

The Pro Bono Chain

The Pro Bono Chain is a visual representation of the vertical and lateral relationships that exist within a pro bono system. "Matters" include: legal advice and counseling; dispute resolution and mediation; individual representation; transactional assistance to non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, micro-entrepreneurs and microfinance institutions; assistance to civic, cultural and educational organizations; impact litigation; legislative and policy development; and rights education. Though the identification and completion of pro bono matters is only one part of the broader access to justice movement, it is among the most crucial.

<p>LEVEL 1 Matters originate at this level.</p>	<p>Person or group in need of legal assistance, or social or nongovernmental organization</p>			
<p>LEVEL 2 Organizations at this level work individually or collaboratively to identify, receive, and prepare matters for placement. Matters may be dealt with internally when the Level 2 organization employs a staff attorney. Not all countries have bar associations; in these cases, other types of lawyers' associations can act as pro bono facilitators.</p>	<p>Pro Bono Referral Institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters are taken from a person/group in need or a social or nongovernmental organization • May employ staff attorneys who work directly on matters • Provides training and support to attorneys in private practice who are doing pro bono work • Provides internship opportunities for law students • May host law firm externs 	<p>Bar Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates profession to develop pro bono principles and standards • Establishes pro bono committee • Employs staff attorneys to handle matters • Screens matters • Conducts pro bono training for lawyers • Collects and disseminates information on the profession's pro bono achievements 	<p>Law School/Clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides legal education on the social responsibility of lawyers and poverty law • Legal clinic: students take on matters with supervision from faculty or staff at social or nongovernmental organizations or bar associations • Alumni association: undertakes projects and engages in continuing legal education related to access to justice 	<p>State and Court System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent possible, provides legal aid to individuals or groups in need • Provides legal education and training relating to access to justice and pro bono • Supports bars and pro bono programs in their efforts to advance access to justice • Pursues policies that promote pro bono • May run clinical programs within the courts
<p>LEVEL 3 Law firms receive matters and support from bar associations, law schools/clinics, social and nongovernmental organizations, and the state/judiciary. Corporate legal departments can also participate at this level.</p>	<p>Law Firm or Corporate Legal Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a pro bono coordinator or committee • Develops firm-wide pro bono policies, procedures, and programs • Takes matters prescreened by social or nongovernmental organizations, pro bono programs, bar associations, and law schools • Measures and reports on pro bono performance • Can work directly for social and nongovernmental organizations 			