In-House Pro Bono Partnerships



Partnering on pro bono efforts can provide unique as well as common benefits to partner organizations and boost the impact for their pro bono clients and the community.

With Whom Are In-House Counsel Partnering?

In-house counsel partner on pro bono matters with a variety of entities. 2018 CPBO Benchmarking Survey respondents report:



partner with law firms



partner with other legal departments



partner with legal services providers



partner with their community services team



partner with their corporate foundation



partner with CSR staff

CPBO 2018 Pro Bono Partner Awardees

The CPBO Pro Bono Partner Award recognizes innovative team approaches to pro bono work involving in-house legal departments and one or more law firms and/or public interest group partners.



- Large Law: MassMutual Law Department and the Hampden County Bar Association Legal Clinic
- Smaller Law: United Airlines' Legal Department, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, and Cabrini Legal Aid

A Partnership by Any Other Name

Pro bono partnerships take many forms. Some are organized around a single pro bono effort or single community, while others involve many pro bono projects, and still others encompass most or all of one or more partner's pro bono efforts. Models include:

- Clinics
- General Counsel
- Secondment
- Co-Counsel
- Research and Writing
- Training and Advice
- Mega-Challenges

"When it comes to quality pro bono partnerships, one plus one can equal three or even more. Partnerships that are carefully cultivated and sustained can result in even more and better results over time."

Esther Lardent, Founder and First President Pro Bono Institute

Letter from Esther: Why Partnerships Matter, The Pro Bono Wire

"Partnering with law firms helps *leverage* geography. We can bring different things to the table and leverage the *capabilities* of both. A *diverse team* equals a better team."

Tom Sabatino, EVP and GC Aetna Inc.

2013 PBI Annual Conference, Session: In-House View of Law Firm Pro Bono

Partnering with Law Firms on Pro Bono

Respondents to the annual CPBO Challenge® survey report:

