

## **Increasing Pro Bono at Small to Mid-Size Law Firms**

Chris Reed-Brown, Recruiter  
Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program  
1515 Main Street  
Dallas, TX 75201  
(214)748-1234, ext.3316  
[reed-brownc@lanwt.org](mailto:reed-brownc@lanwt.org)

### **Brief Description:**

Discussion of three (3) innovative models developed and utilized by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program. The use of these models and technology has increased the pro bono involvement of lawyers at several small to mid-size law firms in Dallas and resulted in 100% attorney participation at a 22-member law firm.

### **Topical Outline:**

- I. Law Firm Clinic Model (One Stop Pro Bono Shopping)
  - a. CLE Training with Ethics credit at law firm
  - b. Speaker(s) and Basis of Selection
  - c. Type of Cases & Basis of Selection
  - d. Distribution of Cases
  - e. Case Referral Packages
  - f. Mentors
  - g. Night Court Divorce Prove-Up Clinic
  
- II. Pro Bono Opportunities Recruiting Model
  - a. Recruiting video (10 minutes)
  - b. Speakers & Agenda (how determined)
  - c. Judicial Involvement
  - d. Cross Training of Civil District Court Judges by Family District Court Judges
  
- III. E-System Referral Components
  - a. Brief summaries of compelling Cases
  - b. Email lists of law firm contacts, coordinators partners
  - c. Email lists of bar committee and section chairs
  - d. Email lists of minority and special interest bar associations
  - e. Email lists of individual attorneys
  - f. Blast Emails
  - g. Case Referral Packages

- IV. Tips for Working with Law Firms & Judiciary
- a. Identify law firm partners/coordinators and establish rapport
  - b. Schedule meeting or CLE at firm at least once a year
  - c. Stay in touch with firm coordinator/contact
  - d. Get on recruiter's schedule or associates school agenda/curriculum
  - e. Be cognizant of law firm protocol for pro bono work (pro bono policy)
  - f. Invite District Court Judges to participate in recruiting and training events, design of pro bono opportunities for judges and training of judges.
  - g. Recognize and appreciate their efforts (publicity/luncheons/awards, etc.)
  - h. Update recruiting tools, technology and Program exposure

**Materials:**

DVAP Recruiting Pamphlet and forms

Pro Bono Coordinator's Handbook

**Website Links:**

1. <http://www.dallasbar.org/dvap>
2. <http://www.lanwt.org>