



**ABBOTT LABORATORIES WITH BAKER & MCKENZIE AND
MIDWEST IMMIGRANT & HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER**

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Washington, DC - CorporateProBono.Org, a project of the American Corporate Counsel Association (ACCA) and the Pro Bono Institute at Georgetown University Law Center, presented its first ever Pro Bono Partner Award today to Abbott Laboratories, Baker & McKenzie, and Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center (AMIHRC). This new award recognizes the accomplishments of pro bono partnerships between law firms, in-house corporate legal departments, and public interest groups. CPBO is a national outreach project designed to enhance the participation of in-house lawyers in pro bono service.

The awarding-winning partnership of the law firm of Baker & McKenzie, Abbott Laboratories, and MIHRC helps Chicago-area immigrants to become naturalized U.S. citizens. As part of the partnership, MIHRC screens the applicants and counsels them on the naturalization process, Baker & McKenzie immigration lawyers provide training to Abbott volunteers, including in-house lawyers and legal staff, and Abbott volunteers work one-on-one with the applicants to complete the necessary INS paperwork at Saturday morning naturalization clinics in Baker & McKenzie's offices. Baker & McKenzie's business immigration team then finalizes the materials for submission.

The CPBO Advisory Board selected the winning pro bono partnership based on such criteria as demonstrated impact on a program's community/target group, substantial involvement by in-house and law firm lawyers, and innovative substantive or structural approaches to the program.

The award was presented during the opening session of the Pro Bono Institute's Annual Seminar. "We are extremely pleased to have received the first annual CorporateProBono.Org Partnership Award, but even more rewarding was working with the applicants and helping them achieve their dreams of becoming American citizens," said Jose M. de Lasa, senior vice president, secretary, and general counsel for Abbott Laboratories. "Our system of laws depends on access to legal information and assistance. Because of their unique training, attorneys and legal professionals are in a rare position to assist those in need in navigating our legal system. Abbott Laboratories has always highly valued community service efforts and appreciates organizations like CPBO, which make volunteering very easy to do. We are proud of all of those who took the time to make a difference through this partnership and other pro bono projects."

"Baker & McKenzie is proud to be leading the way in pro bono partnering with our Partners to Serve Program. Working as a team with client Abbott Laboratories, we were able to leverage our experience in immigration law to have an impact on the community in which we live and work," said Baker & McKenzie North American Managing Partner John Conroy. "We are greatly honored to receive this award along with Abbott and MIHRC, and moreover, deeply rewarded by this unique opportunity to make a difference in lives of people around us."

"CPBO is grateful for the opportunity to honor such a meaningful partnership," said Pro Bono Institute President Esther F. Lardent. "Abbott Laboratories, Baker & McKenzie, and the Midwest Immigrant

and Human Rights Center are doing courageous and important work on behalf of some of the most disadvantaged people in our nation.”

About Abbott Laboratories

Abbott Laboratories is a global, broad-based health care company devoted to the discovery, development, manufacture, and marketing of pharmaceuticals, nutritionals, and medical products, including devices and diagnostics. The company employs more than 70,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries. In 2002, the company’s sales and net earnings were \$17.7 billion and \$3.2 billion, respectively, with diluted earnings per share of \$2.06 excluding one-time charges. Abbott’s news releases and other information are available at the company’s website at www.abbott.com.

About Baker & McKenzie

A global law firm, Baker & McKenzie was established more than 50 years ago and has 65 offices in 35 jurisdictions. The firm established a truly global presence with an office in each of the world’s major money centers more than 25 years ago. Worldwide, Baker & McKenzie has 620 partners, 3,297 qualified lawyers, and a total of over 4,470 legal professionals. The chairman of the International Firm is Christine Lagarde. In 2001, Baker & McKenzie provided significant legal representation for more than half of *Fortune* magazine’s Global 500. More information about Baker & McKenzie can be found at www.bakernet.com.

About CorporateProBono.Org

CorporateProBono.Org (CPBO) is a national outreach project cosponsored by the American Corporate Counsel Association and the Pro Bono Institute (www.probonoinst.org). Through online services, technical assistance to the in-house community, and educational outreach, CPBO encourages and supports the participation of in-house counsel in pro bono services.

About the Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center

The Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center (MIHRC), a program of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights (Heartland Alliance), is one of the largest and most comprehensive immigrant legal service agencies in the Midwest. For the last several decades, MIHRC, through a competent staff and *pro bono* attorneys, has provided direct legal services to and advocated for tens of thousands of low-income and impoverished immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. MIHRC’s mission is to advance rights and protections for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers here and abroad.

About the American Corporate Counsel Association

The American Corporate Counsel Association is *the in-house bar association*SM, serving the professional needs of attorneys who practice in the legal departments of corporations and other private sector organizations worldwide. The association promotes the common interests of its members, contributes to their continuing education, seeks to improve understanding of the role of in-house attorneys, and encourages advancements in standards of corporate legal practice. Since its founding in 1982, the association has grown to more than 14,000 members in 40 countries who represent 6500 corporations, with 43 chapters and 12 committees serving the membership. Its members represent 49 of the Fortune 50 companies and 97 of the Fortune 100 companies. Internationally, its members represent 42 of the Global 50 and 77 of the Global 100 companies. For more information, go to www.acca.com.