

WORKSHEET F
INTRODUCTION TO PRO BONO, CIVIC, AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

- Discuss why it is vitally important for lawyers to provide pro bono representation. Review the [Supreme Court of Ohio's Statement Regarding the Provision of Pro Bono Legal Services by Ohio Lawyers](#) and the [Preamble to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct](#). Also discuss why this responsibility is included in [A Lawyer's Creed](#) and [A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals](#).
- Discover the pro bono opportunities offered in your geographical area and area of practice from the [Ohio Access to Justice Foundation](#) and learn about [Ohio Legal Aid](#). Research whether local courts allow volunteer attorneys to assist at *pro se* litigant help desks.
- Attend or initiate a pro bono informational meeting hosted by a local Legal Aid office or other pro bono provider. Consider participating together in a pro bono service activity, such as working at a brief-advice clinic or undertaking a pro bono representation. (Note that working on a pro bono case together is the only co-counseling opportunity permitted for Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring participants. See [Worksheet OO](#) for further information.) If you are unsure what pro bono opportunity is best for you, contact a local pro bono professional who can match your skill set to available pro bono opportunities.
- Discuss conflicts of interest and how these concerns should not generally dissuade attorneys from pro bono service. Review [Prof.Cond.R. 6.5](#), which permits an abbreviated conflict-check process when providing pro bono services at brief-advice clinics.
- Discuss malpractice coverage and the fact that malpractice concerns should not generally be a barrier to Legal Aid service. Legal Aid malpractice insurance usually covers pro bono lawyers who volunteer at brief-advice and information clinics or who accept a case for extended representation. Also, bar associations with organized pro bono programs usually provide malpractice insurance coverage for pro bono volunteers. However, if a mentoring participant does not have malpractice insurance, check with any pro bono program to verify malpractice insurance coverage before accepting a case or providing legal information and advice at a pro bono clinic.
- Discuss any potential insecurities your mentee may have about engaging in pro bono work, including time limitations and concerns about inexperience. Discuss how your mentee can gain meaningful, practical experience through pro bono work. Consider the resources available to your mentee to perform pro bono work competently and efficiently, including working with a more experienced attorney, support from staff of pro bono providers, and access to outlines, templates, and sample pleadings.
- Discuss the challenges of pro bono work, if any, and how you have overcome (or are still working to overcome) these challenges. What tangible and intangible benefits do you find that offsets the investment of time and resources?

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- Discuss how pro bono work contributes to or detracts from having balance in your life. Read the article or listen to the interview at [*You'll Feel Less Rushed If You Give Time Away*](#), HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW, Sept. 2012.
- Review [Gov.Bar R. X, Section 5\(G\)](#) regarding the opportunity to earn CLE credits for pro bono service. **Be advised, however, that mentoring participants may not earn CLE credit for pro bono service completed as part of the mentoring relationship, as they are already receiving CLE credit for their participation in the mentoring program.**
- Discuss the types of charitable activities you engage in and why you do so. Plan for your mentee to attend a meeting of a charitable or civic organization in which you are involved. Discuss opportunities for other types of charitable and civic work or engage in a charitable project together.
- Encourage your mentee to contact a nonprofit they admire or are interested in, inquire about its service and volunteer opportunities, and ask questions about the commitment expected. To the extent possible, introduce the mentee to those involved in an organization where your mentee is interested in volunteering.

RESOURCES

General Information on Pro Bono Service

[Access to Justice Summit Final Report \(2015\)](#)

[Supporting Justice: A Report on the Pro Bono Work of America's Lawyers \(ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service and the Center for Pro Bono, April 2018\)](#)

[Indigent Representation in Rural Communities, *Ohio Lawyer*, May/June 2018](#)

Pro Bono Providers/Organizations

[ABA National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide](#)

[Advocates for Basic Legal Equality \(ABLE\)](#)

(Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Crawford, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Lucas, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Paulding, Preble, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, and Wyandot Counties)

[Community Legal Aid Services Volunteer Legal Services Program](#)

(Columbiana, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne Counties)

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[Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project](#)

(Champaign, Clarke, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble Counties)

[Legal Aid of Western Ohio](#)

(Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot Counties)

[Legal Aid Society of Cleveland](#)

(Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain Counties)

[Legal Aid Society of Columbus](#)

(Delaware, Franklin, Madison, Marion, Morrow, and Union Counties)

[Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati](#)

[Ohio Access to Justice Foundation Pro Bono Opportunities Guide](#)

[Pro Seniors](#)

[Southeastern Ohio Legal Services](#)

(Adams, Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Fairfield, Fayette, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington Counties)

[Supreme Court of Ohio's List of Pro Bono Organizations](#)

[Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program](#)

Additional Relevant Rules of Professional Conduct

[Prof.Cond.R. 1.7: Conflict of Interest: Current Clients](#)

[Prof.Cond.R. 1.9: Duties to Former Clients](#)

[Rule 1.10: Imputation of Conflicts of Interest](#)