERVICE FOR ATTORNEYS; MANY STATE AND LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS MIRROR THIS RECOMMENDATION

NFPA SUGGESTS 24 HOURS OF PB AND 24 SEPARATE HOURS OF CS FOR PARALEGALS, RECOGNIZING THAT NOT EVERYONE CAN ATTAIN THIS GOAL DUE TO RAISING KIDS, CARING FOR ELDERLY, ETC. – HOPEFULLY AT LEAST SOME SERVICE, EVEN IF THROUGH YOUR FIRM

NFPA/PRO BONO LIAISON- WHAT IS IT AND WHY?

- Pro Bono Coordinator for The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals;
- Pro Bono Committee- Chair- The National Federation of Paralegal Associations;
- NFPA/ABA Liaison to Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service;
- NFPA is the *only* national paralegal association with a seat on this committee;
- Quarterly meetings and hands on involvement at the ABA level;
- Ability to work with the ABA and NFPA on partnering paralegals with local pro bono opportunities; and
- Fosters attorney/paralegal relationships and respect

PRO BONO v. COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Making the determination between Pro Bono and Community Service:**

Did the work performed require the supervision of an attorney?

If the answer is no, your time falls under community service.

- **ABA Guidelines**

Model Rules of Professional Conduct – Rule 6.1 Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service

Comment [8] Paragraph (b)(3) recognizes the value of lawyers engaging in activities that improve the law, the legal system or the legal profession. Serving on bar association committees, serving on boards of pro bono or legal services programs, taking part in Law Day activities, acting as a continuing legal education instructor, a mediator or an arbitrator and engaging in legislative lobbying to improve the law, the legal system or the profession are a few examples of the many activities that fall within this paragraph.

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/rule_6_1_voluntary_pro_bono_publico_service.html

NFPA PRO BONO COMMITTEE

- Are you interested? We need you!
- Pro Bono Committee Members- at least one from each region
- Participates in pro bono calls
- Articles for the *Reporter*
- Assists with coordinating CLEs and/or webinars
- Provides region updates and pro bono opportunities

NFPA PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY SERVICE- REPORTING YOUR HOURS

- www.paralegals.org
- Pro Bono Tab;
- Voluntary Reporting of Pro Bono Hours;
- Log In;
- Complete form- About You and About Pro Bono; check attestation and click “submit”;
- Why report? ABA meetings; yearly recognition; ability to track.

NFPA 2017 PRO BONO INITIATIVE

- NFPA has formally adopted the ABA Veterans Legal Services Initiative for 2017;
- Ensures veterans have access to justice and receive the legal support they, their families, and their caregivers deserve

NFPA 2017 PRO BONO INITIATIVE

- Armed Forces Members to be appointed to Pro Bono Committee
- Working with Jason Vail, Senior Attorney in the American Bar Association Division for Legal Services and Chief Counsel to the Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel.
- How can we collaborate on pro bono projects?
- Webinars= (1) mechanics of completing VA paperwork; the ABA's volunteer income tax preparation for Veterans (going into 2018)
- Articles

NFPA 2017 PRO BONO INITIATIVE- GOALS

- Encouraging member associations to adopt at least one activity related to the Veteran's Initiative targeting Veteran's Day or Memorial Day;
- Host a series of webinars targeted specifically on how to become more involved with Veteran's pro bono events;
- Host a webinar focused on paralegal ethical responsibilities in volunteering at Veteran's pro bono clinics;
- Submit a webinar proposal to the ABA regarding the ethical and efficient utilization of paralegals in pro bono settings;
- Conduct outreach via social media encouraging attorneys to utilize paralegals in their pro bono efforts and for paralegals to increase their pro bono hours.

FINDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Partner with local pro bono groups such as Legal Aid; monitor social media/web sites
- Speak at your local and/or state bar public interest committee meetings
- Partner with your bar association and the Young Lawyers Division
- Work with law schools and paralegal programs
- Partner with your firm or attorney or other paralegals in the office
- Look to other counties
- http://www.probono.net/aba_oppsguide/ - ABA National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide
- www.volunteermatch.org – bringing good people and causes together across the U.S
- Contact Christine Flynn for ABA opportunities

For pro bono service, invite a student to shadow you. For community service opportunities, invite your sponsors to help make them feel a part of your association and get to know your members. This should also help secure their ongoing support.

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO MEMBERS

- **Lead by example**

The ABA first issued its Model Guidelines for the Utilization of Paralegals over 20 years ago. Although these guidelines state that “lawyers are the intended audience,” they are more relevant to paralegals. There are 10 total and it is this last one for which paralegals need to make sure lawyers are well aware:

Guideline #10: A lawyer who employs a paralegal should facilitate the paralegal’s participation in appropriate continuing education and pro bono publico activities.

Comment excerpt: The quantity and quality of pro bono work is enhanced when paralegals are included.

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/paralegals/ls_prlgs_modelguidelines.authcheckdam.pdf

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO MEMBERS

- Member Meetings- announcements;
- Newsletters;
- E-mail blasts;
- Colleges and Law Schools
- Pro Bono meetings

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO STUDENTS

- **Don't Forget the students!**
- They are our future;
- Great Experience;
- High Enthusiasm;
- Eager to Learn and happy to help; and
- Visit paralegal schools

PRO BONO: A TWO WAY STREET

- Other than feeling good in helping others- many other “hidden” benefits to being involved in pro bono and community service
 - Expand Your Skills
 - Gain Experience
 - Network
 - Foster Relationships
 - Good for Morale
 - May lead to writing articles/teaching opportunities

PRO BONO: A TWO WAY STREET

- Case Management
- Problem Solving; multi-tasking
- Working with Clients
- Listening Skills
- Confidence
- Foster Leadership Roles
- Recognition

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Chose something that works for your schedule;
- Chose an area that interests you, i.e. children, seniors, etc.;
- Research the group/agency;
- Chose something outside of your normal area;
- Interpreter? Notary? We need you!;
- I can't...I just don't have the time...

OUR “WISH” LIST- 2017-2018

- Assistance with update of NFPA web site pro bono pages;
- Assistance with ABA web site paralegal pro bono pages;
- Update of master list of NFPA pro bono chairs/committees by region;
- Pro Bono article in each *Reporter*

Thank You

for your time today
and for your service!

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