Pro Bono Opportunities

Themes:

• Enhancing the legal profession and local communities.

• Finding the right volunteering opportunities with one or more of the statewide or local programs available.

• Managing a busy practice while fitting in pro bono work.

• Understanding the need for pro bono and why your engagement matters.

Conversation Starters:

• What are the Washington Rules of Professional Conduct stated in (RPC) 6.1: Pro Bono Publico Service?

• What is the importance of professional development and enhancement of the bar association, as well as the responsibility of every attorney to assist and serve the public?

• What are the available opportunities to volunteer at a Qualified Legal Services Provider (QLSP)?

• What is the Moderate Means Program, and how can you get involved in serving low-income individuals or families who do not qualify for free legal assistance by offering legal assistance at a reduced fee?

• How do you do pro bono work when you’re a new lawyer and focusing on an area of law where there do not seems to be pro bono needs?

• How do I fit in doing pro bono when I’m feeling overwhelmed with getting my practice started?

• There are so many legal aid organizations I could volunteer with, it’s overwhelming. What’s the difference between them?
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Activities:

• Come up with a list of professional skills you would like to develop in your practice. Research some QLSP’s that might help provide you with opportunities to develop those skills through pro bono work.
  ◦ What pro bono work could you get involved in, considering your other responsibilities?

• Peruse the Volunteer Opportunity website, choosing your area of practice you’re interested in and come back with some ideas of possible organizations you want to contact.

• Write out a list of legal and leadership skills you’d like to build or hone and then identify which pro bono opportunities can help you do that.

• Identify a community or population of people you feel passionate about helping and look for pro bono opportunities that work with them.

Resources:

• Discuss what additional resources the mentor/mentee have found useful in their own practice.

• **RPC 6.1, Pro Bono Publico Service**

• **QLSP web link**

• For general information and to access resources about volunteer opportunities, refer to the WSBA webpage titled "Volunteer Opportunities”
  ◦ Information about the different programs are categorized by the location of the county in which the services are being offered, in addition to multi-county programs, including contact information.