

Directions for completing this form: Place the title of your workshop in the space indicated, followed by the name and contact information for each of the presenters. Provide a brief description of your workshop by placing the cursor on the line below “Brief Description” and commence typing. To complete the “Topical Outline”, place cursor next to each Roman numeral and begin typing. Then place the cursor next to the “a.” to begin listing sub-topics. To list more than one sub-topic, push “Enter” and “b.” should appear on the next line, and so on. Place the cursor on the line under “Notes” to begin providing your notes. To list bibliographic information, place the cursor next to “1.” and start typing. Push “Enter” to move on to “2.” and etc.

ABA / NLADA 2009 Equal Justice Conference

Pro Bono and Provision Of Legal Services During Challenging Economic Times

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Brief Description: As we deal with the effects of the worst economic crisis our country has faced in decades, how does it affect the community that is providing legal services to the poor? How are legal services providers, firms, law schools, and agencies dealing with challenges arising from the crisis? This workshop will examine the challenges that have arisen from the crisis and focus on ways the public interest community is overcoming those challenges.

Topical Outline:

- I. Impact of economic downturn on the community of attorneys providing legal services to the poor
 - a. Private Law Firms
 - b. Legal Aid Firms

- II. Specific impact on law firm pro bono programs
 - a. Prior to lay-offs, following lay-offs
 - b. Resultant impact on pro bono legal aid programs

- III. Heightened needs of low-income clients during economic downturn and impact on pro bono areas of practice
 - a. Are attorneys practicing in the subject matters of greatest need too busy (ie Bankruptcy)?

- b. Are conflict of interests for private lawyers preventing them from representing clients in areas of greatest need (*i.e.* foreclosure)?
- c. Labor issues/conflicts?
- d. Transactional lawyers have the most time, but are they capable/interested in servicing areas of greatest need
- e. How can private pro bono programs adjust focus to meet areas of increasing need?

IV. Deferred Associates

- a. Has focus on placing deferred associates replaced, to any significant degree, a firm's direct commitment to pro bono?

V. Impact on pro bono professionals

- a. In law firms and legal aid organizations, are pro bono professionals being laid off or will they be subject to lay-offs, impact?
- b. Impact on distribution of cases, amount of support for pro bono lawyers
- c. How should the economic downturn impact what pro bono professionals focus on?

VI. Charitable Giving

- a. If giving and pro bono go hand-in-hand traditionally, how will economic pressure on giving impact pro bono participation?

VII. Key Lessons: Creative Ways to Meet Increasing Demands

- a. Opportunity in every crisis
- b. New ways to deliver services
- c. More clinics?
- d. More hotlines?
- e. New and greater collaborations?
- f. National programs
- g. Remote assistance
- h. New ways to deal with increasing stress in the workplace to increase productivity when stress is greatest but need for productivity is more important than ever

Notes:

Bibliography & Website Links:

1.

2.