

## Current Issues in Urban Pro Bono: How Large Providers Work with Large Law Firms

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### **Brief Description:**

Participate in a candid dialogue about important issues facing large law firms and large pro bono organizations working together in urban areas. How can firms and providers form valuable partnerships to effectively combine the resources of a law firm with the on-the-ground expertise of a provider, thereby providing more services to more clients in need? How can firms and pro bono organizations work together to build long lasting partnerships and projects? How should firms and providers approach partnerships? Should providers push firms into certain substantive areas of client need? What would a true partnership between firms and providers look like?

### **Topical Outline:**

- I. Discussion on partnerships between law firms and pro bono providers
  - a. What do partnerships look like? Examples of successful joint projects or partnerships
    - i. VLSP's Courthouse Project with Morgan Lewis
    - ii. Partnership between NYLPI and Deveboise & Plimpton
  - b. Building relationships: how to build a long-term working relationship

- II. Long distance relationships
  - a. How to maintain partnerships when the firm's pro bono counsel is based in another city?
  
- III. Ingredients for a successful partnership
  - a. Flexibility on both sides
  - b. Regularity and continuity of pro bono opportunities
  - c. Enthusiastic champion, in addition to the pro bono coordinator, within the law firm
  - d. Importance of training, mentoring and support from the provider
  - e. Being as candid and upfront as possible
  - f. Volunteer recognition
  - g. Managing expectations
  
- IV. Discussion

**Notes:**

**Bibliography & Website Links:**

- 1.
- 2.