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FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PRO BONO DAY

APRIL 18, 2024

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Backgrounder for Financial Institutions

WHAT is FIPBD?

Pro Bono Institute (PBI) and its Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO) project are hosting the annual Financial Institution Pro Bono Day (FIPBD) on April 18, 2024. This event brings together volunteer attorneys and legal staff from financial institutions to provide pro bono legal assistance to address critical legal needs of underserved communities.

FIPBD is a day to bring financial institutions together to promote in-house pro bono engagement and collaboration, focus impact, and meet the diverse needs of underserved communities. Participating financial institutions organize and participate in pro bono events of their choice. Most events are open to volunteers from any financial institution. Events in the past have addressed issues such as homelessness; transgender name changes; life planning documents for veterans and seniors; green card assistance for Cuban immigrants; naturalization and asylum applications; DACA renewals; Temporary Protected Status applications for refugees from Ukraine, Haiti, and Venezuela; ending torture of LGBTQ+ youth; uncontested divorce filings for low-income individuals; tax credit applications for senior citizens; expungement of criminal records; driver's license restoration; children's rights around the world; obtaining vital identification documents; intake clinics; brief advice hotlines; legal assistance for nonprofits or micro-entrepreneurs; and many more.

FIPBD History

FIPBD originated from a [conversation among in-house pro bono leaders](#) from several banks at the 2018 PBI Annual Dinner. They discussed how great it would be for pro bono lawyers and legal staff at competing companies across the industry to collaborate on pro bono. These leaders worked with CPBO to develop the idea and turn it into reality!

For the [inaugural FIPBD on May 2, 2019](#), PBI and CPBO, in partnership with 14 financial institutions in 20 cities, and with law firms and public interest organizations, organized more than 47 pro bono events in which more than 700 volunteers from 21 financial institutions participated. The second annual FIPBD was planned for April 30, 2020 and, due to the pandemic, was rescheduled for January 14, 2021. [The 2021 FIPBD](#) took place virtually on January 14, 2021, where more than 630 pro bono volunteers from 37 financial institutions contributed to the day's events. [The 2022 FIPBD](#) took place both virtually and in-person on April 28, 2022, where 1100 pro bono volunteers participated in over 65 pro bono opportunities organized by 35 legal departments! [The 2023 FIPBD](#) on April 27, 2023, marked the fourth annual event and was another great success! Over 1,300 in-house attorneys and legal staff volunteered, allowing served 700



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clients to be served. Both the volunteers and clients were grateful for such a meaningful day.

WHO is participating?

Organizers: Legal departments of financial institutions (including credit unions, investment banks, commercial banks, insurance companies, and mortgage companies) may participate by organizing pro bono events and by volunteering on FIPBD.

Partners: Many financial institutions choose to partner with legal services organizations and/or law firms in their community to organize and host pro bono events on FIPBD. Partner organizations often provide training and resources to the pro bono volunteers, recruit and vet clients, provide space to hold the pro bono event, and more.

Volunteers: FIPBD is intended to increase in-house pro bono participation and collaboration. We encourage organizers to plan pro bono opportunities for both attorneys and legal staff, and to open their pro bono opportunities to volunteers at other participating financial institutions.

WHEN is FIPBD?

Thursday, April 18, 2024.

WHERE is FIPBD?

For the 2024 FIPBD, financial institutions will have the option to hold their events virtually or in-person in locations around the globe. FIPBD is organized in various cities. In recent years, events took place virtually, and in Alabama, California, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, Canada, Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA), Latin America, and the United Kingdom. Some virtual events included national and global opportunities.

WHY participate?

FIPBD magnifies the impact of financial institutions' legal pro bono programs by coming together to address critical needs through pro bono legal services. Volunteers can give back and collaborate with colleagues from other financial institutions and with community partners.

HOW do I participate?

Contact Corporate Pro Bono at cpbo@probonoinst.org, or Alyssa Saunders, Director of Corporate Pro Bono, Pro Bono Institute at asaunders@probonoinst.org