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The Pro Bono Institute Has Moved to New Office Space

The Pro Bono Institute has moved to a new location! The Washington, D.C.-based non-profit, a national and global leader in pro bono, has moved to a new suite of offices on Connecticut Avenue NW. The move will enable the Institute to expand its staff and resources to support and strengthen new pro bono initiatives and opportunities.

Please change your address books to our new contact information:

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You may also [right-click here](#) and select 'Save Target As' or 'Save Link As' to download the Pro Bono Institute's VCard for use in Outlook or your contact management system. For a staff directory, [click here](#).

[FULL STORY]

The Business Benefits of Skills-Based Volunteerism

For some years the legal community has recognized the institutional benefits of pro bono service. As articulated in the Pro Bono Institute's seminal publication, *Making the Business Case for Pro Bono*, there is 'a hard-headed business rationale for pro bono work.' Increasingly, the corporate/business community has discovered that the business case is not limited to the legal profession. A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* and a study sponsored by Deloitte LLP reflect the corporate world's embrace of 'pro bono' as a business imperative.

The *Wall Street Journal* recently published a detailed article on skills-based volunteerism as an office perk. Beyond noting the draw of employer-subsidized volunteer opportunities for a community-service-minded generation, the article also makes a strong case for the substantial benefits that accrue to companies that invest in the development of an infrastructure

Early May 2008

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to support volunteer work.

The recently-released results of a survey by Deloitte LLP also tout the low-cost professional development and retention benefits of skills-based volunteerism. Deloitte questioned a random sampling of 250 Fortune 500 human resource managers and published results with momentous impact for corporate volunteer programs, and by extension, pro bono programs as well. The survey notes that, while training and development are considered crucial business priorities, 70 percent of respondents are dealing with static or decreased training budgets. In the survey, 91 percent of respondents agree that skills-based volunteerism can be a low-cost and effective method of developing employees' business and leadership skills while supporting non-profits in need.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

**Esther Lardent, Named One of the 90 Greatest
Washington Lawyers of the Last 30 Years**

The recent 30th Anniversary issue of the *Legal Times* celebrated the achievements of ninety D.C. lawyers of the past thirty years. In doing so, *Legal Times* named the Pro Bono Institute's President and CEO, Esther Lardent one of the 90 greatest Washington, D.C. lawyers of the last 30 years and a champion in the legal community. As the article notes, Lardent has pioneered key pro bono practices for large law firms and corporate legal departments and has developed a widely-quoted business case for pro bono. Furthermore, she has 'set an example that other D.C. lawyers should follow.'

Alongside Lardent, many of the Institute's esteemed friends and colleagues also made the top 90. Many, like Lardent, were named on the champions list, while others were highlighted as pioneers – those who have made an incredible impact but who are no longer with us, and visionaries – those who have inspired political activism and legal scholarship in the legal community. Two listed as champions include **Judith Areen** – Paul Regis Dean Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, and member of the Pro Bono Institute Board of Directors, and **James Sandman** – General Counsel for the District of Columbia Public Schools and long-time member of the Law Firm Pro Bono Project Advisory Committee. **John Pickering**, the esteemed namesake of a Pro Bono Institute award for exemplary law firm pro bono service, was listed as a pioneer.

Please read the full story to see the description of Esther Lardent's accomplishments.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

**Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO), the Pro Bono
Partnership of Atlanta, Paul, Hastings,
Janofsky & Walker LLP, and Reed Elsevier, Inc.**

Sponsor Free Legal Advice to Atlanta Non-Profits

On May 7, 2008, the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and [Corporate Pro Bono \(CPBO\)](#), a joint project of the Association of Corporate Counsel and the Pro Bono Institute, partnered with the law firm of [Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP](#) and 46 volunteers from [Reed Elsevier, Inc.](#) to conduct a 'Clinic in a BoxSM.' The Clinic was held at the offices of Paul Hastings and provided vital pro bono legal services to seventeen non-profit organizations from Atlanta and the surrounding area by Reed Elsevier attorneys, led by Senior Vice President and General Counsel Kenneth R. Thompson II, as part of a gathering of global members of their legal department. The department is a Signatory to the Corporate Pro Bono ChallengeSM.

Exemplifying the type of top-down support that can truly make a pro bono program thrive, Thompson noted 'This kind of onsite clinic illustrates how actively we are pursuing pro bono across the company.'

Thompson also pointed out 'We do it because it's the right thing to do. One of the underpinnings of our society is that under the Rule of Law everyone – rich or poor – is entitled to access to the law. Our pro bono initiatives help make that access available to individuals and organizations who otherwise may find themselves left out.'

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Pro Bono Victory: Ballard Spahr Secures Settlement for Elderly and Disabled Refugees and Asylees (Kaplan v. Chertoff)

The goals and benefits of U.S. citizenship have become more attainable for thousands of elderly and disabled immigrants. Pro bono lawyers from [Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP](#), a Law Firm Pro Bono ChallengeSM Signatory, recently secured a favorable settlement of a Federal court national class action involving needy refugees and asylees whose Federal Supplementary Security Income (SSI) benefits were cut off due to immigration processing delays. Class representative, Shmul Kaplan, 80, a Holocaust survivor, was granted asylum in 1997 and started to receive SSI benefits and Medicaid. After delaying ruling on his green card application for five years, the government finally approved it in 2003. In September 2007, while the lawsuit was pending, Kaplan finally achieved his goal of U.S. citizenship, and his SSI benefits, which had been suspended for nearly four years, were at last restored.

The settlement covers 20,000 immigrants who have already lost their SSI benefits and 40,000 more who are projected to lose them in the future. As Ballard Spahr attorney Jordana L. Greenwald poignantly observed, 'These plaintiffs truly are the 'huddled masses' that have come here seeking a better life. It is rewarding to know that our work will help thousands of needy immigrants to receive the benefits they so desperately

need and finally become U.S. citizens.' For more information about the case or Ballard Spahr's pro bono program, please contact [Mary Gay Scanlon](#), Executive Director, Pro Bono Program. Read the full story for more details of this critical case.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Law Firm/Law School Pro Bono Partnerships: The Supreme Court Clinic Model

Recent years have seen a tremendous increase in law school pro bono programs and the corresponding creation of cooperative pro bono initiatives between and among law schools, law firms, and/or public interest organizations. These partnerships result, in part, from the growth of more formal pro bono infrastructures at schools and firms, as well as greater competition among firms seeking to recruit, attract, and retain talented new lawyers. Veteran lawyers enjoy mentoring, teaching, molding, and training law students. For the schools, it is also a way to expand 'experiential' learning opportunities for students and satisfy their demands for pro bono work.

One attractive and high-profile partnership model that has been developed and replicated at a number of law schools is the Supreme Court clinic. Partners at major law firms help run Supreme Court clinics at Yale Law School, New York University School of Law, Northwestern University School of Law, and Harvard Law School, among others, where law students work on petitions for certiorari, merits briefs, and amicus briefs. Read the full story for a recent article about these pro bono joint ventures.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Welcome Troutman Sanders LLP as the Newest Signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono ChallengeSM

The Law Firm Pro Bono Project is pleased to announce the latest law firm to sign the [Law Firm Pro Bono ChallengeSM](#)-- **Troutman Sanders LLP**. With over 650 lawyers and 40 areas of legal practice, the firm provides counsel in almost all areas of civil and commercial law. Attorneys at the firm have shown a strong dedication to pro bono work and community service by donating thousands of hours to those in need within their community. Pro bono at the firm has included the provision of skilled legal assistance to families fighting for educational services for special needs children, providing counsel for eviction defense, and a partnership with the American Cancer Society. By signing on to the ChallengeSM, the firm will institutionalize its firm-wide commitment to providing pro bono legal services to low income and disadvantaged individuals and non-profit groups.

[FULL STORY]

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