

April 9, 2025

Building Effective Pro Bono Immigration Legal Programs

switchboard
connecting resettlement experts





Today's Facilitator



Jennie Guilfoyle

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Today's Roundtable Panelists



Jayme Cassidy

Pro Bono Transactions Counsel
McDermott Wil and Emery LLP

Kristin Clarens

Pro Bono Coordinator
Legal Aid Justice Center

Jessica Daly

Pro Bono Coordinator
HIAS Pennsylvania

Theresa Dykoschak

Pro Bono Director
The Advocates for Human Rights

Learning Objectives



By the end of this roundtable, you will be able to:

1

EXPLAIN

how pro bono attorneys
can increase the
capacity of immigration
legal service programs

2

USE

strategies to recruit law
firms and attorneys to
handle pro bono
immigration cases

3

APPLY

strategies to sustainably
provide training and
mentorship support to
pro bono attorneys

How are pro bono programs useful?



To nonprofit
organizations



To law firms



What kinds of cases are best for pro bono attorneys?

- From law firm perspective
- From nonprofit perspective



Case Scenario: Anna



Anna is an attorney at a small nonprofit organization in a medium-sized city.

Her nonprofit offers immigration legal services to asylees and refugees. The organization has only sporadically used pro bono volunteers but now sees a real need for additional legal help.

Anna has been tasked with building a pro bono program for the organization. She is trying to figure out how best to find attorneys who might be able to take on pro bono work. She is creating a plan for who to approach and how to approach them.

The first task Anna has identified is determining which types of cases might be good to place with pro bono attorneys.



Pro Bono Recruitment Strategies



Nonprofit Organizations

What has worked to recruit pro bono attorneys in each of these categories?

- Individual attorneys
- Local law firms
- Large national firms
- In-house counsel



Law Firms

How do you find pro bono opportunities?

- What do you want to hear about when nonprofits reach out?
- What kinds of opportunities and partnerships do you seek out?

Case Scenario: Anna (cont.)

Now that Anna has determined which cases she might place with pro bono attorneys, her next task is to create an outreach strategy.

Anna is considering reaching out to a small, local law firm but is not sure of the best approach. She's also thinking about contacting the local office of a national law firm and is wondering if her approach should be different with them.

Additionally, Anna is brainstorming ways to interest her state's bar association in her organization's work.



Supporting Pro Bono Attorneys



Nonprofit Organizations

- What types of support do you provide to pro bono attorneys?
- What types of support do you observe pro bono attorneys typically needing?
- Where do you find that support?



Law Firms

- What support do your attorneys need when representing pro bono clients?
- How do your attorneys prefer to receive support?



Case Scenario: Anna (cont.)

Now that Anna has figured out who she might reach out to, she needs to determine what types of support her pro bono volunteers will need as they embark on their work.

Anna has a small staff and needs to figure out how best to deploy them to support her new pro bono volunteers.

She wants to meet her volunteers' needs while ensuring that her staff still have time to handle their own cases.



Audience Q&A with Today's Roundtable Panelists



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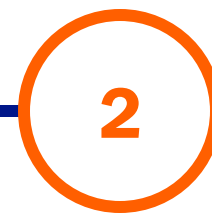


Now you are able to:



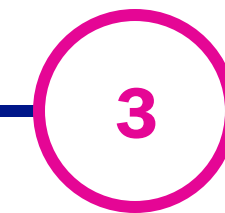
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Recommended Resources

- [Pro Bono Best Practices: Six Key Takeaways for a Successful Program](#)



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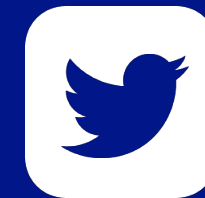
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