

**Minutes**  
**Public Service and Trust Commission**  
**Pro Bono Committee**  
**Follow-Up Summit Workgroup**  
**Tele-Conference**  
**October 30, 2013**

The Pro Bono Committee Follow-Up Summit Workgroup met via tele-conference on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 8:30a.m at 225 Spring Street, Room 206, Wethersfield.

Those in attendance: Attorney Jonathan Shapiro, Chair, Hon. William H. Bright, Jr., Hon. Timothy Keeney and Attorney Steven Eppler-Epstein.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am.

1. The Workgroup voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2013 meeting of the Follow-Up Workgroup.
2. Attorney Shapiro, Chair of the Workgroup, reported that the Save the Date had been sent to the managing partners and general counsel of the large firms and corporations in Connecticut as well as to the members of the Pro Bono Committee.

Attorney Shapiro led the discussion about possible agenda items and format for the May 2014 Summit. He suggested that after introductions, a panel of managing partners and general counsel be convened to highlight the importance of pro bono and to talk about success stories born out of the first summit in 2011. Attorney Shapiro also suggested a panel of Chief Administrative Judges (CAJs) to discuss the needs and expectations of the judiciary.

Attorney Shapiro also expressed the desire to have the 2014 Summit be more interactive and engaging, so participants feel more invested in the event versus passively listening to a series of discussions about the importance of pro bono. Towards this end, Attorney Shapiro suggested that the attendees be divided into separate workgroups (break-out sessions) to convene their own pro bono discussions and share ideas and then re-convene as a whole to share the substance of the workgroup's discussion. Each workgroup could be facilitated by a legal service provider or a member of the judiciary. The workgroup assignments would be made in advance of the Summit once the Workgroup knows the names of the Summit attendees.

The Follow-Up Workgroup agreed that a more interactive format for the Summit was a good idea and the back and forth exchange of ideas was a great way to actively engage the attendees. Judge Bright indicated that he was not certain if

the CAJs would attend the 2014 Summit and consideration should be given instead to inviting other judges such as a Federal court judge, and a Connecticut Appellate Court judge. Judge Bright further offered that the Workgroup should look into potential logistical issues for breakout sessions such as additional rooms, refreshments and any audio-visual equipment that might be needed.

Attorney Eppler-Epstein suggested that in addition to convening a panel at the Summit to talk about the success stories that have arisen out of the 2011 Summit, the discussion should also include other, more indirect initiatives that have arisen from the overall focus on pro bono. Further, a discussion led by some of the legal aid providers offering “what-if” examples and scenarios might help to broaden the pro bono discussion and lead to more open-minded thinking and ideas.

In addition, a discussion on what challenges have been encountered by firms and corporations since the 2011 Summit would be beneficial. Specifically, a dialogue involving young associates and young partners about the demands of a large firm or corporation and juggling expectations from more senior partners, with the message about doing more pro bono work might be helpful and relevant to the Summit attendees.

Judge Keeney suggested that a portion of the Summit also be dedicated to highlighting the availability of pro bono incentives.

The Workgroup discussed the advances in pro bono that have been made by Halloran & Sage since the 2011 Summit. Prior to the 2011 Summit, the firm did not have a concrete pro bono plan or substantive initiatives in place, however, through hard work and a solid commitment to pro bono, the message has become institutionalized in the culture of the firm. Halloran & Sage might be a good example of positive systemic change and top-down leadership and encouragement.

Additionally, a separate panel of lawyers comprised of senior and junior members of a firm or corporation not only discussing their success stories and challenges in the pro bono arena, but laying out their roadmap to implementation and success including: How did we get started? What caused the shift in the firm? Was there a culture change and if so, how, why and by whom? Was there leadership from the top? Were there incentives? Rewards? This discussion would provide a realistic implementation roadmap for other firms and corporations about what to expect and how best to create positive pro bono change within their organization.

Judge Bright also suggested that a panel discussion also include pro bono programs and opportunities offered by the Judicial Branch including the expansion of the Branch’s Volunteer Attorney Programs.

Attorney Shapiro asked the Workgroup about potential speakers for the Summit including Attorney Edward Heath, a representative from Halloran & Sage, Judicial Branch representative(s), members of the legal services community, an Appellate Court judge and possibly a Federal Court judge if allowable. Attorney Shapiro will prepare a draft agenda and will circulate the draft to the Workgroup for comment and discussion at the next Workgroup meeting in a few weeks.

3. The Workgroup meeting was adjourned at 8:54a.m.