

Partnering on pro bono efforts can provide benefits to the legal department as well as 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. 2024 CPBO Benchmarking Survey respondents report:



CPBO 2025 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.

Award winners are selected based on the following criteria:

- 1) demonstrated impact of the partnership project on its community or target group;
- 2) substantial involvement by in-house lawyers;
- 3) tangible steps toward sustaining the partnership;
- 4) innovative substantive and/or structural (e.g., delivery model) approaches to the effort; and
- 5) addresses a critical legal need and/or particularly vulnerable community/target group.

Our 2025 honorees are:

- Koch in partnership with Baker Botts LLP and Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) for their collaboration in helping those facing driver's license suspensions in St. James Parish, Louisiana.
- Meta Legal Department in partnership with TozziniFreire Advogados and UNAS - União de Núcleos, Associações dos Moradores de Heliópolis e Região for their collaboration to provide holistic legal services to underserved residents of the Heliópolis favela.



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
- Co-Counsel
- General Counsel
- Mega-Partnerships to Tackle Systemic Challenges
- Research and Writing
- Secondment
- Signature Projects
- Telephone Hotlines & Virtual Intake

"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

"It is so important that we as lawyers give back to the community by helping those who would not otherwise be able to get the legal representation they need. At Chubb, pro bono service is an integral part of our culture and helping those in need is who we are and what we do. Our partnership with PBI demonstrates how corporate legal departments and legal services organizations can work together to provide innovative and meaningful legal services to pro bono clients."

J. Scott Sanpietro

Chubb's North America General Counsel

Partnering with Law Firms on Pro Bono

The annual CPBO Challenge® Reports show that legal departments routinely partner with law firms.

