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IMPROVING THE LEGAL SYSTEM

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 seem 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.