

Giving Back When Your Resources Are Slim

In our *2013 Chief Legal Officer Survey*, which was conducted in the last quarter of 2012, over 1,100 member CLOs from 36 countries were asked if their company had a formal pro bono program. Ninety-five percent of you said no. Why? The top three answers were:

1. the department is too small,
2. legal staff is stretched too thin, and
3. lack of resources.

If this is your legal department, ACC can offer help through Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO). This global partnership between ACC and the Pro Bono Institute was created to substantially increase the amount of pro bono work performed by in-house counsel. They provide technical assistance, targeted research and publications, online information and services, and outreach and educational programming. Corporate Pro Bono also works closely with ACC chapters.

I understand that we are all stretched thin. But if you have ever been interested in creating a pro bono program in your legal department, even with limited resources, you might have a way through the Corporate Pro Bono Institute. Please feel free to review their website and contact them or your local chapter.

At Walgreens, our company's earliest leaders left us powerful legacies, and they are a part of how we've done business from the beginning. We live those values every day as we try to reflect the vision of Charles R. Walgreen by doing what is fair and beneficial to others. Our company's community-centric culture, including the law department's pro bono efforts and philosophy, are a part of our company fabric. It is part of the Walgreen way of supporting our communities.

I realize that it is often easier for large law departments to create and implement a corporate pro bono program (although we still continue to benefit from the help of CPBO and other groups). Please know that there are resources available and people ready to help you and your team if you wish to begin a pro bono initiative.

We have an obligation as a profession, and as a society, to give back. It's part of our professional culture. Pro bono work helps advance the career path of your lawyers. Also, the good that you do for others is something that will engage you and your lawyers. And I can guarantee that you will find it extremely rewarding. **ACC**



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