

# 2015 PRO BONO INSTITUTE Annual Conference

March 4-6, 2015 CAPITAL HILTON Washington, DC

Helping you fulfill the promise of pro bono

## 2015 Pro Bono Marketplace of Ideas

The [2015 PBI Annual Conference](#) featured two fast-paced “Marketplace of Ideas” sessions, during which participants shared experiences and attendees learned about novel opportunities, offerings, infrastructure, and other creative and replicable pro bono developments.

We received an outpouring of positive feedback regarding these popular sessions and have assembled a brief summary of the presentations. We are pleased to share these innovative projects so that they may serve as catalysts to inspire others to think creatively, strategically, and collaboratively about future pro bono projects to address the most pressing legal issues affecting our communities.

The sessions featured:

- Cindy Anderson, **Lindquist & Vennum\*\*†**
- Eric Henricks, **Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company\*\***
- Heather Hodges, Neighborhood Legal Services Program
- Rene Kathawala, **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe\*\*†**
- Natalie Kraner, **Lowenstein Sandler\*\*†**
- Julie LaEace, **Kirkland & Ellis\*\*†**
- Fiona McLeay, Justice Connect
- Leah Medway, **Perkins Coie\*\*†**
- Bill Nolan, **Barnes & Thornburg\*\*†**
- Bob Sheehan (moderator), **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom\*\*†**

### **Breaking Poverty Barriers to Equal Justice**

Cindy Anderson of **Lindquist & Vennum\*\*†** described and showed a brief video about an “Elimination of Bias” training program they developed in conjunction with the Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN) to enhance communication and relationship-building between attorneys and their pro bono clients. Anderson discussed how ethnic and socio-economic cultural differences between pro bono attorneys and clients may jeopardize the attorney-client relationship and a lack of understanding poverty can doom a pro bono representation. With the help of a nationally recognized professional trainer, Dr. Donna Beegle, from Communication Across Barriers in Portland, Ore., the new training program aims to bridge cultural gaps and facilitate systemic change.

The live [training program](#), which was filmed, was held in October of 2014, offered CLE credit, and was co-hosted in partnership with **Target Corporation\*\*** at its offices in Minneapolis, drawing approximately 200 participants from across the city. The project will culminate in [video training modules](#) and a curriculum guide for use nationwide. They are also creating a brief companion video to orient and guide pro bono clients to work more effectively with their pro bono attorneys.

For more information about this training program and the companion videos and curriculum, please contact [Cindy Anderson](#).

### **Central Ohio Pro Bono Legal Education Series for Nonprofits**

Eric Henricks of **Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company\*\*** and Bill Nolan of **Barnes & Thornburg\*\*†** discussed their work with Corporate Pro Bono and the Central Ohio ACC Chapter to develop an educational series for nonprofits that provides focused training and brief legal advice to executives from local United Way agencies. The series was inspired by the [Clinic in a Box® program](#), and provides critical legal information to nonprofit organizations that are unable to afford legal services by engaging local in-house counsel who are eager to share their knowledge and skills with eligible organizations in their community.

Henricks and Nolan described how they solicited feedback from United Way agencies in the Columbus, Ohio area about specific areas of legal need, and then sought volunteer attorneys with corresponding areas of expertise to staff each program. They spent a year researching and developing a pilot

program, which launched in June of 2014, and covered labor and employment issues. The second program focused on nonprofit governance and the third on real estate issues.

These programs enable nonprofit organizations to better meet and respond to legal needs related to their operations, while tapping into the specialized areas of knowledge of in-house volunteers. This education series is also a “scalable” opportunity for legal departments and firms that may not have the size to engage in large-scale or time-intensive, ongoing pro bono initiatives.

To learn more about these replicable programs, please contact [Eric Henricks](#) or [Bill Nolan](#).

### **Jobseeker Legal Clinic**

Heather Hodges discussed the [Neighborhood Legal Services Program’s \(NLSP\)](#) innovative [Jobseeker Legal Clinic](#), which helps low-income individuals seeking employment overcome legal obstacles that may be barriers to successful job searches. Recognizing the need to “go where the clients are” and that public libraries are critical access points, NLSP formed a partnership with the D.C. Public Library to hold clinics and informational presentations at library branches around the city. Indeed, many low-income jobseekers use the library’s publicly-available computers to complete job applications.

Clinic attendees meet one-on-one with attorneys at the library to address legal barriers to employment, such as criminal record sealing, credit reports, background checks, identity theft, homelessness, obtaining driving and professional licenses, and resolving back child support arrearages. Pro bono lawyers are also often able to help with issues related to workplace discrimination, recovering unpaid wages, tips, and overtime, and employment-related tax problems. The Jobseeker Legal Clinic is an effective model for addressing structural unemployment and related problems in our communities.

For more information about this replicable clinic and how pro bono services can be co-located at public libraries, please contact [Heather Hodges](#).

### **International Bar Association's Anti-Trafficking Initiative**

Rene Kathawala discussed **Orrick, Herrington, & Sutcliffe's**†† [work](#) with the International Bar Association's Anti-Trafficking Initiative to help prioritize markets for anti-trafficking training programs in 2015. The firm ultimately recommended six countries from among the 163 that signed the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking Persons, Especially Women and Children (commonly known as the Palermo Protocol) that would be ideal for anti-trafficking training programs for police officers, judges, and prosecutors.

The Orrick team did extensive research, vetting countries to assess their commitment to and compliance with the Palermo Protocol by prosecuting traffickers within the past five years and which had not been involved in significant training programs to minimize duplication of efforts, eventually narrowing the list down to, as requested, six countries – Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Hungary, Indonesia, Madagascar, and Niger. The team was comprised of 34 attorneys in 12 offices across the U.S., Asia, and Europe and is a prime example of how large-scale pro bono projects can be used to integrate the offices of a global law firm.

For more information about this project, please contact [Rene Kathawala](#).

### **Juvenile Justice**

Natalie Kraner described **Lowenstein Sandler's**†† new pro bono initiative to reform the New Jersey juvenile justice system. The firm helped form a juvenile justice working group, bringing together prominent academics, nonprofits, and the Office of the Public Defender in an effort to reduce the harms suffered by juveniles in state custody. The coalition has engaged in a number of advocacy and reform efforts, and has developed the necessary infrastructure to address a range of juvenile justice issues in New Jersey.

Lowenstein Sandler attorneys and summer associates conducted a nationwide [survey](#) on the use of solitary confinement in juvenile facilities. Relying on this research, the coalition is seeking through executive and legislative advocacy to eliminate or reduce the use of punitive solitary confinement. Advocates around the country have likewise relied on these data in successful campaigns to eliminate or limit the use of isolation in their jurisdictions. The coalition has also engaged in impact litigation

challenging transfers from juvenile custody to adult prisons. Additionally, it regularly hosts roundtable discussions with various stakeholders – including police, corrections officers, prosecutors, public defenders, parents of children in the justice system, young adults who were in the system, legislators, and judges – to discuss and initiate reforms.

Through this work, the coalition has attracted the attention of national foundations that will help sponsor a multi-year campaign with the twin goals of creating viable alternatives to incarceration and insisting on more humane treatment for juveniles in state custody.

For more information about Lowenstein Sandler’s juvenile justice initiative, please contact [Natalie Kraner](#).

#### **Legal Aid Academy**

Julie LaEace of **Kirkland & Ellis**<sup>\*\*</sup> shared the firm’s contributions to the Chicago Bar Foundation’s [Legal Aid Academy](#), a program designed to improve training and professional development opportunities for attorneys and staff working for legal services providers. Building on its elaborate and pioneering in-house trial advocacy trainings (including lectures, workshops, and mock trials that take place as part of the nationally renowned “Kirkland Institute for Trial Advocacy (KITA)”), to which Kirkland invites legal aid attorneys as appropriate, the firm’s training and development team created a customized [two-day deposition skills program](#) for legal aid attorneys. The intensive program was taught by veteran legal aid attorneys and Kirkland partners. The firm hired actors to serve as witnesses and court reporters were present to heighten the experiential learning.

The program not only provided significant and tailored training to the participants, it also produced unexpected benefits: the Kirkland partners (many of whom were not regularly engaged with pro bono work) and legal aid attorneys enjoyed learning more about each other, with each gaining a greater appreciation for the other’s practice.

For more information about how your firm could offer training and professional development to legal services attorneys, please contact [Julie LaEace](#).

## **Health Justice Partnerships**

Fiona McLeay discussed the [Health Justice Partnership](#) (HJP) model of legal services delivery in Australia. HJP is a holistic model of collaboration between lawyers and medical professionals that seeks to provide better health outcomes and access to justice, similar to the Medical-Legal Partnership model in the U.S. McLeay described how her organization, Justice Connect, identifies unmet legal needs in a community and develops partnerships to address them.

For example, Justice Connect's [Seniors Law program](#) helps the elderly age with dignity and respect by reducing the incidence of elder abuse. They originally developed a clinic-based approach for the program, but this strategy was unsuccessful due to the breadth and complexity of the problem. Using the "[theory of change](#)," Justice Connect's evaluation methodology through which success is measured by identifying and monitoring metrics associated with key outcomes, they reexamined their efforts. After extensive research and data analysis, they determined that elder abuse was, in fact, happening, but various factors, such as reluctance to disclose information to lawyers, posed barriers to the provision of legal services. Justice Connect consequently adopted the HJP model of legal services for their Seniors Law program, which has allowed them to better identify legal issues and potential clients. They have received three years of funding to place a lawyer at a community health organization in Melbourne for a majority of each week, allowing them to help thousands of clients each year.

To learn more about Health Justice Partnerships, please contact [Fiona McLeay](#).

## **Building and Sustaining Clinics**

Leah Medway described how **Perkins Coie**<sup>\*†</sup> developed its Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clinic and discussed how the clinic model can be used effectively. She identified three keys to success: (1) having strong partnerships with legal services providers; (2) having ample administrative support within the firm; and (3) strategically using technology to achieve growth and maximize outcomes. Perkins Coie partnered with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) to create and administer its twice-monthly DACA clinics. NWIRP prescreens all clients for eligibility. Firm pro bono attorneys have access to the expertise of an experienced immigration lawyer, as a NWIRP representative is present on-site at each clinic. Additionally, Medway noted that there is strong

administrative support for the clinic within the firm, with an enthusiastic associate who spearheads the initiative and a clinic coordinator. They have had no shortage of volunteers and the DACA clinic has been a particularly popular pro bono opportunity among the firm's business lawyers. Finally, with the help of its IT department, Perkins Coie has used technology to significantly increase the clinic's efficiency and increase the number of clients helped. An attorney at the firm developed a program that auto-populates forms and they are beta-testing a website that would allow clients to enter relevant information prior to meeting with an attorney. With the proposed DACA expansion allowing for possibly enhanced eligibility, the clinic is positioned to expand even further to efficiently serve a larger volume of clients.

For more information about building and sustaining a pro bono clinic, or about DACA clinics in particular, please contact [Leah Medway](#).

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We look forward to learning more and sharing other replicable ideas and projects at the 2016 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., March 23-25. We invite those wishing to serve as presenters to submit brief proposals in advance describing their initiatives, to ensure adequate planning and capacity. Please send submissions to [probono@probonoinst.org](mailto:probono@probonoinst.org). (Due to time limitations, we may not be able to accept all proposals.)

*PBI thanks the presenters for their participation in these sessions and for providing updates for this summary.*

\*denotes a Signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge®

\*\*denotes a Signatory to the Corporate Pro Bono Challenge®

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