

PRO BONO INITIATIVE
A joint project of the Public Interest Law Initiative and The Chicago Bar Foundation
Semi-Annual Pro Bono Forum
Thursday, April 26, 2007 – 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

4:00 – 4:04 **Welcome and Introductions – Michael G. Bergmann, PBI Director**

4:05 – 4:25 **PANEL I**

This panel will focus on the identifying differences and similarities in the organizational dynamics of law firms, legal aid agencies and corporate law departments that impact pro bono work. A legal aid agency representative will discuss how the agency utilizes pro bono attorneys and how their pro bono program is structured. Law firm and corporate legal department representatives will describe what kinds of opportunities their attorneys are looking for and what works in their cultures. The panelists will also discuss differences between their needs and strategies for how to overcome obstacles.

Legal Aid Representative: Dick Hess, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Law Firm Representative: Brad Lane, Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione
Corporate Law Department Representative: Beth Benjamin, LaSalle Bank Corporation

4:26 – 4:46 **PANEL II**

This panel will compare and contrast the flexibility and modifications needed for legal aid organizations to effectively work with 1) law firms and 2) corporate law departments. The panel will also discuss the challenges facing agencies when working with these entities and suggestions for avoiding pitfalls.

Legal Aid Representative: Alecia Wartowski, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
Law Firm Representative: Jonathan K. Baum, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
Corporate Law Department Representative: Margaret Balsley-Cross, Exelon Corporation

4:47 – 5:07 **PANEL III**

This panel will explore three-way partnerships between law firms, legal aid agencies and corporate legal departments. Examples of successful partnerships will be discussed as well as partnership models and associated challenges and benefits each model presents.

Legal Aid Representative: Mony Ruiz-Velasco, National Immigrant Justice Center
Law Firm Representative: Phillip A. Casey, Sonnenschein Rosenthal & Nath LLP
Corporate Law Department Representative: Beth A. Vrioni, Abbott Laboratories

5:08 – 5:18 **IllinoisProBono.org Demonstration**

A representative from Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) will demonstrate the recently launched new version of the source for information for Illinois' pro bono attorneys, IllinoisProBono.org.

5:19 – 5:49 **Roundtable Discussions**

Facilitators will lead roundtable discussions amongst representatives from corporate law department, legal aid and public interest law organizations and law firms on the issues raised during the panel discussions and possible solutions to commonly faced pro bono issues.

5:50 – 6:00 **Roundtable Wrap-up**

The roundtable discussion facilitators will share the issues discussed at each table as well as any innovative ideas or solutions that we discussed by each group.