

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Pro Bono Committee
Follow-Up Summit Workgroup
July 18, 2013

The Pro Bono Committee Follow-Up Summit Workgroup met on Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 3:00pm at 95 Washington Street, Hartford in room 204.

Those in attendance: Attorney Jonathan Shapiro, Chair, Hon. William H. Bright, Jr., Hon. Timothy Keeney and Attorney Catherine Mohan.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

1. Attorney Shapiro convened the meeting and welcomed the Workgroup members and thanked everyone for attending.
2. Judge Bright provided the Workgroup with a brief, historical summation of the Pro Bono Committee's work. He recounted that the first Pro Bono Summit held in October 2011 adopted a basic, two-prong approach to pro bono. The first goal of the Summit was to increase awareness within the legal community about the need for and the importance of pro bono service. The second goal was to eliminate barriers to providing pro bono services by creating a comprehensive set of tools and resources such as the Pro Bono Portal and Pro Bono Catalog. Additionally, the goal was to have the pro bono message delivered by the managing partners and general counsel from Connecticut's large firms and corporations to create a "trickle-down" effect to reinforce the importance of pro bono service.

The Administrative Judges and Chief Administrative Judges were also an important part of the pro bono initiative at the 2011 Summit. The message was sent to the legal and corporate community that the civil and family judges, the Chief Justice and the Governor all stand firmly behind the Judicial Branch's commitment to pro bono.

Judge Bright also reported that New York has adopted mandatory pro bono reporting rules that requires attorneys to report their hours of pro bono service when they complete the attorney registration process every 2 years on their birthdays. For now, Connecticut is not considering mandatory pro bono reporting, however, the voluntary pro bono survey is being used as a measurement tool to gauge whether we're moving in the right direction with the pro bono message.

Attorney Shapiro provided the Workgroup with a summary of the YLS pro bono initiative. The Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, in

collaboration with the Pro Bono Network, spearheaded its “\$1 Million Pro Bono Service Campaign” this year with the goal of increasing pro bono service and awareness throughout the state by facilitating the performance of \$1,000,000 worth of pro bono services from March 2013 to May 2013—the equivalent of 4000 hours at a rate of \$250 per hour. Between the Campaign’s launch in November 2012 to February 2013, the YLS solicited and collected campaign pledges from individuals and law firms whereby they committed to performing a number of pro bono hours from March 2013 to May 2013. Almost 50 individuals and/or law firms signed the pledge committing to jointly perform 4211 pro bono hours during this three-month period. These individuals and law firms far exceeded the pledge number. Based on the certifications submitted to the YLS, 8768.7 pro bono hours were performed in connection with the campaign equating to \$2,192,175 worth of pro bono services.

The Workgroup also discussed potential recognition efforts that could be implemented to recognize the contributions of pro bono attorneys such as a pro bono challenge which would recognize the top performer(s), a formal recognition ceremony which could coincide with Law Day ceremonies, and/or a formal reception with Justice Rogers.

3. The Workgroup turned its attention to discussing the focus of the follow-up summit and the specific details of identifying the target audience for the summit. Since the first summit focused on the top tiers of the law firms, the Workgroup suggested that this follow-up summit focus more on the associate population of attorneys who could be identified as the “up-and-coming future leaders” of the firms. Specifically, the workgroup defined this group of associates as the 5th or 6th year associate who was “on the rise” and who was viewed by the senior partners of the firms as the associate(s) most likely to take the firm and the pro bono message to the next level. The Workgroup did, however, agree that the managing partners and general counsel should still be called upon to serve as potential panelists for the pro bono discussion and to talk about setting up pro bono programs at their respective firms and corporations. There was consensus, though, that different firms and corporations should be selected as panelists and speakers for this second, follow-up summit.

The Workgroup discussed inviting 1 or 2 people from each firm and corporation to keep the size of the summit to around 120 attendees. The summit will include in-house counsel from both firms and corporations, however, the group agreed to not ask the smaller firms and solos to contribute to the summit as they tend to be called upon more frequently as they’re in court on a regular basis for short calendar.

The group agreed to hold the follow-up summit for a ½ day in May 2014 at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) in Hartford and once again, invite the Chief Justice and Governor Malloy to attend and address the attendees. It was also

agreed to incorporate a pro bono fair as part of the summit and provide breakfast and lunch to the attendees.

Next, the Workgroup discussed the various ways to involve law students in pro bono work. Judge Bright reported that the Rules Committee would discuss the possibility of rule changes to permit law school professors to supervise pro bono students. Because enrollment in law school has dropped, many law schools are focusing on experiential learning and practical clinics as part of the law school curriculum. Similarly, Yale law students are heavily involved in clinic work with approximately 2/3 of the students actively involved in some type of clinic. These clinical models of learning could easily transition students into playing an important role in the pro bono community. Also, the Workgroup briefly discussed involving law students in this or future summits and agreed that it might be best to hold a separate summit for the students.

The Workgroup also agreed to speak with Norm Janes to see if the retired attorneys should be invited to participate in the follow-up summit next May.

Judge Bright reported to the Workgroup about an ongoing initiative in Massachusetts where senior attorneys who are highly respected members of the bar, are being tapped as fellows for legal aid. During their fellowship, these senior attorneys spend about 100 hours per month working with legal aid and at the end of their term, the fellows recruit two new attorneys to do the same thing.

The Workgroup discussed the possibility of replicating these prestigious fellowships in Connecticut. A group of 6 senior attorneys could be identified and contacted by Justice Rogers. The key would be to identify the right people at the right times during their careers. The first class of fellows could be announced at the May summit.

The Workgroup agreed to send an email from Justice Rogers to the managing partners and general counsels of Connecticut's large law firms and corporations asking them to identify their "rising stars" so an email invitation can be sent directly to the identified associate.

A "Save the Date" email will be sent in January or February for the May summit, however, consideration should be given to the schedule for the legislative session in May 2014.

4. The next meeting of the Follow-Up Summit Workgroup will be held on September 19, 2013 at 3:00p.m.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04p.m.

